

## GOSPEL

Jn 12: 20-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus'. Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.'

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Breaking Open the Word

## A MATTER OF TIME

In this fifth week of Lent, we approach the crux of our belief. We are drawing near to our journey through Passion Sunday and Holy Week. Jeremiah heralds: "See the days are coming" and Jesus in the Gospel of John proclaims, "Now the hour has come!" These times are both important in their own context yet also mark God's time.

Jeremiah's prophetic words announce God's new covenant with the House of Israel, a covenant which God writes on their hearts that "I will be your God and you will be my people" (Jer 31:33).

As John's passage opens, it is the time of the Passover and some Greeks want to see Jesus. Their seeking of Jesus affirms the words of the Pharisees earlier "the world has gone after him" (John 12:19). The Greeks approach Philip as he has a Greek name, and Philip goes with Andrew, to Jesus. With the Greeks seeking him, Jesus recognises that the gathering has begun, "the world has gone after him," so he announces, "the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified" (John 12:23). An Amen saying follows: "Very truly (Amen, amen), I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24). In this image of a grain of wheat is firstly the revelatory sense of Jesus' fate, destiny and mission. Secondly it is the way to see the disciples and our own lives and mission.

Dr Rosemarv Canavan



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

# THE SAVING WORD

17 MARCH 2024

## FIRST READING

Jer 31: 31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

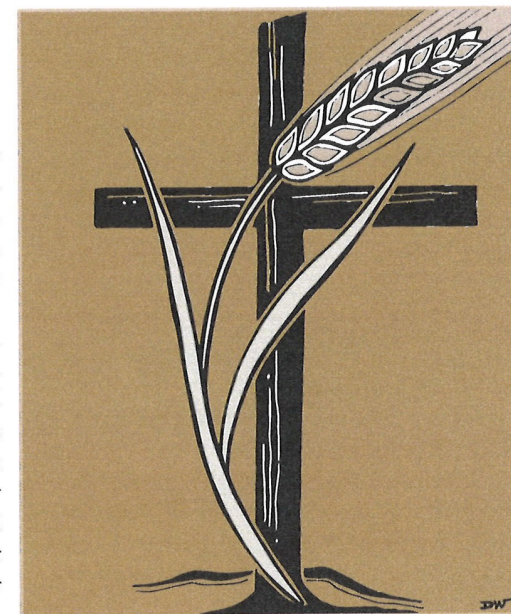
*The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.*

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 50: 3-4, 12-15. R. v. 12  
**R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. / In your compassion blot out my offence. / O wash me more and more from my guilt / and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**
2. A pure heart create for me, O God, / put a steadfast spirit within me. / Do not cast me away from your presence, / nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**
3. Give me again the joy of your help; / with a spirit of fervour sustain me, / that I may teach transgressors your ways / and sinners may return to you. **R.**



## SECOND READING

Heb 5: 7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

*He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.*

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 12: 26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! / If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; / and where I am, my servant will also be. / Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!





## Catholic Parish of St Kevin Eastwood

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[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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## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT/Year B

17 Mar 2024

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

**Recently Deceased:** Joseph 'Joe' Touma, Stephen Jackson

**Deceased:** Gianni Plaino; Peter McNamara; Selwyn Jackson; Ben Isaacs; Milly Farrell; Casey, Landon, O'Connor, Pigott & Stewart families; Geoff & Patricia Clarke; Ron & Jan Brayan.

**Sick:** Steve Dick, Rita Baird, Isla McKendry, 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 *Church is open until midnight for adoration
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:

- **NEXT WEEKEND IS PALM SUNDAY.** This marks the beginning of Holy Week.
- **Collect a copy of our Holy Week 2023 program as you leave the church. Thank you.**
- **Our Lenten 2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be on Tues 19th March at 6pm.** All welcome.
- **Easter Liturgical Roster now in the sacristy.** Write your name down if available to help.
- **Stations of the Cross every Friday after the 5pm Mass during Lent.**
- **Join our Parish Lenten Group next Thursday at 6pm in the Church.**
- **SINGERS NEEDED for Good Friday Stations of the Cross and Easter Sunday 8am Mass.** Please contact Suzanne on 9874 2809 if you can sing at either or both. Thank you.

**Holy Thursday Visitation of the 7 Churches Pilgrimage:** Parishioners are invited to prepare for the Jubilee Year in 2025 with prayer. One way of entering into prayer during Holy Week is to visit an altar of repose after the Mass of the Lord's Supper. The devotion of visiting 7 Churches is a centuries old tradition. Families are invited to participate in this pilgrimage. A resource booklet with reflections and list of churches participating across the Archdiocese will be available in our parish from Palm Sunday. See poster in the church foyer for info.

### PARISH NEWS:

- **Welcome to all school families participating in our Eucharistic celebration this weekend.**
- **2024 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM DATES NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR PARISH WEBSITE.**
- **EXCITING NEWS!!! ALPHA is coming to Eastwood!** Be part of the conversation! Details soon!
- **This Vigil Mass we welcome back our RCIA Program participants:** Mandy, Maryam, Richard, Suki and Jack, **for the Third Rite of Scrutiny.** Please continue to include them in your prayers as they continue their journey to becoming Catholics.
- **Our sincerest condolences to the family of Stephen Jackson; and also to the family of Joseph 'Joe' Touma. Both passed away recently. May they rest peacefully in God's loving arms.**
- **Next Didasko Adult Faith Formation course, Mon 18th Mar at 7:30pm** in the Parish Hall.
- **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:** Please consider donating household items to the **Missionaries of the Poor in Jamaica.** See poster in the foyer for details.

### OTHER NEWS:

- **St Michael's Meadowbank invites you to a Lenten Talk: 'What do Catholics Believe about Life after Death' - Guest Speaker: Fr Greg Morgan, Fri 22 Mar 7pm.** Grab a flyer in the foyer.
- **You are invited to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday at St Agatha's Pennant Hills on Sun 7th April** starting with confessions at 1pm. See poster in the church foyer for the program.

### 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.