

GOSPEL

Mt 14:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

They all ate and were satisfied.

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Reflections on the Gospel

'YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT'

The disciples function rather like a modern celebrity's 'minders'. When Jesus has finished healing the sick, they urge him to send the crowd away to buy food for themselves before nightfall.

Jesus reacts to the word 'buy'. He will not send people away to buy anything – nor should the disciples. When they point out with astonishment that they barely have enough for themselves (five loaves and two fish), Jesus, acting the part of divine Wisdom who speaks in the First Reading (Isa 55:1-3), *freely* provides more than enough food for the whole multitude.

His gestures in doing so – taking the loaves, blessing, breaking and giving them – clearly foreshadows the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper (Matt 26:26). To participate in the Eucharist is to experience the same divine hospitality so lavishly provided by Jesus.

The miraculous feeding and the Eucharist which it foreshadows bring out that the essence of what God wants to do for us is simply be a most generous Host at the banquet of eternal life. At the same time, since it depicts people being fed with real food, it bears directly, in a sacramental sense, upon the problem of world hunger. The Lord who took pity on the large crowd, looks with similar eyes upon our world and instructs us, as he instructed his disciples, 'Give them something to eat yourselves'. In the words of the Venerable Pedro Arrupe (former Jesuit General): 'The Eucharist will never be complete so long as people still go hungry in our world'.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

THE SAVING WORD

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

02 AUGUST 2020

FIRST READING

Isa 55:1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Hasten and eat.

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me and you will have good
things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 144:8-9, 15-18. R. v. 16

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us,
he answers all our needs.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, /
slow to anger, abounding in love. / How good
is the Lord to all, / compassionate to all his
creatures. R.

2. The eyes of all creatures look to you / and
you give them their food in due time. / You
open wide your hand, / grant the desires of all
who live. R.

3. The Lord is just in all his ways / and loving
in all his deeds. / He is close to all who call
him, / call on him from their hearts. R.

**SECOND READING**

Rom 8:35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*No creature can separate us from the love of God,
which is in Christ.*

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia! / No one lives on bread alone, / but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. / Alleluia!

2 August 2020
Wk 18 Yr A/2

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

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



Parish Priest Fr Anthony Koppman
Deacon Deacon Peter Harrison
Administration: Ms Di Bolitho
Ms Anne Bowden
Sacristan 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
Mon: **No Mass Tues: **No Mass Wed: **12 noon
Thurs: 9am Transfiguration of the Lord Fri: 9am
Sat: 9am St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

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

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

Recently Deceased: Lionel Grattin, Margaret O'Callaghan, Michael Scott, Pauline Connor.

Anniversaries: Toni Lillicrap (29/7), Eric Graham (3/8), John Jackson (8/8), Jack Sampson (9/8), Andrew Tickner (20/8).

Deceased: Lionel Grattan, Joy Aurelia Trowbridge, Tony McDonald, Mary Sampson, Terry Smith, Norma Jurd, Thomas Brown, John Albert French, William Coulston, William Grima, John Killen, Eibhlin Killen.

Sick: Kim Myers, Max Kennedy, 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 Cummins, Brindley Cavallaro, Maureen Harrison, Elaine White, Linda Bourke, Peggy Bussell, Margaret Doyle, Christopher Struck, Graeme Bussell, Jack & Marge Attard.



CRACKERS TAILS ON - LISTEN, LISTEN TO ME:

Wife leaning towards the floor seems to be look for something, "Oh for Pete's sake", she exclaims. Her husband queries, "What is it?".

Wife: "I decided to do my vaccuming before putting in my hearing aids this morning." "So, what's wrong with that?" replies her husband. In total frustration: "I vacuumed the whole house before I realized I never turned the vacuum on!"

"If a Deaf child swears.....does his mother wash his 'hands' with soap and water?"

**Never see a need
Without doing something about it**



COMING EVENTS

8 August Feast of St Mary MacKillop of the Cross
2nd - 9 August National Vocations Awareness Week
15 Aug National Catholic Mens Gathering Online Event
20 Sep Marriage Preparation Course, Gunnedah Parish

Sat Cleaning Roster:
8/8/20 M Vella and R Pace
15/8/20 B & B Lane

'God is good' (On her death in 1909)



ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP: This important saint has a very special place in the hearts of our parishioners as the foundress of the St Joseph's Order in Australia. We celebrate this significant feast day on Saturday 8 August.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS: **Good Shepherd Sunday**, also known as Vocations Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday 9 August. Your ongoing prayers for priestly vocations, and support to the clergy in retirement and in training through contributions to this appeal will be greatly appreciated at these difficult times. **Envelopes are on the seats today.** Please take one and return it next week. Envelopes will also be available next week. In connection with this all members of the Australian Catholic Womens League (and anyone else) have been asked to say a Novena to St. John Vianney for all priests from Monday 27th July to 4th August.

COVID-19 UPDATE: Masses have resumed as noted, 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



CHURCH READERS/COUNTERS If you have recommenced your Mass attendance and wish to resume your volunteering as readers or counters, please advise the office and we will establish procedures.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE: Are you or someone you know considering marriage? The next course will be held on at St Joseph's Gunnedah Parish 20 September 2020. Please contact our office.

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/ZhmVnhq6HQq>

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. 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.



First Collection
Second Collection

WEST TAMWORTH PRESBYTERY BSB 082105 Acc 001023642
WEST TAMWORTH CHURCH BSB 082105 Acc 001041198