

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*Your redemption is near at hand.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

28 NOVEMBER 2021

## FAITH IN GOD'S PROMISE

The Portuguese have a proverb that 'God writes straight with crooked lines.' We know that it is not always easy to discern what God is writing. Our world, indeed our own lives, can be marked by so many contradictions and tensions. Can there be faith in the midst of disappointment? Can there be hope in the face of suffering? The readings for today agree in proclaiming that the answer is 'yes' for the person of faith.

Jeremiah writes words of hope and promise in the midst of the massive upheaval and loss of faith that accompanied the people of Israel going into exile in 587BC. To speak words of faith in the face of such horror and disappointment would have required a great deal of faith indeed.

Paul's letter to the Thessalonians was written only some twenty years after the death of Jesus at a time when the earliest Christians believed that the Lord Jesus would return at any moment. Paul advises them about how best to prepare and encourages them to keep their vision and commitment while they are waiting.

Some twenty years later Luke's Christians ran the risk of being discouraged due to the delay in the return of the Lord. They found themselves fearful of that day when the Lord Jesus would return and needed encouragement and consolation. Luke reminds them of Jesus' words, to give them hope so that when he returns, he will find them confident and hopeful, ready and waiting.

## FIRST READING

Jer 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

*I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.* See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.

In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence.

And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.'

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 24:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14. R. v. 1

**R.** To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways. / Lord, teach me your paths. / Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: / for you are God my saviour. **R.**

2. The Lord is good and upright. / He shows the path to those who stray, / he guides the humble in the right path; / he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

3. His ways are faithfulness and love / for those who keep his covenant and will. / The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him; / to them he reveals his covenant. **R.**

## SECOND READING

1 Thess 3:12-4:2

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

*When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.*

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the



whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Christopher Monaghan CP

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic](http://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

## First Sunday of Advent – 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021



**Recently Deceased:** Mark Tomsic

**Death Anniversary:** Michael Mico, Rodney Bruce Bell, Lorraine Smith

**Our Deceased:** Tony Pearce, Mary and Joseph Maher, Roy Mesiti, Doreen Furlong, Robert Anderson, Nicola & Sapienza Tedesco, Nunzia & Salvatore Fallico, Carmelina & Tony Natoli, Nancy Fallico, Salvatore Laguzza, Geoff & Patricia Clarke, Jan Brayen, 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 Andrew 30<sup>th</sup> November, St Saint Francis Xavier 3<sup>rd</sup> December

### 2021 CHRISTMAS WEEK LITURGY TIMES:

 	Mon 20 Dec	7:00pm	Fr Richard Leonard's Talk
	Tue 21 Dec	7:30pm	Communal Rite of Reconciliation
	Fri 24 Dec	5.30pm	Christmas Eve Mass
		7:30pm	Christmas Eve Mass
	Fri 24 Dec	9:00pm	Chinese Mass
	Fri 24 Dec	11:30pm	Christmas Carols
		12 midnight	Christmas Midnight Mass
	Sat 25 Dec	8am, 9:30am	Christmas Day Masses (No Evening Mass)
	Sun 26 Dec	8am, 9:30am, 6pm	Usual Weekend Masses

### ADVENT WREATH LITURGY (As the 1<sup>st</sup> candle is lit, in place of the Gloria we say together):

"Lord, bless this advent wreath to help us prepare again to celebrate and remember the birth of Jesus, your Son, who is able to bring us **HOPE**. Amen."



### PARISH NEWS:

- **Anointing of the sick at all Masses this weekend.**
- Thank you for supporting the CWF Appeal last weekend. Donation envelopes still available.
- **Congratulations to Theodore George Gialouris and Mateo Joseph Capistrano** for receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend!
- **First Holy Communion Masses will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of December at 3:30pm.**
- **St Kevin's School Crossing Supervisor Needed! (Permanent P/T Position available)** Email: [Caitlin.ritchie@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Caitlin.ritchie@transport.nsw.gov.au). or ☎ 9983 2782 See parish noticeboard for details.
- **To all Catechists: Please collect your Safeguarding Certificates at the back of the church.**
- **Weekly Men's Prayer Hour, Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the Holy Family Chapel.**

- **MONTHLY MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST on Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7am in the Haseler Centre.**
- **THE ST KEVIN'S MEN'S CHOIR WILL BE SINGING AT THE 9:30AM MASS ON SUNDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER. THEY WILL ALSO BE HAVING A CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING CONCERT, ON THE SAME DAY AT 3PM IN THE CHURCH. 100% of the funds raised will be used to help families in our parish who are experiencing financial difficulties.** Come along, enjoy the concert and support this very worthwhile cause! For more info contact Lou Youssef 0400 303 733.

### SVDP EASTWOOD CONFERENCE CHRISTMAS APPEAL:

**Support our Vinnies Christmas Appeal on Dec 11 & 12!** We are calling for our local community to help raise funds for those doing it tough this Christmas.

**Donate no matter how big or small to help us reach our fundraising goal which will assist St Vincent de Paul Eastwood to provide for those in need.** To donate, go to <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/eastwood-conference-christmas-appeal>



or scan the QR code. Donation envelopes will be available next weekend. NB: **Columban Art Calendars now available in the Piety Store!**

### FR MARTIN MAUNSELL'S REFLECTION:

#### LAW & MEDIATION!

A good friend of mine is a family law specialist. He shared with me what I thought was a profound insight of our human condition in these words; *"whenever a couple comes to me about a marital dispute there is often 3 sides to the dispute, they being his side, her side and somewhere in between is the truth."* I was once a part time prison chaplain, and it was a memorable experience! When I look back on this time after speaking to many prisoners, I detected that many of them had the same problem in that it was hard for them to accept personal responsibility for their actions. It's true that conflict & grievances with people is very much part of our human condition it always has been, and it will be. The real key is to try and resolve conflict in an honest & peaceful way. This is where personal humility & wisdom needs to be stronger than one's ego & self-interest. I recently read that in the USA and I'm sure it would be the case also in Australia over the last decade civil case loads between people increased 33% while the national population only increased 7%. This statistic reveals a sad disturbing reality. Jesus of Nazareth makes the point; *"If someone brings a lawsuit against you & takes you to court, settle the dispute while there is time, before you go to court."* (Mt 5:25-26)

### NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER – 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021

(AV Projectionist 9:30am Mass – D Muljadi)

Ministry	Vigil	8:00am	9:30am	6:00pm
Senior Servers	R Guo	R Lock	D Ie	C Njuguna
Readers	R: I Mourani C: C Mourani	R: M Hill C: K Patterson	R: M Young C: W Elder	R: N Williams C: S Polson
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	V Mourani A Mazzei	A Blomfield D O'Connor	C Campagna J Graziano	D Brix-Nielsen A Brix-Nielsen