

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

What God has joined together, no one must divide.

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

■ 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-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

03 OCTOBER 2021

CALLED TO RELATIONSHIP

Given the context in which we live where the breakdown of marriage is an ever increasing and painful reality, the readings for today call for us to examine anew the Christian foundations for marriage. The first reading in speaking of Adam's search for a helpmate and companion poignantly brings into relief the deep seated sense of incompleteness which is a part of the experience of each of us. The underlying truth is that it is by being in relationship with another, or others, that we can become most fully ourselves.

Jesus' authority as a teacher was being sorely tested by his opponents and they used the question of divorce as a means to discredit him. Without denying the authority of Moses Jesus takes his opponents back to the story of creation in order to show the dignity and purpose of marriage. There is no doubt that Jesus speaks powerfully regarding the value of marriage, but it is also critical to note that Jesus' reply does not pretend to cover all the situations that can befall a marriage, nor how to respond to them.

From now until the end of the year we will be following the letter to the Hebrews and paying particular attention to its reflection on the person of Jesus and his relationship to God and to us. Some of the images used in the letter are unfamiliar, and so it's important that the modern reader appreciate the belief that underpins them – that Jesus has shared in our experience, and so is able to be our leader and representative before God.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Gen 2:18-24

A reading from the book of Genesis.

They were two in one flesh.

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones,
and flesh from my flesh!
This is to be called woman,
for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 127. R. v. 5

R. May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord / and walk in his ways! / By the labour of your hands you shall eat. / You will be happy and prosper. **R.**
2. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine / in the heart of your house; / your children like shoots of the olive, / around your table. **R.**



3. Indeed thus shall be blessed / the man who fears the Lord. / May the Lord bless you from Zion / in a happy Jerusalem / all the days of your life! / May you see your children's children. / On Israel, peace! **R.**

SECOND READING

Heb 2:9-11

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have the same origin.

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Jn 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!
If we love one another,
God will live in us in perfect love.
Alleluia!

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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-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – 3rd Oct 2021

Our Deceased: John Davidson, Lucy Ng, Cecilia Tan, Mary Maher, Joseph Maher, Percy Furlong, James Lander, 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:

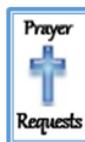
St Francis of Assisi 4th Oct; St Faustina Kowalska 5th Oct; Our Lady of the Rosary 7th Oct

PARISH NEWS:

- **As advised by the Archdiocese of Sydney, our Church will be open to the public from the Monday after NSW hits the 80% (aged 16 and over) double dose vaccination target.** Once our Church re-opens, parishioners who are fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated, and as yet unvaccinated, will need to observe the 4sqm rule, with the exception of people from the same household. COVID Safe measures will be put in place. Thank you.
- **October is traditionally the Month of the Holy Rosary.** We are inviting parishioners to join and pray the rosary with us daily at 3pm from Oct 1, culminating on Oct 7, the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary. A group of parishioners has been doing a 54-day novena over Zoom and would like to extend this invitation to the rest of the congregation by praying the rosary altogether. If you would like to participate, contact the parish office by email: parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au and we will send you the link. Thank you.
- **A reminder to all First Holy Communion candidates, Lesson 3 will resume on Wed, Oct 6.**
- **For pastoral care emergencies, please contact Fr Martin directly at 0414 841 928.**
- **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:

- **First General Assembly of the 5th Plenary Council of Australia, 3-10 Oct 2021:** Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will be celebrating an Opening Mass for Sydney members on Sun 3rd Oct at 10:30am. The Mass will be livestreamed



on [St Mary's Cathedral You Tube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...). Full schedule, agenda & livestreamed sessions can be accessed online: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

- **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
- **Catholic Women's Summit – Recover, Restore & Unleash, Oct 8 & 9:** A free live virtual event for Catholic women of all ages & stages in life. Hosted by The Genius Project, learn how to recover, be restored, and find your purpose again! Join Karen Doyle and an amazing lineup of guest speakers including United States writers Claire Dwyer and Mary Lenaburg. Register at: <https://cf.geniusproject.co/webinar-registration-2021>.

FR MARTIN MAUNSELL'S REFLECTION:

CO-RESPONSIBILITY- a reflection!

I'm often amazed at the depth of wisdom and humility that people reveal simply in the course of a conversation. A priest friend of mine recently shared with me one such occasion from a parishioner when she said, "Father I often go to bed with a deep sense of sadness as I believe that I am indirectly responsible for the drug culture wars in our local area." The priest then gently asked her to expand on this statement, she said; "Well I see myself as being part of a community who obviously have not given a good enough example to our younger generation to creatively contribute to community life." I doubt that anyone who reads this reflection when thinking seriously about their life would not have some sense of regret in what they have done or failed to do in passing on a credible heritage for a future generation. I definitely have some regrets! We are now living in what is known as the *consumer* age where there is a widespread mentality for many people to acquire things and then not look for ways to creatively contribute. We should never underestimate the place of media advertising in creating this culture.

Jesus of Nazareth had something to say about this reality even 2,000 years ago in these words; "How can you believe since you seek glory from one another, but you don't seek the glory that comes from God." (John Chapter 5 verse 44)

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.

