

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables
and expound things hidden since the
foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Shorter form 13:24-30.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Reflections on the Gospel

PATIENCE IS BETTER THAN MISPLACED ZEAL

Today's Gospel presents a further image from agriculture in Palestine. A poisonous weed called darnel affects wheat crops. In the early stages it looks very like the young shoots of wheat. By the time both plants can be distinguished their roots are so entwined as to make tearing out the darnel very injurious to the wheat.

The parable addresses the disciples' dismay at the continuing prevalence of evil in the world. If, as Jesus teaches, the Kingdom of God has dawned, why has God not intervened to root out evil once and for all?

Like the wheat and darnel in the field, good and evil are at present so inextricably co-existent as to make too ruthless an attempt to eradicate the one fatal to a successful harvest of the other. In the harvest time to come, however, God will deal once and for all with evil, before gathering in the 'wheat' of the kingdom.

The parable also challenges the kind of religious zeal that, filled with moral outrage, wants to go in and root out from the community of believers any considered unworthy to be there.

It can even apply on an individual level. So often a person's good qualities spring from the same source as their less desirable ones. An irascible person may struggle vigorously for justice; a laid-back character may be a good listener – and so on.

Christianity's long history of intolerance – the Inquisition, etc. – shows the tragedy and folly of being more zealous to root out evil than to encourage good. The final judgement belongs to God.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

THE SAVING WORD

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

19 JULY 2020

FIRST READING

Wis 12:13, 16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom
In the place of sin, you give repentance.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, / to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. / Your justice has its source in strength, / your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. / You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned / and you expose the insolence of those who know it; / but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, / you govern us with great lenience, / for you have only to will, and your power is there. / By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people / how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, / and you have given your sons the good hope / that after sin you will grant repentance.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16. R. v. 5

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, / full of love to all who call. / Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer / and attend to the sound of my voice. R.
2. All the nations shall come to adore you / and glorify your name, O Lord: / for you are great and do marvellous deeds, / you who alone are God. R.
3. But you, God of mercy and compassion, / slow to anger, O Lord, / abounding in love and truth, / turn and take pity on me. R.

SECOND READING

Rom 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts



knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia! / Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; / you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 13:24-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this," he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

19 July 2020
Wk 16 Yr A/2

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org/>



Parish Priest
Deacon
Administration:
Sacristan

Fr Anthony Koppman
Deacon Peter Harrison
Ms Anne Bowden
Ms Di Bolitho
Mrs Elaine Smyth

Presbytery 67658211
Office Hours:
Tues - Fri 9.30 - 11.30 am
westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au

St Joseph's School
Principal Mrs Katie Hanes 67654079

WEEKEND MASSES Vigil: Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am and 5.30 pm
**72 people only in the church

WEEKDAY MASSES Mon: **No Mass Tues: **No Mass
Wed: **12 noon St Mary Magdalene Thurs: 9am St Bridget
Fri: 9 am St Sharbel Makhluf Sat: 9am

CONFESIONS
Sat: 4.30-5.15pm
*Or by appointment

NEW WEBSITE: <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org/>

May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:

Recently Deceased: Margaret O'Callaghan, Michael Scott, Pauline Connor, Tony McDonald, Terry Smith, Norma Jurd, Thomas Brown, John Albert French.

Anniversaries: Patricia Kennedy (2/7), Nerida Blanch (5/7), Bridget Teo (29/7).

Deceased: Leopolda Figar, Patricia Mary Holz, Fr Robert Watson, William Coulston, Andrew Tickner, William Grima, John Killen, Eibhlin Killen.

Sick: Rachel MacPherson, Shirley Hobbs, Gail Styman, Deacon Peter Harrison, Jenny Buxury, Aria Lee Hawley, Joy Makepeace, John Joe Kiely, Monica Austin, Joe Lew, Dudley Ryan, Trisha Aquino, Paul Steer, Baby Jack Smith, Noel O'Brien, Bill Press, Karen Guillermo, David Owens, Yvonne Tarrant, Terry Lee, Rosa Maria Santos, Margaret Greentree, Janice Rizzi, Richard Crawford, Sr Pat Bartley, Judy Cumins, Brindley Cavallaro, Maureen Harrison, Elaine White, Linda Bourke, Peggy Bussell, Margaret Doyle, Christopher Struck, Graeme Bussell, Jack & Marge Attard.



CRACKERS TAILS

A Sydney hipster moved to the country and bought a piece of land. He went to the local feed and livestock store and talked to the proprietor about how he was going to take up chicken farming. He then asked to buy 100 chicks. "That's a lot of chicks," commented the proprietor. "I mean business," the city slicker replied. A week later the hipster was back again. "I need another 100 chicks," he said. "Boy, you are serious about this chicken farming," the man told him. "Yeah," the hipster replied. "If I can iron out a few problems." "Problems?" asked the proprietor. "Yeah," replied the hipster, "I think I planted that last batch too close together."

ST VINCENT PALLOTTI SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust offers scholarships to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. More information and applications forms are available on <https://pallottine.org.au/scholarships/st-vincent-pallotti-scholarship-for-lay-ministry.html> Closing 31 July.

COMING EVENTS

Mon 20 July First day of Term 3 for St Joseph's
Wed 22 Jul St Mary Magdalene
Sun 26 July Marriage and Family Week
2nd -9 August National Vocations Awareness Week



'Let no obstacles deter you from proceeding with courage.' (1907)



NATIONAL CATHOLIC MEN'S GATHERING FOR 2020: "Brothers What Must We Do?" is an online free event being held on 15 August 2020. More details at www.catholicmensgathering.com.au Bishop Michael Kennedy has prepared this short promotional video for the event. <https://youtu.be/ZhmVnhg6HQq>

WEDNESDAY 12 NOON MASS: Please note the mass on Wednesday this week will be held at 12 noon following very positive responses. It is hoped this change of time might assist people who find 9 am mass difficult to attend, particularly in winter time. We would like to hear your thoughts on this and other mass time suggestions. We encourage you to visit our website and follow the news link to take [the survey](#).

COVID-19 UPDATE: Masses have resumed as shown, in line with current COVID-19 restrictions. **ONLY 72 PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO ATTEND MASS AT ANY ONE TIME AT ST PATRICKS.** It is preferable for you to register with the Parish Office. **PLEASE EMAIL THE PARISH AND LEAVE YOUR NAME, TELEPHONE NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESS AND PREFERENCE TIME FOR MASS ATTENDANCE** (Saturday evening or Sunday). The parish phone is not always attended so please only call if you do not have email. If you do not register you may still attend mass, however you **MUST** leave your name and contact details on the sheet upon entering and can only enter if less than 72 people have registered on the entry sheet already.

SOCIAL DISTANCING - **YOU MUST - *REGISTER TO ENTER

- *SANITISE HANDS ON ENTERING AND LEAVING
- *KEEP YOUR DISTANCE



Your health and welfare are our top concern. **Any person who is unwell, any person with co-morbidities (e.g. compromised immune or respiratory systems), and those over 70 years of age should exercise particular caution. For some it may be more appropriate to attend a weekday Mass when there are less people present or to receive pastoral care from clergy in their home. Before and After Mass you are asked to minimise any time spent together and avoid large group gathering Before and After Mass. No group singing is permitted.

COLLECTIONS: The Parish continues to be financially impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Thank you to those parishioners who are continuing their planned giving by direct debit or other means. **The option of electronic transfer or direct debit is always available, and preferable.** With Masses being celebrated now collections will be gratefully received by placing both first collection and second collection (envelopes/loose) into the **relevant slot** in the box at the back of the church or alternatively they may be placed in the plates as offered by the collectors. Please do not touch the plates.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: are available for the 2020/2021 financial year. Please collect yours today, and contact the office if you would like to join the planned giving community. #These donations are no longer tax deductible.

A PRAYER FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR HOLY MOTHER:

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; despise not our petitions in our hour of need, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin Mary. Amen



Sat Cleaning Roster:

25/7/20 K O'Brien and J Cunningham
1/8/20 J Hutt and J Moran

First Collection WEST TAMWORTH PRESBYTERY BSB 082105 ACC 001023642

Second Collection WEST TAMWORTH CHURCH BSB 082105 ACC 001041198