

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Jn 2:5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5:38-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Love your enemies.

Jesus said to his disciples; 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

19 FEBRUARY 2023

INCLUSIVE LOVE

How should we deal with the hurts that we receive? Should we respond by retaliating? Is there any future in the way of peace and forgiveness? These questions are as pressing today as they were in the ancient world. The people of Israel based their behaviour on the nature of the living God. As God is holy, so Israel was to express its holiness by forbearance and forgiveness among its members. Members of the people of Israel were called to love one another and forego the duty of vengeance when it came to other covenant members.

Jesus took this even further and extended it beyond Israel into our relationship with all people. Now even enemies are to be treated as brothers and sisters. Jesus knew that it is by forgiving that we can share in the nature of the living God and so become complete. It is by our preparedness to forgive that we share in the even-handed perfection of God whose love is poured out for all, deserving or not.

Perhaps Paul was mindful of Jesus' words that a house divided against itself cannot stand (cf. Mark 3:25) when he reminded the Corinthians that they were the Temple of God. Since each member shared in the gift of the Spirit there was no place for division or competition. Paul, Apollos and Cephas were united in their ministry as servants of the Gospel. If they were united, why was the community divided? It was now time to turn the other cheek and live in unity and peace.

FIRST READING

Lev 19:1-2, 17-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus

You must love your neighbour as yourself.

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy."

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13. R. v. 8

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, / all my being, bless his holy name. / My soul, give thanks to the Lord / and never forget all his blessings. **R.**
2. It is the Lord who forgives all your guilt, / who heals every one of your ills, / who redeems your life from the grave, / who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**
3. The Lord is compassion and love, / slow to anger and rich in mercy. / He does not treat us according to our sins / nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**
4. As far as the east is from the west / so far does he remove our sins. / As a father has compassion on his sons, / the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 3:16-23

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

All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

■ The word of the Lord.

Christopher Monaghan CP

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www.youtube.com/c/StKevinsParishEastwood

www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION AND DEVOTION

Weekday Mass: Monday - 7:30am (Communion Service, except on Feast Days);

Tuesday to Thursday - 7:30am (followed by Holy Rosary); Friday - 5pm

Weekend Mass: Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm (livestreamed); Sunday - 8am, 9:30am, 6pm

CCC Mass: Sunday at 11:30am (English/Cantonese)

Eucharistic Adoration: Friday 4pm-5pm

First Friday Devotion: Monthly at 4pm

First Saturday Mass and Devotion: Monthly at 9am

Exposition and Benediction: First weekend of the month at all Masses

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday 4pm-4:45pm and Saturday 4:30pm-5:15pm

SCAN OUR
PARISH
QR CODE TO
DONATE
ONLINE



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time/Year A

19th February 2023

PRAYER REQUESTS:



Recently Deceased: Joseph Youakim, Ron Brayan, Peter McNamara

Deceased: Lewis George Saunders, Milly Farrell, Selwyn Jackson, Prapean Tranchaoren, Mavis Field, Francis Murray; Casey, Landon, O'Connor, Pigott & Stewart families; Geoff & Patricia Clarke; Jan Brayan; and all souls in purgatory.

Sick: Burkardt Foertsch, Graham Rumble, Ben Isaacs, Harriet D'Souza, Sam Wong, Robert Lauw, Tenille Moujalli, June Phelan, Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S.,

Daisy Gouw, Nur Gouw, Ceferino Ramirez

LENT 2023

• **Ash Wednesday: Feb 22.** This marks the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday Masses will be at: 7:30am, 9:30am (with St Kevin's Primary school community), and 6pm.

• **Stations of the Cross** will be held every Friday right after the 5pm Mass during Lent. Starts Feb 24.

• **This weekend is Project Compassion Sunday. Please take home a Project Compassion box** or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season & help support vulnerable people around the world. See posters on how you can help or donate online via: caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or call 1800 024 413.

• To help us prepare and reflect on the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has developed a **Lenten Companion—'SPIRIT AND TRUTH: The Power of Christ Revealed.'** This free booklet contains Gospel readings and reflections for the Sundays of Lent until Easter Sunday.

All parishioners are invited to join our Parish Lenten Group led by Fr Pawel on Thursday, 23rd Feb at 6pm in the Church using this beautiful Lenten Companion. Limited copies available in the church foyer or download at: <https://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/resources/>.

Parishioners are welcome to form their own groups.



PARISH NEWS:

- Welcome to all school families participating in our Eucharistic celebration this weekend!
- **New Liturgical Rosters will be available for collection from next weekend.**
- Our condolences to the families of long-time parishioners, Ron Brayan and Joseph Youakim, both passed away recently. Please include them and their families in your prayers.
- **World Day of Prayer 2023 will be held here at St Kevin's on Friday, 3rd March at 10am followed by morning tea.** All are invited to gather & pray as a community together with other Christian denominations. For more information contact Sandra 0412 990 718.
- **Monthly Men's Prayer Breakfast:** The next gathering is scheduled for Saturday 4th March in the Haseler Centre. Starts at 7:00am. All welcome. Contact 0400 303 733.
- **Men's Weekly Prayer Group: Tuesdays at 7pm in the Holy Family Chapel.** All welcome.
- **SINGERS NEEDED:** Kevinwood's first Sunday concert on Mar 19th features Borodin's "Polovetsian Dances" - extra voices MOST welcome. Interested? Ph 9874 2809 Suzanne.
- *If you wish to offer a Holy Mass for the sick, deceased or other occasions, please collect an envelope in the church foyer.* Include the date when you want the Mass to be said and drop them in the weekend collection bag or in the parish letterbox next to the church sacristy.
- **Do you like gardening? We are reaching out to all green thumbs out there!** Fr Pawel needs your help to look after our church garden. If you are interested in volunteering an hour or 2 or perhaps form a 'parish garden group' together with your friends, please speak to Fr Pawel or contact the parish office.



Mount St Benedict College OPEN DAY Sunday 5 March 10am - 2pm

Please note: Families with a daughter in Year 5 should apply now for Year 7, 2025.

Online Expression of Interest forms should be lodged by the end of Year 4.



AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:



• **Turkey-Syria Earthquake Disaster Appeal:** Turkey and Syria have been struck by a devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake, which has caused thousands of deaths. Your support is needed now. To donate, visit: <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/> or scan the QR code.

• **Mission: Change their Lives and Yours.** Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents. For information Ph 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567 or visit: www.palms.org.au



PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL:



St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray and you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY:



Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, contact Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office (02) 9390 5810 or E: safeguarding-enquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support & guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to police.