

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom

and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mk 7:31-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

*He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.*

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

■ 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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

05 SEPTEMBER 2021

## JESUS THE DIVINE HEALER

At the heart of our life of faith is the belief that God has the power and desire to enter into our world and bring life where there was death. Prophets such as Isaiah spoke of the impact that the Messiah would have on the life of the people. Through the promised king, God would reach out and set right what was no longer in order; wrongs would be redressed and life would flourish anew in the desert, and in the hearts of the people. How many of Isaiah's contemporaries would have thought his words were simply vain hopes which would never be realised? How many were disillusioned with their past experience of kingship in Israel?

It was into this situation of need, hope and disbelief that Jesus came. His powerful word and healing touch brought hope and new life to those in need. One of the great ironies of today's miracle is Jesus' command that the deaf man keep silent about what has happened to him. Having just found his voice could he be expected not to use it? Mark's point is that having encountered Jesus we cannot keep silent.

Despite its brevity the letter of James contains some of the most hard-hitting teaching in the New Testament. Today the challenge concerns how the voice of the powerless cannot be silenced in the Christian community. The standards of the world have no place in the Christian community when it leads to a distinction between rich and poor, when a person's worth and dignity is only measured by their wealth.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Isa 35:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

*Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.*

Say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.  
'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;  
for water gushes in the desert,  
streams in the wasteland,  
the scorched earth becomes a lake,  
the parched land springs of water.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145:7-10. R. v. 1

**R.** Praise the Lord, my soul! (or Alleluia!)

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, / who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, / who raises up those who are bowed down, / the Lord who loves the just, / the Lord, who protects the stranger. **R.**
3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan, / but thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord will reign for ever, / Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**



## SECOND READING

James 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St James.

*Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?*

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats;' then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

■ 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-third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 5<sup>th</sup> Sep 2021

**Death Anniversary:** Terry Magill

**Our Deceased:** Maureen Mees, John Davidson, Lucy Ng, Cecilia Tan, 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:** Lee Kok Wa, 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 Teresa of Calcutta 5<sup>th</sup> September; The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary 8<sup>th</sup> September

#### PARISH NEWS:

- **Wishing all dads, HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!!**
- **September 6-12 is Child Protection Week** and ACBC has declared September 12 as Safeguarding Sunday. New resources for Children & Young People will be available to download at: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/safeguarding-and-child-protection/>
- *We have started placing a few copies of the parish bulletin outside the Church for anyone to take home or place inside letterboxes of parishioners you know, who are alone, elderly, 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 lockdown. If you are in an LGA of concern and wish to receive the parish bulletin in your letterbox, please let the parish office know.*
- **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.**
- **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.

#### CARITAS AUSTRALIA: Humanitarian crises unfolding in Afghanistan and Lebanon

 As the situations in Afghanistan & Lebanon deteriorate, you can help support families caught up in the crises. In Afghanistan, people have been forced from their homes, and in urgent need of food, water, shelter, and protection. In Lebanon, the country is running out of power, water, fuel, medicine, and food. Please donate to Caritas Australia so that can respond to crises like these. Call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support or visit [www.caritas.org.au/Lebanon](http://www.caritas.org.au/Lebanon) or [www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan](http://www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan).



#### AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

- **Parishioners are encouraged to write to their local NSW MP**, to express their opposition to the voluntary assisted dying bill, proposed by Independent MP Alex Greenwich. *The anti-euthanasia coalition, HOPE has developed an online tool that will allow you to send an email directly to your state MP and to all members of the NSW Upper House. To access: [https://www.no euthanasia.org.au/petition\\_2108\\_ocp\\_nsw](https://www.no euthanasia.org.au/petition_2108_ocp_nsw) If you do not wish to use this online tool, download sample letters at: [www.stkevinseastwood.org.au](http://www.stkevinseastwood.org.au)*
- **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 local support hubs. If you need help, call 13 18 12 or email [vinnies@vinnies.org.au](mailto:vinnies@vinnies.org.au)

#### FR MARTIN MAUNSELL'S REFLECTION:

##### FATHER'S DAY REFLECTION 2021


One of the great American military commanders was General Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964). Towards the end of his outstanding military career the General was interviewed, he spoke these wise and revealing words; *"By profession I am a soldier but what I am most proud of is of being a father to my children. When I am gone from this world what I will value most is what my children will say about me a lot more than what millions of people have said about me as a military commander."*

As we celebrate Father's Day this year in both challenging and strange times due to the COVID 19 lockdown, sadly it will be where many extended families will not be physically together. Yet the lockdown has also brought many children at home with their father closer together than ever. As we think of our Fathers, I want to leave you with this reflection that's appropriately called, *The Beatitudes of Fathers:*

- *Blessed is the father who seeks to understand his child where hopefully they will inherit a kingdom of good memories!*
- *Blessed is the father who guides his child towards a path of righteousness where hopefully the father will be so proud of his child!*
- *Blessed are the fathers who praise what is good and criticizes what is necessary so hopefully his child will do the same!*

May we all continue to bless & affirm all fathers especially this Sunday, Happy Father's Day!

#### 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.

