

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

cf. 2 Thess 2:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel  
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mk 9:30-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according  
to Mark.

*The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of  
humanity . . . All who wish to be first must make  
themselves the servants of all.*

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his  
disciples made their way through Galilee; and  
he did not want anyone to know, because he  
was instructing his disciples; he was telling  
them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into  
the hands of men; they will put him to death;  
and three days after he has been put to death  
he will rise again.' But they did not understand  
what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was  
in the house he asked them, 'What were you  
arguing about on the road?' They said nothing  
because they had been arguing which of them  
was the greatest. So he sat down, called the  
Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to  
be first, he must make himself last of all and  
servant of all.' He then took a little child, set  
him in front of them, put his arms round him,  
and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one  
of these little children in my name, welcomes  
me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes  
not me but the one who sent me.'

## ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

19 SEPTEMBER 2021

**LIVING WITH OUR DIFFERENCES**

As the letter of James observes, wherever there  
is jealousy and ambition there is disharmony.  
It is the sign of both human and spiritual  
maturity to be able to live in peace with  
ourselves and others. A reality of life is that  
there are differences between people and  
that they can often be a source of division  
and discontent. Today's readings invite us to  
reflect on the ways in which differences can be  
life-giving rather than destructive.

For the writer of the book of Wisdom the  
truly righteous person will be a thorn in the  
side of those whose values they do not share.  
The implied challenge is that of daring to be  
different when it means being true to our  
values.

Even within the Christian community the  
problems provided by our differences and  
desire for recognition need to be addressed.  
It is to the credit of the early Christians  
that they did not veneer over their very  
real differences and honestly admitted their  
difficulties in this area. At the very moment  
that Jesus is speaking of the violent death that  
awaits him the disciples are already arguing  
among themselves about who is the greatest.  
It is precisely in this context that Jesus reveals  
to them that true greatness has always been  
found in the ability to serve and sacrifice  
oneself for the good of others. It is not that  
differences do not exist, or that some have  
the responsibility of leadership. What counts  
is the manner in which that responsibility  
is exercised. In that, Jesus remains our most  
enduring example.

**Christopher Monaghan CP****FIRST READING**

Wis 2:12, 17-20

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

*Let us condemn him to a most shameful death.*

The godless say to themselves,  
'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since  
he annoys us  
and opposes our way of life,  
reproaches us for our breaches of the law  
and accuses us of playing false to our  
upbringing.

Let us see if what he says is true,  
let us observe what kind of end he himself will  
have.

If the virtuous man is God's son, God will  
take his part  
and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies.  
Let us test him with cruelty and with torture,  
and thus explore this gentleness of his  
and put his endurance to the proof.

Let us condemn him to a shameful death  
since he will be looked after – we have his  
word for it.

## ■ The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 53:3-6, 8. R. v. 6

**R.** The Lord upholds my life.

1. O God, save me by your name; / by your  
power, uphold my cause. / O God, hear my  
prayer; / listen to the words of my mouth. **R.**
2. For proud men have risen against me, /  
ruthless men seek my life. / They have no  
regard for God. **R.**
3. But I have God for my help. / The Lord  
upholds my life. / I will sacrifice to you with  
willing heart / and praise your name for it is  
good. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

James 3:16-4:3

A reading from the letter of St James.

*Justice is the harvest of peacemakers from seeds sown  
in a spirit of peace.*

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you  
find disharmony, and wicked things of every  
kind being done; whereas the wisdom that  
comes down from above is essentially something  
pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and  
considerate; it is full of compassion and shows  
itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of  
partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when  
they work for peace, sow the seeds which will  
bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between  
yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the  
desires fighting inside your own selves? You  
want something and you haven't got it; so you  
are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that  
you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way  
by force. Why you don't have what you want  
is because you don't pray for it; when you do  
pray and don't get it, it is because you have not  
prayed properly, you have prayed for something  
to indulge your own desires.

## ■ The word of the Lord.

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic](https://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-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 19<sup>th</sup> Sep 2021



**Recently Deceased:** Sandra Wehbe, Lee Kok Wa

**Death Anniversary:** Paul Augimeri

**Our Deceased:** Roy Mesiti, Maria Spadaro-Dutturi, Margaret Ellem; 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:

Saint Matthew, apostle and evangelist, 21<sup>st</sup> September; Saint Padre Pio 23<sup>rd</sup> September

#### PARISH NEWS:

- **We extend our condolences to the family and friends of long-time parishioner, Sandra Wehbe.** Please keep her and her family in your prayers. Thank you.
- **The MenALIVE weekend will be rescheduled to a date to be determined in 2022.**
- When times are tough it can be difficult to know where to turn to. Contact **CatholicCare at 13 18 19** for free and confidential help and referral to a wide range of services.
- **Copies of the parish bulletin are now available outside the Church for anyone to take home or place inside letterboxes of parishioners who are alone, elderly, and don't have the means to watch our online Mass. Help them reconnect with our parish.** If you are in an LGA of concern and wish to receive the parish bulletin, please contact the parish office.
- **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.**

#### SAFEGUARDING TRAINING REMINDER:

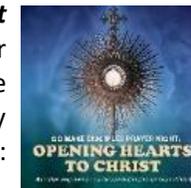
Thank you to all the parish volunteers who have done the Online Safeguarding Induction Training recently. A reminder that this training is mandated by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney for selected volunteering roles in the parish. If you've received an email from our parish and haven't done the training, we encourage you to do so. Thank you.

#### AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

- **Can you picture yourself being a foster carer?** You are invited to an online info session on Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep at 6:30pm-7:30pm or Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Oct at 12:30pm-1:30pm. These sessions provide interested parties with an opportunity to learn about: why children come into

care, the process of becoming a carer, and support available to foster carers. Enquiries: call 13 18 19 or E: [admin@familyspirit.org](mailto:admin@familyspirit.org). To register: <https://www.familyspirit.org/>

- **Annual March for Life Mass Sydney, Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Sep at 10:30am:** Please join us for the Inaugural March for Life Mass to be celebrated by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP. The Mass will be livestreamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/StMarysCathedralSydney>
- **Online Holy Hour for the needs of Sydney Catholics, Thu 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 7pm-8:30pm:** The Parish Renewal Team in the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation is inviting Sydney Catholics to an online Holy Hour as we await the end of lockdown, let us unite ourselves with Christ and pray that many hearts will be open to his love. Registrations essential: [www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events](http://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events).



#### FR MARTIN MAUNSELL'S REFLECTION:

##### **LAST EQUALS FIRST!**

I believe that the deepest impression that Pope Francis will leave behind in his time as pope is his genuine humility. What reinforced this for me was a story that a priest told me when he was at a conference in the Vatican. This priest said that Pope Francis was one of the presenters at the conference and during the meal breaks he casually joined in line with others to self-serve his food from the buffet bar. This is definitely not usual practice for any Head of State to do!

We're living in a world where people who are first definitely get preferential treatment over others. For example, on an airline when a plane is ready to board, the passengers who are in First Class are permitted to board first of all, and then leave the aircraft before anyone else. Also, in many public workplaces and stadiums there is often no provision made for the bathroom needs of many physically handicapped people. Admittedly, this situation is changing for the better, but it's long overdue!

Jesus of Nazareth said, "that the first will be last and the last first." (Matthew Chapter 19 verse 23). In saying this he does not want to reverse the current situation as this could then well lead to an inverse form of discrimination. I'm sure what he wants is that people seek to abolish all types of status over others and to treat others as genuine brothers and sisters.

#### 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.