



The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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BE OPEN TO CHANGE

Often there is tension in our lives as we struggle to determine how to be faithful to the past and yet open to the demands of the present and the call of the future. Can what is good and true change and take on new forms? In the area of technology, the matter is often clearer than in the life of faith.

Confronted with Moses' demand that nothing of the law be changed or deleted what options did the Pharisees have for change? Deletion of any of Moses' regulations was tantamount to rejection of God's own word. They dealt with the demands of the present by a rigorous faithfulness to the traditions which they had received. From their perspective who was Jesus to challenge these traditions? What Jesus characterised as hypocrisy they saw as faithfulness to the demands of the living God. The problem was that of discerning that the living God was speaking anew through Jesus who stood before them. Faithfulness to what God has spoken absents none of us from the demand of listening to what God is speaking to us today; *the challenge lies in recognising it and responding with generosity.*

The letter of James also addresses this challenge by reminding us that while God's truth is unchanging, we are called to listen to the word which has been planted in our hearts. It is a word which is dynamic and growing – a word whose clearest demand is to reach out in love to those who cannot defend themselves.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Deut 4:1-2, 6-8

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

You may add nothing to the word which I speak to you – keep the commands of the Lord.

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 14:2-5. R. v. 1

R. The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain? / He who walks without fault; / he who acts with justice / and speaks the truth from his heart. **R.**
2. He who does no wrong to his brother, / who casts no slur on his neighbour, / who holds the godless in disdain, / but honours those who fear the Lord. **R.**
3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may; / who takes no interest on a loan / and accepts no bribes against the innocent. / Such a man will stand firm for ever. **R.**



SECOND READING

James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

A reading from the letter of St James.

Be doers of the word.

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

James 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

You forget the commands of God to hold on to human tradition.

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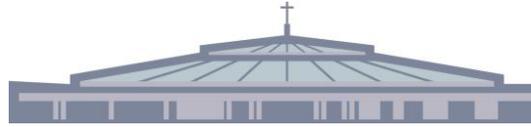
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Facebook: www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic

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

Catholic Parish of St Kevin Eastwood



Vigil Mass: Saturday at 5:30pm

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-second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 29th Aug 2021



Death Anniversary: Maureen Mees

Our Deceased: Margaret Ellem, Paul Phelan, James (Jimmy) Radburn; 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 Augustine 28th August; St Gregory the Great 3rd September

PARISH NEWS:

- Starting this weekend, we will place a few copies of the parish bulletin outside the Church for anyone to take home or place inside the letterbox of a parishioner you know who is elderly, isolated and don't have the technology to watch our online Mass. **Help bring the GOOD NEWS to someone in need of God's word during these difficult times.**
- **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. Click on this link: <https://scscatholic.zoom.us/j/63753489356> PW: 615578
- **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 or leave a message at 9874 2533. Thank you.
- **For pastoral care emergencies, please contact Fr Martin directly at 0414 841 928.**
- **The Catholic Weekly special postal subscription offer during lockdown: Receive 5 editions for \$20.** To order call Rita on 9390 5411 or Steve 0429 188 800.



ARCHBISHOP'S AFGHAN REFUGEE APPEAL:

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has launched the Afghan Refugee Appeal. The appeal will raise desperately needed funds and commit the Archdiocese resources of education, health and welfare to Afghan families and individuals fleeing their homeland in the wake of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. The UN and aid agencies are preparing for a Syria scale refugee crisis. The appeal means that those who find their way to Australia will have support and resources waiting for them. These dark times remind all of us that we really are our

brother and our sisters' keeper. Please donate here: [Archbishop's Afghan Refugee Appeal](http://www.archbishop.org.au/afghan-refugee-appeal). For further information go to: <http://justiceandpeace.org.au/> Thank you.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

- **St Vincent De Paul - Support for the Disadvantaged in Lockdown:** SVDP volunteers have recently distributed 900 snack packs, 250 self-care packs & 130 hampers through a range of services including Parramatta Mission Meals Plus and local support hubs. If you need help, call 13 18 12 or email vinnies@vinnies.org.au. Help is here for those who need it. For info, go to: www.vinnies.org.au/covidsupportnsw
- **Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP is urging all Catholics to sign an e-petition to prevent the NSW parliament passing laws that sanction the killing of vulnerable human beings.** There is never a good time to introduce laws such as this, but to do so in the middle of a pandemic and amidst lockdowns adversely affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions is unconscionable. To sign the petition, go to: www.noethanasia.org.au/protect-life-nsw



FR MARTIN MAUNSELL'S REFLECTION:

TOUGH & EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP!

Last year a friend of mine who has been slowly recovering from a muscle wasting disease candidly said to me (with a big smile on his face); "Each week for the hour when I see my personal trainer, I hate her as she forces me to move my body in places that it does not want to go, yet if I don't, I won't get better." The same logic was once revealed when a retiring Harvard University president was what he considered to be essential in being a good leader. Without he said hesitation; "The willingness to inflict necessary pain on people." This is a direct way of saying that good leadership necessitates a sense of constant & real courage of speaking the uncompromising truth on people while being prepared to be unpopular in doing so. Of course, if an effective leader is going to be treated seriously then they need to be a model of living the truth they want to convey. It was once said to me that there is no-one more uninspiring in life than an unreformed reformer!

Jesus of Nazareth was definitely a tough and effective leader of people who pulled no punches in making it clear what was necessary in following him. A case in point was when he said, "if anyone wants to be a follower of mine then they must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matthew Chapter 16 verse 24)

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:



We encourage everyone watching us online to receive Jesus through this 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.