

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

12 DECEMBER 2021

PREPARE WELL

All of us have been involved at one time or another with preparing to meet a special guest. It is often a time of mixed emotions as excitement and joy vie with some measure of anxiety about the quality of our preparations.

As Paul's Christians at Philippi waited for the return of the Lord, he knew that it could be for many a time of anxiety; would they find acceptance on his return? Would they find a place in his kingdom? It was a time of trepidation because it was feared that he would return unexpectedly, like a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:2), and find them unprepared. In the face of such anxiety, Paul encourages them to put their trust in the Lord who loves them. Even now they are called to experience the Lord's peace and joy as they wait for his return. Especially, they are called to pray with confidence and trust.

John the Baptist knew that the Messiah was soon to be among us, and we see how he calls those who listen to his message to prepare by taking a hard look at themselves and how they live. In order to be ready when the Messiah comes he calls for a concern for others that expresses itself in generosity, fairness, and compassion.

As we prepare for the Lord's coming among us, today's readings call us to make ready with the confidence of Zephaniah, the peacefulness of Paul, and the justice and compassion of John the Baptist.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Zeph 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:

Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

■ The word of the Lord.

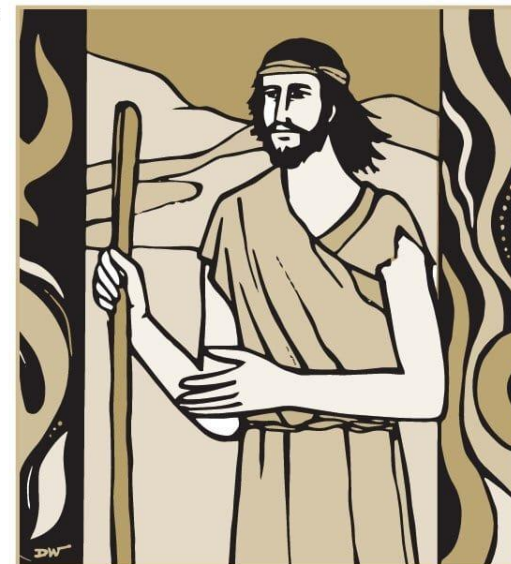
RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Isa 12:2-6. R. v. 6

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

1. Truly, God is my salvation, / I trust, I shall not fear. / For the Lord is my strength, my song, / he became my saviour. / With joy you will draw water / from the wells of salvation. **R.**

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! / Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! / Declare the greatness of his name. **R.**



3. Sing a psalm to the Lord / for he has done glorious deeds, / make them known to all the earth! / People of Zion, sing and shout for joy / for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

The Lord is near.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

■ 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

Third Sunday of Advent – 12th Dec 2021



Death Anniversary: Fr Maurice Sullivan CM

Our Deceased: William Brooks. John Davidson, Lucy Ng, Cecilia Tan, Nirmal Nathan, Cyril Arokianathan, Madhu & Buddy, William & Margaret Smith, 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:

Saint Lucy 13th December, Saint John of the Cross 14th December

2021 CHRISTMAS WEEK LITURGY TIMES:

	Tue 21 Dec	7:30pm	Communal Rite of Reconciliation
	Fri 24 Dec	5.30pm, 7:30pm	Christmas Eve Masses
	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 Vigil Mass)
	Sun 26 Dec	8am, 9:30am, 6pm	Usual Weekend Masses

NB: Fr Richard Leonard Talk scheduled on Dec 20 will not go ahead as planned. Sincere apologies.

ADVENT WREATH LITURGY (As the 3rd candle is lit, in place of the Gloria we say together):

“On this third week of Advent we pray for the gift of God’s distinctive JOY as we prepare again to celebrate the feast of the Christ child. Amen.”



PARISH NEWS:

- **Many thanks for your generosity. We have raised \$8,375.00 from our CWF Nov Appeal!**
- **Rosters needed for our Christmas Liturgies. Please put your name down in the sacristy.**
- Congratulations to **Kendall Johnathon Vaivao** for receiving the sacrament of baptism!
- This weekend, we welcome our speakers from SVDP Eastwood Conference for our Vinnies Christmas Appeal. 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!** Scan the QR code to donate or <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/eastwood-conference-christmas-appeal>. Thank you for your support.
- **Fr Martin’s ‘MORE CUPPA TIME REFLECTIONS’ now on sale for \$20.** All sale proceeds will go towards the ‘classroom floor upgrade’ project for a school in Uganda. **Grab a copy now!**
- **Following Fr Martin’s appointment as Chaplain at St Vincent’s Hospital, we have organized two farewells on Sun 19th Dec, to give everyone an opportunity to attend.**



Morning Tea will be served by FOSK (Friends of St Kevin’s) in the forecourt outside the Church after the 9:30am Mass. **Afternoon Tea will be served in the parish hall at 3pm.** Please bring a plate to share (preferably easy to serve, for COVID safe reasons).

- **MONTHLY MEN’S PRAYER BREAKFAST on Sat 18th Dec at 7am in the Haseler Centre.**
- **St Kevin’s Men’s Choir** will be singing at the 9:30am Mass on Sunday Dec 12. (New members invited to join!! Please call Lou Youssef 0400 303 733.
- **Christmas Fundraising Concert:** The St Kevin’s Men’s choir will be singing many of your Christmas Favourites this Sun Dec 12th at 3pm. Please come along & enjoy a fun afternoon & help those in our parish who are unemployed or have suffered financial stress due to the pandemic. By donating, you can be assured that 100% of all funds collected will be given to those in need. Afternoon tea will be available during interval.

FR MARTIN MAUNSELL’S REFLECTION:

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS!

Recently over a coffee a wonderful history teacher who taught me candidly said; “Experience has shown me that the best lectures that I have given have at the same time prompted the students in front of me to ask great questions.”

When I reflected on the wisdom of these words, I concluded that there would also be a number of other things that must happen for this to take place. One of these things is that the teacher has tried to become deeply informed of their subject matter. Another thing was that the teacher has the ability and then the willingness to pitch their lesson at a level that their students may readily comprehend. This is often a time-consuming task as so much is wasted if the message is above a person’s comprehension. And the third thing is that the teacher is able to convey with a sense of obvious enthusiasm and passion their subject material. It is these qualities combined together that makes the *total package!*

Jesus of Nazareth was obviously a master teacher, he consistently prompted people who listened to him to ask good and important questions. A case that readily comes to mind is when he was asked the question; ‘Who is my neighbor?’ and he responded by giving the memorable story of *The Good Samaritan* (Luke Chapter 10 verse 25-37). Then he concluded the story with the enduring difficult challenge; “You go and do the same”.

NEXT WEEK’S ROSTER – 19th Dec 2021

(AV Projectionist 9:30am Mass – R Khalil)

Ministry	Vigil	8:00am	9:30am	6:00pm
Senior Servers	A Rahme	B Gibson	V Chapman	C Jonas
Readers	R: N Brown C: C Caboche	R: Br J Curry C: R Tohme	R: V Aloisi C: W Aloisi	R: A DiBella C: A Jonas
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	G Brown E Eliott	L Bergfield J Gwynne	M Tallaridi J Raad	S Ramundi K Jonas