



Jesus said to his disciples:

‘As the Father has loved me,
so have I loved you.
Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father’s commandments
and remain in his love.
I have told you this
so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.
This is my commandment:
love one another,
as I have loved you.
A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends.
You are my friends,
if you do what I command you.
I shall not call you servants any more,
because a servant does not know
his master’s business;
I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
You did not choose me,
no, I chose you;
and I commissioned you
to go out and to bear fruit,
fruit that will last;
and then the Father will give you
anything you ask him in my name.
What I command you
is to love one another.’

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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THE INCLUSIVENESS OF GOD

Our first reading from Acts today is an edited story of the encounter of Peter and Cornelius. It is worth reading the full episode of Chapter 10. What we have is enough to relate the momentous occasion when Peter, a Jew, enters the house of Cornelius, a Gentile. This is significant of itself, laying aside any impropriety. More than this, Peter declares that God shows no partiality. It doesn’t matter whether Jew or Gentile, anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. Simultaneously with Peter speaking, the Holy Spirit came upon all the audience, Jews and Gentiles alike.

In John’s Gospel, Jesus begins: ‘As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you, remain in my love.’ This invitation to abide or remain in God’s love opens the command to love one another which is ever more poignant in light of the inclusivity of God. In this passage Jesus calls his disciples ‘friends’ and no longer servants, indicating the closeness of their relationship, their walking together and their collaboration in the work of Jesus. Yet we know even today there are barriers or hurdles that Pope Francis also acknowledges but urges us to find a way forward as a Church. ‘Abide in my love’ could be our mantra so the love of God is enacted to everyone we meet. How can we seek to be inclusive of all who seek God? How do we develop our ecumenical relationships and outreach to all those whom God desires to be welcomed?

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also.

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. ‘Stand up,’ he said ‘I am only a man after all!’

Then Peter addressed them: ‘The truth I have now come to realise’ he said ‘is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.’

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, ‘Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?’ He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.’

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 97: 1-4. R. cf. v. 2

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. (or Alleluia!)

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy arm / have brought salvation. **R.**

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; / has shown his justice to the nations. / He has remembered his truth and love / for the house of Israel. **R.**

3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all the earth, / ring out your joy. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Jn 4: 7-10

A reading from the first letter of St John

God is love.

My dear people,
let us love one another
since love comes from God
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,
because God is love.

God’s love for us was revealed
when God sent into the world his only Son
so that we could have life through him;

this is the love I mean:

not our love for God,

but God’s love for us when he sent his Son
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14: 23

Alleluia, alleluia! / All who love me will keep my words, / and my Father will love them and we will come to them. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 15: 9-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.



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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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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER/Year B

5 May 2024

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Recently Deceased: Bishop Peter Ingham, Irene le Metta, Serge Robert Niclasse

Death Anniversary: Roy Schiavone, William Kunde, Cecilia Kah, Coral Whalan, Simon KH Cho

Deceased: Vinko Simovic, Caterina & her family, Simon So, Seraphina & Ramine, Moss & Leila Leneye, Theresa Duncan, John Davidson, Lucy Ng, Cecilia Tan, Patrick Whalan, Wayne

Hanna, Peter McNamara; Milly Farrell; Geoff and Patricia Clarke; Ron & Jan Braylan

Sick: Myunghee Jung, Rita Baird, Marian Arendarczyk, 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, MEMORIALS AND LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS:

Solemnity of THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, May 12; Mother's Day, May 12 (special blessing for all Mothers at weekend Masses); St Kevin's PS Mother's Day Mass Thu May 9 at 9:30am.

A MESSAGE FROM FR PAWEL:

My dear friends, I would like to share with you the news I have received yesterday on the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker. I received a letter from Archbishop Anthony Fisher regarding my appointment as Parish Priest of Saint Kevin's Eastwood, for a 6-year term, effective 1st July 2024. So, taking Saint Joseph as the patron of my ministry in Eastwood, I would like Jesus to reign in an even more special way in our parish community, our families, our hearts, through the sacraments and His word and action. I ask Our Lady, Mary, who was with Joseph when Jesus was growing up, to help us become a community that actively participates in the common growth of our parish family in faith and mutual love.



PARISH NEWS:

• Welcome to all the children participating in our Sacrament of Confirmation Program.

Online enrolments still open, visit: <https://stkevinseastwood.org.au/confirmation/>

• **To honour our Blessed Mother Mary this month of May**, we invite you to pray the rosary individually or join us in the church after the Monday Communion Service or after the 7:30am Mass from Tuesday - Thursday. All welcome.

• **Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Appeal May 4 & 5:** CWF is a centralised fund that supports the charitable & pastoral activities of the Archdiocese of Sydney. CWF is our charity. Your tax-deductible gift changes lives. Donate using the envelopes or by scanning the QR code or contact 1800 753 959. This is the **last CWF appeal before the end of Financial year 2023-2024.**

• **FOSK will be serving Morning Tea** outside the Church after the 9:30am Mass.

• **Next Infant Baptism Info Session will be on Wed, 8th May at 8pm in the parish office.**

• **Final Didasko Adult Faith Formation course will be on Thu May 9, 16 & 23, 7:30pm-8:45pm in the Haseler Centre.** TOPIC: Moral Theology, presented by Christian Stephens. He has taught courses in Foundations of Wisdom, Christian Spirituality, Moral & Fundamental Theology. All welcome. Interested? Contact the parish office to register. COST: Free.

BAKE SALE AFTER THE SUNDAY 8AM AND 9:30AM MASS!!! Proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards future parish projects and events. Buy raffle tickets for a chance to win a fabulous **MOTHER'S DAY CAKE!** Winner to be drawn on Sat, 11th May at the 5:30pm Vigil Mass. Thank you for your support!



NEW DONATION POINT TAP DEVICES NOW AVAILABLE: These new donation points have user-friendly touchscreen interface that offers multiple preset donation amounts.

Donations on these tap devices are considered as 'general donation' & not tax deductible.



BLESSING FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES:

Lord, send your blessing upon these candidates who will soon receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Amen.

OTHER NEWS:

• **Requiem Mass for Bishop Peter Ingham** will be on Wed 8th May 5.30pm at St Mary's Cathedral. The casket will be present for the Mass before it is transported to Wollongong for Mass of Christian Burial. The Solemn Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial will be on Fri 10th May at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, 36 Harbour Street, Wollongong.

• **Take to the Streets - Sydney Processions:** Bring your families, friends, parish and school communities - walk with us and celebrate our faith in the streets of Sydney!:

- Fatima Rosary Procession May 11 at 6pm, St Mary's Cathedral.

- Walk with Christ Procession June 2, Feast of Corpus Christi. Procession begins at 2:30pm, Martin Place corner Pitt Street. Visit: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/events> 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 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.