

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All people shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of
God.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

05 DECEMBER 2021

TRUST IN GOD'S HELP

As we prepare for the Lord's return, today's readings encourage us to continue the journey we have started but challenge us as well. Baruch gave heart to the generation of the exile by speaking about the highway that God was building for their return. At the dawn of the time of the Messiah, John the Baptist makes use of the same image but reminds us that the highway that is being built in the desert is not only God's work but ours. Our co-operation is needed as the rough places of our hearts are smoothed, the mountains we force God to cross are made level, and the valleys filled in.

Paul calls the Christians of Philippi to take heart as they wait for the Lord's return. Paul was devoted to all Christian communities he had founded and ministered to, but the Philippians had a special place in his heart, and he called them his jewel and crown (cf. Philippians 4:1). They were a Macedonian community that had suffered much (cf. 2 Corinthians 8:1-3) and yet supported him greatly in his ministry emotionally, financially, and spiritually (Philippians 4: 14-16).

We see the encouragement that Paul gives them as they prepare for the Lord's return. He knows that it is not always easy to discern what is good and necessary but he reassures the Philippians by reminding them that the Lord who started the good work in them will bring it to completion.



Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Bar 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch.

Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:

since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.'

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights

and turn your eyes to the east:

see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot,
with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level

so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade

for Israel at the command of God;

for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory

with his mercy and integrity for escort.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 125. R. v. 3

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, / it seemed like a dream. / Then was our mouth filled with laughter, / on our lips there were songs. **R.**

2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels / the Lord worked for them!' / What marvels the Lord worked for us! / Indeed we were glad. **R.**

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage / as streams in dry land. / Those who are sowing in tears / will sing when they reap. **R.**

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears / carrying seed for the sowing: / they come back, they come back, full of song, / carrying their sheaves. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 1:3-6, 8-11

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

Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

■ 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

Second Sunday of Advent – 5th Dec 2021



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

Our Deceased: Mark Tomic, Nirmal Nathan, Cyril Arokianathan, Madhu & Buddy, William & Margaret Smith, Tony Pearce, Mary and Joseph Maher, 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 Ambrose 7th Dec; THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 8th Dec

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 2nd candle is lit, in place of the Gloria we say together):

“O Lord, stir up PEACE in our hearts to help us prepare for the coming of your only begotten Son at Christmas – the light of our world. Amen.” 

PARISH NEWS:

- **Congratulations to all the children who received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion!**
- **Rosters needed for our Christmas Liturgies. Please put your name down in the sacristy.**
- **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 the announcement of Fr Martin's appointment as chaplain at St Vincent's Hospital next year, we have organized two farewells on Sunday Dec 19, 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 right 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). Coffee, tea, water & cordial will be available. All welcome!
- **Accommodation needed for an elderly gentleman,** devout Catholic and acolyte at St Patrick's Cathedral. Please ☎ Colin Robens 0416 710 200 if you can help in any way.
- **MONTHLY MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST on Sat 18th Dec at 7am in the Haseler Centre.**

- **THE ST KEVIN'S MEN'S CHOIR WILL BE SINGING AT THE 9:30AM MASS ON SUNDAY, 12TH DECEMBER, FOLLOWED BY THEIR CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING CONCERT AT 3PM IN THE CHURCH.** 100% of the funds raised will be used to help struggling families in our parish. For more info or if you wish to join the Men's Choir 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! Scan the QR code to donate or <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/eastwood-conference-christmas-appeal>. Thank you!



FR MARTIN MAUNSELL'S REFLECTION:

BEYOND a MONETARY PRICE!

The great Irish born play writer Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) once wrote; “that a cynic is someone who knows the price of everything but then the value of nothing.” As a consequence of this profoundly wise statement, I would like to share this reflection that I recently came across;

- *Money can buy someone a HOUSE with all sorts of beautiful views and possessions, but it can't really buy a HOME where people can feel emotionally secure and are happy to keep returning to.”*
- *Money can buy the best of CLOCKS, but it can't buy TIME this is a gift and an opportunity that a person uses to finds their potential.”*
- *Money can get people INFORMATION, but it can't buy them KNOWLEDGE as this is the fruit of developing and acquiring knowledge.”*
- *Money can get a person a POSITION in an organization, but it can't buy RESPECT for the person who is now holding that position.”*

It was the Dalai Lama who once said; “What surprises me most is how so many people sacrifice their physical and mental health to make money. Then they readily sacrifice so much of the money that they made to then recuperate their health.” I think that he makes a good point! Jesus of Nazareth also had something to say about the place of money in these words; “No one can be the servant of two masters, they will either serve God or money.” (Matthew 6 v 24)

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER – 12th Dec 2021

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

Ministry	Vigil	8:00am	9:30am	6:00pm
Senior Servers	S Tesara	S Coorey	B Rigney	J Bosco
Readers	R: M Wilkinson C: S Fernando	R: P Porta C: W Chick	R: M James C: L Butler	R: D Arputhanathan C: C Arputhanathan
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	L Mizzi M Mizzi	D Macedo R Harvie	C Rigney C McPhillips	J Chang E Lobo