

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

cf. Jn 6:63, 68

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:  
you have the words of everlasting life.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Jn 6:60-69

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.*

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life,  
the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit  
and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.'

For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

22 AUGUST 2021

**MAKING DECISIONS**

In the lives of us all there are moments when we have to make decisions – decisions which will radically shape our future. When Joshua gathered all the people of Israel to the shrine of Shechem it was a moment of decision. Having finally taken possession of their own land, the risk was that they would be assimilated into the religious culture of the people that surrounded them. An even greater danger was that of forgetting the God who had made all this possible. Joshua saw that the time had come for the people of Israel to choose.

In a similar fashion, as Jesus concludes the bread of life discourse, his disciples and his contemporaries are challenged to decide where their allegiance lies. While Jesus' words are a scandal for even some of the disciples, the Twelve, through Peter, decide that Jesus' message is truly life-giving and that it comes from God.

The decision which is envisaged in the second reading is that married couples decide to model their relationship on the love that Jesus has shown in giving up his life for us all. The regulation of relationships in households found here is clearly coloured by its first century context and its language of submission can give the modern reader a jolt. Despite this there are reciprocal demands made on both spouses to model their love on that of Jesus who gave his life for us all.

**Christopher Monaghan CP**

**FIRST READING**

Josh 24:1-2, 15-18

A reading from the book of Joshua.

*We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.*

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

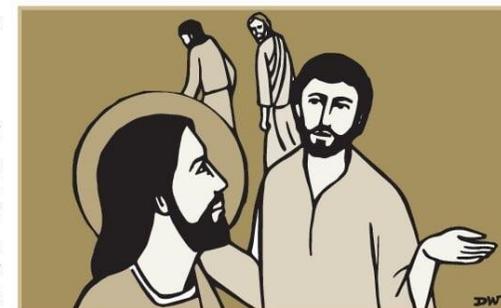
The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 33:2-3, 16-23. R. v. 9

**R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, / his praise always on my lips; / in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. / The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**
2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked / to destroy their remembrance from the earth. / The Lord turns his eyes to the just / and his ears to their appeal. **R.**
3. They call and the Lord hears / and rescues them in all their distress. / The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; / those whose spirit is crushed he will save. **R.**
4. Many are the trials of the just man / but from them all the Lord will rescue him. / He will keep guard over all his bones, / not one of his bones shall be broken. **R.**
5. Evil brings death to the wicked; / those who hate the good are doomed. / The Lord



ransoms the souls of his servants. / Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

Eph 5:21-32

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

*This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.*

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

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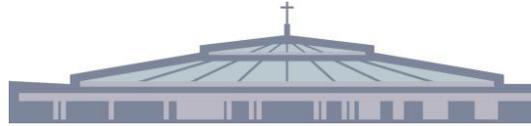
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YouTube: [www.youtube.com/c/StKevinParishEastwood](http://www.youtube.com/c/StKevinParishEastwood)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic](http://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

Sunday Mass Times: 8am, 9:30am, 11:30am (Chinese) & 6pm

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

Holy Rosary: Mon – Thu after 7:30am Mass

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

### Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time – 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug 2021



**Our Deceased:** Margaret Ellem, Paul Phelan, James (Jimmy) Radburn, Alan & Molly McNamara, Bill, Eileen & John Taylor, Amy Murry, Katherine Corbett, Win Tranor, Fr John Haseler, Sandra Walsh, Jim Grainger, Fr John Lyne, James Bertoldo, Mike Crestani; Geoff & Patricia Clarke, Jan Brayan, Arch Stewart, John Casey; Roy & Bessie Landon and O' Connor, Landon, Stewart, Pigott and Casey families. Lastly, please pray for all the souls in purgatory.

**Our Sick:** Stephanie Thielbeer, Sam Wong, Donald Mees, Agnes, Robert Lauw, Tenille Moujalli, June Phelan, Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy Gouw, Nur Gouw

#### UPCOMING FEAST DAYS:

St Bartholomew 24<sup>th</sup> Aug, St Monica 27<sup>th</sup> Aug, St Augustine 28<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### PARISH NEWS:

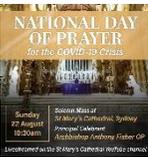
- LOCKDOWN EXTENDED:** Our Church will remain closed until at least Thu, 30<sup>th</sup> September.
- Join us online at 8pm, Thursday nights for Lightup Lockdown**, 30 mins of gentle prayer and meditation on the Sunday Gospels (Lectio Divina). Led by Olivia Cullen, Family Educator at St Kevin's Eastwood & Kirrily McDermott, Family Educator at St Michael's Meadowbank, we hope it will be a time for you to experience the light of Christ in your life right now. Click on this link: <https://scscatholic.zoom.us/j/63753489356> PW: 615578 NB: Due to Sydney Catholic Schools' Zoom security settings, you will need to sign into your zoom account to access the session. Remember to bring a candle along if you have one at home.
- Expression of interest: Liturgy of the Word at Home via ZOOM video conferencing.** This is an opportunity to gather with fellow parishioners and offer up our prayer intentions during this time of isolation. If you would like to participate, please register your interest by email: parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au or leave a message at 9874 2533. Thank you!
- In the coming weeks, we will be communicating with parish volunteers who haven't done the Online Safeguarding Induction Training. This training is mandated by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney for selected volunteering roles in the parish.** If you have time on your hands, this could be the perfect opportunity to undertake the training. All details will be sent by email. Thank you.
- We thank all the parishioners who are continuously supporting our parish financially during lockdown and all the volunteers involved in our livestreamed Vigil Mass.**
- Prayer requests/Mass offerings for the deceased are still accepted.** Send us an email or leave a message at 9874 2533. Donations can be made online via the parish website.
- The parish office is closed until further notice.** Please send your queries by email: [parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au](mailto:parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au) or leave a message at 9874 2533. Thank you.



- For pastoral care emergencies, please contact Fr Martin directly at 0414 841 928.**

#### AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

- National Day of Prayer for the COVID-19 Crisis:** The National Council of Churches in Australia is leading a prayer for our nation this Sunday, Aug 22, where alongside fellow Christians, we can all unite in a prayer for an end to the COVID-19 crisis. Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP is inviting you to join him in prayer during the 10:30am Solemn Mass, livestreamed via St Mary's Cathedral's YouTube channel. The theme is 'Lord Have Mercy.'
- The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney invites you to download the Our Faith Our Works App on the App Store or Google Play.** Your one-stop location for Mass and Confession times, spiritual reflections & meditations, podcasts, and much more. Visit: [www.ourfaithourworks.org/app](http://www.ourfaithourworks.org/app) or scan the QR code.



#### FR MARTIN MAUNSELL'S REFLECTION:

##### **SUFFERING-some insights!**

The wise American rabbi Harold Kushner (born 1935) once said; *"that the passing of a kidney stone and giving birth would be 2 of the most painful physical experiences that anyone could have."* The difference between the two is that the passing of a kidney stone is the remedying of a natural bodily function. Giving birth is a pain that is part of the natural process of allowing another life to enter the world. It readily explains as to why no one logically would ever choose to have another kidney stone, but most women would readily again go through the pain of having another baby. The point that I would like to make is that suffering for its own sake really has no value but to embrace suffering for a good end is very worthwhile. Whenever a person seeks some form of growth in life, they often realize that suffering is an inevitable part of growing. For example, to watch an alcoholic or a drug addict *dry out* is to see what emotional and physical suffering is all about. Why some people seem to suffer more than others is a life mystery that even the wisest people often struggle to answer! Jesus of Nazareth speaks about the place of suffering in these words; *"Enter by the narrow gate, the way is hard that leads to life, yet the other gate is wide and open that leads to destruction."* (Matthew Chapter 7 verse 13-14)

#### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:

*We encourage everyone watching us online to receive Jesus through the Spiritual Communion Prayer: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already here and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

