

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 3: 16

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! / God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, / that all who believe in him might have eternal life. / Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

## GOSPEL

Jn 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

‘The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God’s only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.’

### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Breaking Open the Word

## GOD’S LOVE, GIFT AND GRACE

On this *Lactare* Sunday (so called for the first word of the liturgy is “rejoice”) we find in the Letter to the Ephesians: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” (2:8). To contemplate this statement is to begin to understand the generous mercy and love of God for each of us.

This reading follows 2 Chronicles that recounts the fall of Jerusalem, despite the compassion of God for the people, but then King Cyrus of Persia liberating the exiles. So as the passage begins in Ephesians we see the continuity with God, who is rich in mercy. Three times “grace” is repeated: “by grace you have been saved,” “the immeasurable riches of God’s grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” and “for by grace you have been saved through faith.” This reiteration accentuates the love of God and invites us to know that “we are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus for good works.”

John’s Gospel reminds us “God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (3:16). With his clear illumination of light and darkness, John affirms that “those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

How will we respond to God’s love, gift and grace?

Dr Rosemary Canavan



# THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

10 MARCH 2024

## FIRST READING

2 Chron 36: 14-16, 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles.

*The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, ‘Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.’

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: ‘Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.”’

### ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 136. R. v. 6

**R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

1. By the rivers of Babylon / there we sat and wept, / remembering Zion: / on the poplars that grew there / we hung our harps. **R.**



2. For it was there that they asked us, / our captors, for songs, / our oppressors, for joy. / ‘Sing to us,’ they said, / ‘one of Zion’s songs.’ **R.**

3. O how could we sing / the song of the Lord / on alien soil? / If I forget you, Jerusalem, / let my right hand wither! **R.**

4. O let my tongue / cleave to my mouth / if I remember you not, / if I prize not Jerusalem / above all my joys! **R.**

## SECOND READING

Eph 2: 4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

*When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.*

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he has meant us to live it.

### ■ The word of the Lord.





## Catholic Parish of St Kevin Eastwood

Parish Administrator: Fr Pawel Kopczynski CSMA

Email: [pawel.kopczynski@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:pawel.kopczynski@sydneycatholic.org)

Assistant Priest: Fr Tomasz Lepek CSMA

Email: [tomasz.lepek@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:tomasz.lepek@sydneycatholic.org)

Deacon: Eddie Ho

Parish Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 10:00am-3:00pm

36 Hillview Rd Eastwood NSW 2122

PO Box 437 West Ryde NSW 1685

Ph: (02) 9874 2533

Email: [parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au](mailto:parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au)

Website: [www.stkevinseastwood.org.au](http://www.stkevinseastwood.org.au)

[www.youtube.com/c/StKevinsParishEastwood](https://www.youtube.com/c/StKevinsParishEastwood)

[www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic](https://www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic)

### MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION AND DEVOTION

**Weekday Mass:** Monday - 7:30am (Communion Service, except on Feast Days);

Tuesday to Thursday - 7:30am (followed by Holy Rosary); Friday - 5pm

**Weekend Mass:** Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm (livestreamed); Sunday - 8am, 9:30am, 6pm

**CCC Mass:** Sunday at 12noon (English/Cantonese)

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Friday 4pm-5pm

**First Friday Devotion:** Monthly at 4pm

**First Saturday Mass and Devotion:** Monthly at 9am

**Exposition and Benediction:** First weekend of the month at all Masses

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Friday 4pm-4:45pm and Saturday 4:30pm-5:15pm

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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT/Year B

10 Mar 2024

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

**Recently Deceased:** Jung Shao Chiu, Noelene Wilkinson

**Death Anniversary:** Ella Barton

**Deceased:** Peter McNamara, Selwyn & Stephen Jackson, John Davidson, Lucy Ng, Cecilia Tan, Ben Isaacs, Milly Farrell, Francis Murray, Marie Cummins; Casey, Landon, O'Connor, Pigott & Stewart families; Geoff and Patricia Clarke; Ron & Jan Brayan.

**Sick:** Marian Arendarczyk, Ling Sin Fong, Xiao Yi Chen, Sheriden Nemecek, Paul Celler, Dave Isaacs, Terence Cahill, Barbara Hall, Elizabeth Uy Tan, Graham Rumble, Sam Wong, Robert Lauw, June Phelan, Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy Gouw, Nur Gouw

### UPCOMING FEAST DAYS, SOLEMNITIES AND MEMORIALS:

Solemnity of St Patrick, join us for Mass on Monday 18th March at 7:30am.

Solemnity of St Joseph, join us for Mass on Tues 19th Mar, 7:30am, 9:30am with STK school

### HOLY WEEK LITURGY TIMES:

Tue 19th Mar	6:00pm	2nd Rite of Reconciliation
Sun 24th Mar	Usual Mass Times	Palm Sunday
Thu 28th Mar	10:30am 6:00pm	Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral Mass of the Lord's Supper
Fri 29th Mar	10:00am 3:00pm	Good Friday - Stations of the Cross The Lord's Passion (with Holy Land Appeal) Start of Divine Mercy Novena
Sat 30th Mar	10:00am 6:00pm	EASTER BASKET BLESSING (info on website) Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil
Sun 31st Mar	8am, 9:30am, 6pm	Easter Sunday
Mon 1st Apr	9:00am	Easter Monday (No 7:30am Communion Service)

Holy Week 2024



### SEASON OF LENT 2024:

- **Easter envelopes now available.** Please take home and return on Easter weekend.
- **Easter Liturgical Roster now in the sacristy.** We invite liturgical volunteers to put their names down if available to help. Thank you.
- **Stations of the Cross every Friday after the 5pm Mass.**
- **Join our Parish Lenten Group every Thursday at 6pm in the Church.**
- **SINGERS NEEDED for Good Friday Stations of the Cross and for Easter Sunday 8am Mass.** Please contact Suzanne on 9874 2809 if you can sing at either or both. Thank you.
- **7 CHURCHES PILGRIMAGE** is a Christian tradition observed in many places on Holy Thursday. It involves visiting 7 different churches & meditating on the 7 events that lead to Jesus Christ's Passion & Crucifixion. St Kevin's Eastwood will be one of the churches in the Northern Area that will be open to pilgrims 'til midnight on Holy Thursday. More details soon.
- **Please return any Project Compassion Boxes in the box provided at the main door.** Thank you!



### PARISH NEWS:

- **Thank you to all those who joined us for the Prayer Walk and adoration last Tuesday evening.** We also thank Andrew for organising this initiative to pray for our parish renewal.
- **2024 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM DATES NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR PARISH WEBSITE.**
- **We welcome into the family of God, Gabriel Goad. Congratulations on your baptism!**
- **New Liturgical Rosters are now available for collection at the back of the church.**
- **This Vigil Mass we welcome back our RCIA Program participants:** Mandy, Maryam, Richard, Suki and Jack, **for the Second Rite of Scrutiny.** Please continue to include them in your prayers as they continue their journey to becoming Catholics.
- **Next Didasko Adult Faith Formation course will be on Mon, March 11 & 18, 7:30pm** in the Haseler Centre (Parish Hall). TOPIC: 'God the Beautiful: An Introduction to Theology' To register contact the parish office (02) 9874 2533. COST: Free.
- **Donation of NEW SOCKS for the homeless needed at St Patrick's Church Hill.** If you wish to donate please place them in the collection box in the foyer. We are still accepting donations of non-perishable food items for the Breakfast for the Homeless. Thank you so much for your help!
- **QUEEN OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY (QMHR) JAMAICAN APPEAL:** While grocery shopping please consider buying extra items that can be donated to the **Missionaries of the Poor Lenten Appeal in Jamaica.** See poster in the church foyer for details.

### OTHER NEWS:

- **'Prayer & the Mission to Proclaim Jesus,' Mon 18th Mar, 7:30-9pm.** Grab a flyer in the foyer.
- **PALMS AUSTRALIA Mission:** Transform Lives - theirs and yours: Communities in Africa, Asia, Aus & the Pacific are looking for qualified & experienced Australians to share their skills w/ those who have had little opportunity for formal training. Visit: [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au)

### A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY:

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, contact Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office E: [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org) or (02) 9390 5810. You may also speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support & guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to police.



### PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL:

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

