

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.*

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up'. The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word

## CHRIST, THE POWER AND WISDOM OF GOD

The image of a limp, distorted body on the cross, which we know as the crucifix, has a long history of development. While its central place with the altar in our churches and its focus for personal devotion may seem normal to us, it is an anathema to others. How is this the focus of our belief and worship? A reminder of the sacrifice, its very presence points to the resurrection, salvation and the hope of everlasting life with God who loves us.

Today's readings grapple with this dilemma. Paul's words to the Corinthians capture something of the complexity of those early days of preaching the Good News: "preaching a crucified Christ." Who would believe in a dead Messiah? Yet Paul insists "but to those who are called, Jews and Gentiles, a Christ who is the power and wisdom of God" (1 Cor 1:24). Paul's tussle with this is juxtaposed with John's account of Jesus cleansing the Temple where Jesus says, "Destroy this sanctuary and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). This imagery made no sense to the Judeans for this Temple, the Holy of the Holies and dwelling place of God took 46 years to build. The narrator adds that the temple Jesus spoke of was his own body. The narrator also recounts that the disciples had heard Jesus' words but it made no sense to them either until the event of the resurrection. Let us contemplate Christ as the power and wisdom of God.

Dr Rosemary Canavan



# THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / B

3 MARCH 2024

## FIRST READING

Ex 20: 1-3, 7-8, 12-17

A reading from the book of Exodus.

*The Law was given through Moses.*

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

■ The word of the Lord.

*Longer form, 20: 1-17.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 18: 8-11. R. Jn 6: 68

**R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, / it revives the soul. / The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, / it gives wisdom to the simple. **R.**

2. The precepts of the Lord are right, / they gladden the heart. / The command of the Lord is clear, / it gives light to the eyes. **R.**

3. The fear of the Lord is holy, / abiding for ever. / The decrees of the Lord are truth / and all of them just. **R.**

4. They are more to be desired than gold, / than the purest of gold / and sweeter are they than honey, / than honey from the comb. **R.**



## SECOND READING

1 Cor 1: 22-25

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

*We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.*

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 3: 16

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

**God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**





## 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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## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT/Year B

3 Mar 2024

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

**Recently Deceased:** Jung Shao Chiu, Anna Radovanovic, Ann Court, Noelene Wilkinson

**Death Anniversary:** Ella Barton, Patrick O'Connor, Raymond Coe

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

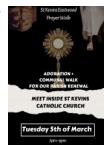
**Sick:** Marian Arendarczyk, Ling Sin Fong, Xiao Yi Chen, Sheriden Nemecek, Paul Celler, Dave Isaacs, Terence Cahill, Barbara Hall, Elizabeth Uy Tan, Graham Rumble, Sam Wong, Robert Lauw, June Phelan, Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy Gouw, Nur Gouw

### A POINT TO PONDER:

Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it isn't small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could." - St. Gregory Nazianzen

### PARISH NEWS:

- **JOIN US FOR A PRAYER WALK THIS TUES 5TH MARCH FROM 7PM-9PM.** Led by Fr Pawel, we aim to renew our community through prayer. Whether through contemplation or personal intentions, your presence matters. See noticeboard for walking route. Parishioners are requested to gather in the church at 7pm. Prayer Walk to start at 7:30pm aiming to circle back to the church at 8:30pm, concluding with reflection & final blessing. Adoration will be available during the time of the walk for those who wish to remain in the church. Let's unite in prayer for our parish's renewal!
- **SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM DATES are now available on our parish website.**
- **Next Baptism Information Session: Wed 6th March at 8pm in the parish hall meeting room.**
- **New Liturgical Rosters are now available for collection at the back of the church.**
- **Thank you for supporting our BAKE SALE last Sunday, we raised \$1360!** Thanks to our Fundraising Committee for organising, and to all parishioners who donated home-baked cakes and biscuits!
- **FOSK (Friends of St Kevin's) will serve morning tea** after the 9:30am Mass. Please join us!



- **This Vigil Mass we welcome back our RCIA Program participants:** Mandy, Maryam, Richard, Suki and Jack, **for the First 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, Mar 4, 11 & 18, 7:30pm** in the Haseler Centre. TOPIC: 'God the Beautiful: An Introduction to Theology,' will be presented by Chris Wolte. COST: FREE. To register contact the parish office (02) 9874 2533.
- **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.** The Missionaries of the Poor have dedicated their lives to care for disabled & abandoned children, adults & elderly. See poster in the church foyer for details.

### SEASON OF LENT 2024:

- **HOLY WEEK liturgy times now available. See poster as you leave the church.**
- **Our Lenten 2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be on Tuesday 19th March at 6pm.**
- **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
- **Stations of the Cross every Friday after the 5pm Mass.**
- **Join our Parish Lenten Group every Thursday at 6pm in the Church.** Parishioners are welcome to join any time or form their own groups.
- Take home a Project Compassion Box or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia. For info or to donate online: [www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion). Project Compassion Boxes will be collected during Holy Week.
- **A Resurrected Life, Daily Reflections for Lent' book still available in our sacristy for only \$6.** This pocket-sized companion is easy to carry & read, at home or while commuting. Includes a short text of scripture from the day's Gospel and reflections.
- **Lenten Retreat Day with the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia:** Sat 16 Mar, 10am-4pm, at St Mary's Cathedral Hall. Cost \$20. Morning tea & lunch included. See poster for details.



### OTHER NEWS:

**PALMS AUSTRALIA** — Mission: Transform Lives - theirs...and yours: Communities in Africa, Asia, Australia & the Pacific are looking for qualified & experienced Australians from ALL sectors to share their skills with those who have had little opportunity for formal training. Learn more: Join our webinar on Tues 5 Mar, 6-6:30pm Ph 9560 5333. See poster for details.

### 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.