

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off.

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

26 SEPTEMBER 2021

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY AND GENEROSITY

The proper use of spiritual authority is treated in today's readings where both Israel's elders and Jesus' disciples are called to generosity of spirit. The elders have had a brief taste of sharing in Moses' prophetic ministry but it has passed. Upset by the fact that Eldad and Medad are prophesying when they cannot, leads them to ask Moses to intervene.

The scenario is somewhat different for the disciples but both the elders and the disciples saw themselves as sharing in the power and authority of Moses and Jesus respectively. Neither group took lightly the fact that others might have been able to share in this without reference to them. The issue for Jesus and for Moses is not who exercises spiritual authority but what they achieve by it. The disciples are challenged to look deeper into the matter, and into their own hearts, to see that their primary concern should be that of making sure that the word is preached to the little ones. Furthermore, they are strongly challenged to make sure they do not become the means by which others are led to lose their faith by their own poor example.

The elders and disciples were called to have open and generous hearts on the question of who can exercise spiritual authority. James calls us to being generous and just in the matter of the use of our material resources. The letter has been insistent in confronting us with any lack of consistency between what we profess and how we act, particularly towards those who are disadvantaged.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Num 11:25-29

A reading from the book of Numbers.

Are you jealous on my account? Who decrees that all people may prophesy?

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look,' he said, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 18:8, 10, 12-14. R. v. 9
R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, / it revives the soul. / The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, / it gives wisdom to the simple. **R.**
2. The fear of the Lord is holy, / abiding for ever. / The decrees of the Lord are truth / and all of them just. **R.**
3. So in them your servant finds instruction; / great reward is in their keeping. / But who can detect all his errors? / From hidden faults acquit me. **R.**
4. From presumption restrain your servant / and let it not rule me. / Then shall I be blameless, / clean from grave sin. **R.**



SECOND READING

James 5:1-6

A reading from the letter of St James.

Your wealth is rotting.

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn 17:17

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Your word, O Lord, is truth:
make us holy in the truth.
Alleluia!**

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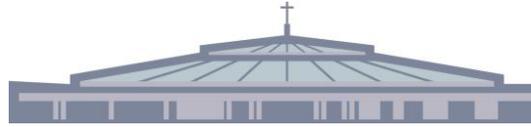
Website: www.stkevinseastwood.org.au

YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/StKevinParishEastwood

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-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 26th Sep 2021

Our Deceased: Mary Maher, Joseph Maher, Percy Furlong, James Lander, Paul Augimeri, Sandra Wehbe, Lee Kok Wa, Francesco Geracitano, 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:

St Vincent de Paul 27th Sep; Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels 29th Sep; St Jerome 30th Sep; St. Thérèse of Lisieux 1st October

PARISH NEWS:

- 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.
- **For pastoral care emergencies, please contact Fr Martin directly at 0414 841 928.**
- **Thank you to all the parish volunteers who have done the Online Safeguarding Induction Training.** A reminder that this training is mandated by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney for selected volunteering roles in the parish. If you have received an email from our parish and have not done the training, we encourage you to do so.
- **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 do not have the means to watch our online Mass. **Help them reconnect with our parish.** 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 or leave a message at 9874 2533. Thank you.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

- **MEN OF VIRTUE SERIES, 28th Sep at 7:30pm, Zoom:** All men are invited to join Chris Da Silva for two inspiring & motivational formation sessions on how to grow in virtue & holiness & inspire others to do the same. To register E: chris.dasilva@sydneycatholic.org
- **Online Holy Hour for the needs of Sydney Catholics, Thu 30th 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.

- **PRAYERS IN TIME OF PANDEMIC: HONOURING MARY IN THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY** - In times of great need, Catholics find solace and comfort in prayer through the intercession of Our Lady. October is traditionally the Month of the Holy Rosary. The Sydney Centre for Evangelisation is preparing a series of online prayers from Oct 11 – 17 where you'll be able to join with religious congregations & lay communities in praying the Rosary and other Marian devotions. A full schedule of prayers will be posted on the Archdiocese of Sydney Lockdown events page closer to date. This event will happen at: <https://www.facebook.com/SydneyCatholic> For info E: michael.kenny@sydneycatholic.org

FR MARTIN MAUNSELL'S REFLECTION:

PALLIATIVE CARE & EUTHANASIA 2021!

Only recently I listened to what I thought was an excellent ZOOM broadcast on the above 2 topics that featured input from three experienced palliative care specialists. Below are some of the insights that I gained.

- *Palliative care involves a multi-disciplinary form of care involving people who are medical doctors, nurses, ancillary medical staff, and chaplains. Each of these disciplines are distinctive and they complement the others, these people often meet to best serve the people in their care.*
- *On average about 50% of palliative care resources is given to the welfare of the people who are closest to the person who is preparing to die.*
- *At times palliative care can be given by way of pain relief that can accelerate the dying process, but it is never given with the intention to terminate the life of anyone. The aim of the treatment is to relieve as much as possible painful symptoms.*
- *Euthanasia is the intentional treatment of someone by way of drugs or the deprivation of life's essential needs with the deliberate intention to kill them. Most medical and nursing professionals find this practice abhorrent; it contradicts what many of these people have dedicated their life to do. Overseas evidence shows that this practice is soon abused where people are dying without their full consent.*

What I have stated is definitely not just a *religious* point of view it is a view that seeks to uphold human rights and personal dignity.

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.

