

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 12:38-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

This poor widow has put in more than all who contributed.

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

07 NOVEMBER 2021

SELF-GIVING AND GENEROSITY

In many cultures, philanthropy and generosity can lead to a person being honoured and esteemed. The biblical world was no exception. As Sirach 31:23 observes: 'People bless the one who is liberal with food, and their testimony to his generosity is trustworthy.' Groups that were identified as being especially in need of such generosity were widows and orphans. God was identified as having special concern for them (Psalm 68:5). This was not all that the scriptures had to say on the matter. Deuteronomy 24:21 enjoined farmers to leave some of their crops for widows and orphans to harvest and so ensure their survival.

Given this tradition, it is remarkable that two of our readings today highlight the extraordinary generosity of two widows. In foreign territory, Elijah meets a widow and her son and asks to share in what they expect to be their last meal before they die. The widow's extraordinary generosity meets a most unexpected reward. As Jesus watches people contributing to the completion of the Temple, a widow's generosity catches his eye. Like Jeremiah before him, Jesus wanted the Temple to be a place of true worship. This woman's desire to honour God touched his heart – this is what true worship looks like.

Decades later the letter to the Hebrews reflected on Jesus' own self-giving as the perfect sacrifice that embodied and perfected all others. Not only did Jesus give what he had, he gave to the point of death itself. This act of love was the culmination of all Israel's sacrifices becoming the timeless model for ministry and priesthood.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

1 Kings 17:10-16

A reading from the first book of the Kings

The widow made a little scone from her flour and brought it to Elijah.

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said, 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives,' she replied, 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent,
jug of oil shall not be emptied,
before the day when the Lord sends
rain on the face of the earth." '

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145:7-10. R. v. 2

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

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. / It is 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

Heb 9:24-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Christ offered himself only once to take the faults of many on himself.

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

■ The word of the Lord.

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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

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 7th Nov 2021

Recently Deceased: Patrick Larkin, Maureen Hendry

Our Deceased: Margaret Ellem, Don Raffin, John Davidson, Lucy Ng, Cecilia Tan, Thelma Coe, Jack Field, 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 Leo the Great 10th Nov, St Martin of Tours 11th Nov, St Josaphat 12th Nov

PARISH NEWS:

- **We extend our condolences to the family and friends of long-time parishioner, Margaret Ellem.** A Requiem Mass will be held in our parish on Wed, 10th Nov at 10:30am. Attendance is limited. We plan to livestream the service and make it available for anyone to watch through the parish website: www.stkevinseastwood.org.au and the parish YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/c/StKevinsParishEastwood. Thank you.
- **Mid-Week Men’s Prayer Hour:** Each Wednesday night at 7:30pm, men from the parish gather in the Holy Family Chapel for Gospel reflection & prayer for an hour. All welcomed.
- **THE MONTHLY MENS PRAYER BREAKFAST** will be held in the Haseler Centre on Saturday November 20. Starting at 7am for coffee & a light breakfast, followed by Gospel Reflection and prayer. Newcomers most welcomed. For info contact Lou Youssef 0400 303 733.
- **On Friday 12th Nov, the usual 5pm Mass will move to an earlier time at 7:30am to make way for Confirmation Masses at 5pm and 7:15pm. There will be No Eucharistic Adoration on that day.** We apologize for the inconvenience.
- **The next Charitable Works Fund Appeal will be on Nov 21.** Help support the work of our ministries. This is your charity, the charity of the Sydney Catholic community & our parish.
- **All Masses during the month of November will be offered for the repose of the souls of our dearly departed. November Mass envelopes are still available.**
- **New Senior Server, Reader and Eucharistic Minister rosters are now available for collection from the table at the back of the church.**
- As we reopen our doors to all parishioners, we ask that we all follow the guidelines displayed in our church foyer. Also, we ask that doors and windows be opened during Mass to optimize ventilation. HELP KEEP OUR CHURCH COVIDSAFE. Thank you.
- **We thank all the parishioners who are continuously supporting our parish financially.**
- **The parish office will be open at different times, please call, or leave a message at 9874 2533 before coming in or E: parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au**



A MESSAGE FROM OLIVIA CULLEN, ST KEVIN’S FAMILY EDUCATOR:

Rosary Novena for Peace in Afghanistan 10th - 18th Nov at 8pm: Across the Archdiocese of Sydney, a special Rosary "Novena of Novenas" has been organized to pray for peace in Afghanistan. The school and parish community of St Kevin's Eastwood will be joining with the school & parish community of St Michael's Meadowbank to host this Rosary Novena for 9 days, from Wed Nov 10 to Thu Nov 18 at 8pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 623 6554 1273, PW: rosary

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

The NSW Legislative Council’s Standing Committee on Law and Justice is undertaking an inquiry into the provisions of the **Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021** with debate commencing on the bill on Nov 12. Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has condemned the proposed legislation.

NSW residents concerned about the bill are invited to participate in an online questionnaire: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XRQNHFZ> The online questionnaire closes on Nov 22.

FR MARTIN MAUNSELL’S REFLECTION:

LEARNING from TRUE STORIES!

An old Irish missionary priest who had served in the Congo in central Africa for many years when interviewed shared this revealing story upon his retirement.

He noticed that the village community had a power generator so he requested to his Provincial Superior if he could buy a television set for the native people. When his request was approved, and the television set connected it had access to television programs from America for 24 hours a day. He said that the native people watched it constantly and then one morning no one came to watch it anymore. The priest met the village elder and asked for an explanation and was told; *“That the people who put together these programs don’t know our culture and traditions. Over time we only come to appreciate stories after people have made an effort to know and then connect with our issues.”*

The enduring and valuable message here is that effective teaching by way of a story only comes to people after first getting to know some of their important life traditions and history. Jesus of Nazareth was a master storyteller and behind his success is that he made the effort to know the history and the heritage of the people who he was teaching. He makes this point; *“why I choose to speak to them in stories is that they look without seeing and hear without understanding to what’s been said.”* (Matthew Chapter 13 verse 13)

NEXT WEEK’S ROSTER – 14th Nov 2021

(AV Projectionist 9:30am Mass – B Leung)

Ministry	Vigil	8:00am	9:30am	6:00pm
Senior Servers	S Tesara	S Coorey	B Rigney	C Jonas
Readers	R: N Brown C: M Wilkinson	R: W Chick C: M Hill	R: W Elder C: M James	R: A Jonas C: N Williams
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	G Brown R Elliott	D O’Connor R Harvie	C Rigney R Boey	K Jonas J Gibson