

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



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

21 MARCH 2021

DYING IN ORDER TO LIVE

As Holy Week approaches, we are invited to enter more deeply into our own hearts and to accompany Jesus as he searches his heart in preparing to undergo his passion. The readings focus not only on the new life that we are offered, but also on the decisions that must be made to die to what is false within us so that God's new life may grow and flourish within us.

Jeremiah spoke to his contemporaries about the new covenant that God wanted to plant in their hearts. He powerfully calls for a decision to renewal. Would they give God the space in which to plant a seed? Did they have the courage to leave their past behind and journey towards a new future?

In the second reading and the Gospel we see how Jesus also shared in our struggle to choose the life that comes from dying to self. In the letter to the Hebrews, we are presented with the image of Jesus as God's Son who, like us, must search, struggle and pray so that the seed might grow and flourish. Some people may be disquieted by the image of Jesus having to come to perfection through struggle. It is a most precious gift – this is how seriously God takes it when God becomes one like us and shares in our humanity. In the gospel we see Jesus wrestling with this moment which is paradoxically the moment when he is already glorified. It is the moment of decision, when he must choose to become the living example of the seed that dies in order to live.

Christopher Monaghan CP

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!

Parish Priest: Fr Martin Maunsell

Deacon: Eddie Ho

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic

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

Catholic Parish of St Kevin Eastwood



Vigil Mass: Saturday at 5:30pm

NEW Sunday Mass Times beginning 20th Sep 2020:

8am, 9:30am, 11:30am (Chinese) and 6pm

Weekday Masses: Mon – Thurs. 7:30am, Fri 5:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration: Fri 4:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 5:00-5:20pm

Cenacle Marian Movement of Laity: Thu 7pm

Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Rosary & Novena: Tue 7-7:30pm

Fifth Sunday of Lent – 21st March 2021



Recently Deceased: Gerald Crown, Elide Pagnetto, Kevin Thompson, Inger Urban

Our Deceased: Maurice Bousaada, Ces Allman, Pamela Croaker, Moree Batty, Geoff & Patricia Clarke, Young Hwan Ho, Yong Min Ho, Young Seok Seo, Soo Woog Jin, Maria Hur, Felix Beins, Cecile Beins, Jan Brayan, Mary Duck, Ces Regan, Arch Stewart, John Casey, Roy & Bessie Landon and O' Connor, Pigott, Stewart and Casey families

Our Sick: Agnes, Heru Ie, Robert Lauw, Tenille Moujalli, June Phelan, Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy Gouw, Nur Gouw, Mercy Candido

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS:

The Annunciation of the Lord, 25th March

HOLY WEEK LITURGY AND MASS TIMES:

Sun 28 th Mar	Usual Mass Times	PALM SUNDAY
Mon 29 th Mar	7:30pm	Fr Richard Leonard's Talk
Tue 30 th Mar	7:30pm	Communal Rite of Reconciliation
Thu 1 st Apr	10:30am 7:30pm	Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral HOLY THURSDAY - Mass of the Lord's Supper
Fri 2 nd Apr	10:00am 3:00pm	GOOD FRIDAY - Stations of the Cross The Lord's Passion
Sat 3 rd Apr	6:00pm	EASTER VIGIL
Sun 4 th Apr	Usual Mass times	EASTER SUNDAY



PARISH NEWS:

- **New Liturgical Rosters** now available. Collect from the table at the back of the Church.
- **Rosters needed for Easter Liturgies.** Please add your name on the form in the Sacristy.
- **We will have the Holy Places Appeal in our parish on Good Friday, 2nd April.**
- **Thank you to those who were able to attend the World Day of Prayer Service** in Eastwood Baptist Church. We were able to raise \$1,249 for the women of Vanuatu!
- **Women's Prayer Group**, Monday evenings, 7:30pm in the Holy Family Chapel (next to the sacristy). Please come along! For more information contact Valentina 0420 374 299.
- **The Men's Prayer Breakfast has been rescheduled on Sat 27th March at 7am in the Haseler Centre. All men are welcomed.** For more info contact Lou Youssef 0400 303 733.
- **Following the 10am Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, 2nd Apr, St Kevin's Men's Choir** will be singing a number of inspirational songs in honour of Our Lord's great sacrifice. All welcome. **They will be singing at the 9:30am Mass on Easter Sunday too.**
- **HELP KEEP OUR CHURCH COVID-SAFE.** Attendance at all Masses are on a first come, first served basis. We can have up to 260 people at any one time subject to the 1 person per 2sqm rule. Read guidelines displayed in the foyer or on our parish website when visiting.

OTHER NEWS:

- Free mental health support program available in Sydney North, suitable for individuals living in their own homes & in retirement communities. The Anglicare Emotional Wellbeing for Older Persons In-reach (AEWOPI) program supports people over 65. See noticeboard or <https://www.anglicare.org.au/what-we-offer/mental-health/emotional-wellbeing-for-older-persons-ewop/> | ☎ 0403 396 697 | E: AEWOPI@anglicare.org.au

FR MARTIN MAUNSELL'S REFLECTION:

REFLECTIONS WHILE IN PRISON (part 1)

Occasionally any of us can read a book that is hard to put down, one such book for me is *The Prison Journals* written by Cardinal George Pell. In this book the cardinal reflects on his own life, the Church & history. Below in point form are insights that I've found most valuable;

- *The key to surviving any form of confinement is to focus on those things that one can do rather than being obsessed with what one can't do.*
- *Self-humor in life is the anti-dote for self-centeredness.*
- *The only Christian unity that's able to be sustained has evolved from apostolic foundations*
- *Religious freedoms are never meant to be unlimited, nor should they have to survive by way of legal privileges.*
- *Personal honesty and goodwill in any field of life will never excuse someone's lack of professional competency.*
- *A viable just prosecution of anyone needs to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt based on grounded evidence and witnesses and not on suggestions or possibilities.*
- *The legacy of Emperor Constantine is that he established structures that connected people to God and yet at the same time were socially healthy.*
- *The reality of Vatican 11 (1962-65) was that it sharply exposed both the continuity and the ruptures happening within the Church.*

Cardinal Pell, I believe during his lonely and difficult time in prison, fortunately has used his time well, and his depth of knowledge and wisdom will nourish millions of people.

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER – 28th Mar 2021

(AV Projectionist 9:30am Mass – M Nassif)

Ministry	Vigil	8:00am	9:30am	6:00pm
Senior Servers	K Woo	R Lock	D Ie	J Bosco
Junior Servers	L Garcia J Quizon		T Elder L McCudden	R Khalil E Maina
Readers	R: R Tohme C: M Wilkinson	R: P Parker C: M Farrell	R: P Zangari C: V Harvey	R: A DiBella C: C Small
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	M Mizzi L Mizzi	J Gwynne J Sun	M Cruz J Cruz	L Adams D Khoury