

## GOSPEL

Mt 16:13-20  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.*

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.



### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Reflections on the Gospel

## TREASURED KNOWLEDGE

Jesus questions his disciples about popular perceptions of who he is. Their report shows that people cast him in familiar but totally inadequate roles. The reality requires a leap in imagination and faith achieved in Simon Peter's response: 'You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God'. Beyond being Messiah of Israel, Jesus is God's Son in a unique way.

Peter has conferred a title upon Jesus. Now Jesus confers a blessing and three roles upon him.

He is 'blessed', not because he is virtuous, but because God has revealed to him a knowledge that unaided human understanding could never achieve. Everything the Church has to say flows from this God-given knowledge of Jesus. This is the inexhaustible treasure that it holds in trust for the world.

Simon's first role is indicated by his name: 'Peter' (= 'Rock'). He is 'rock', again not because of his personal qualities, but because of his knowledge of Jesus. Built on this 'rock', the Church will be a community of life, against which the powers of death ('gates of the underworld') will not prevail.

The gift of keys, a biblical image (see the First Reading) signifies delegated authority (from Jesus) in the household of God (the Church).

The final role, 'binding and loosing', refers to the power to interpret and apply Jesus' authoritative teaching to new situations. In this way the Church, as both expression and foretaste of God's reign ('Kingdom of Heaven') on earth, is equipped to discern God's will in the changing circumstances that will confront its passage down the ages.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

23 AUGUST 2020

## FIRST READING

Isa 22:19-23

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.*

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,  
I remove you from your post,  
and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

I invest him with your robe,  
gird him with your sash,  
entrust him with your authority;  
and he shall be a father  
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David  
on his shoulder;  
should he open, no one shall close,  
should he close, no one shall open.  
I drive him like a peg  
into a firm place;  
he will become a throne of glory  
for his father's house.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

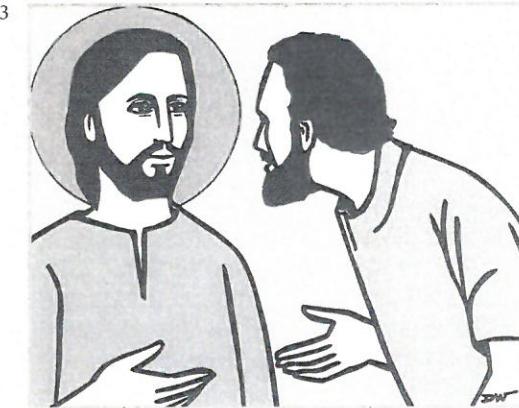
## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 137:1-3, 6, 8. R. v. 8

*R. Lord, your love is eternal;  
do not forsake the work of your hands.*

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, / you have heard the words of my mouth. / Before the angels I will bless you. / I will adore before your holy temple. **R.**

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love / which excel all we ever knew of you. / On the day I called, you answered; / you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**



3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly / and the haughty he knows from afar. / Your love, O Lord, is eternal, / discard not the work of your hands. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Rom 11:33-36

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

*From him, through him, and in him are all things.*

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 16:18

*Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church / the gates of hell will not hold out against it. / Alleluia!*

23 August 2020

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

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



Wk 21 Yr A/2

Parish Priest

Fr Anthony Koppman

Deacon

Deacon Peter Harrison

Administration:

Ms Anne Bowden

Sacristan

Ms Di Bolitho

Mrs Elaine Smyth

Presbytery 67658211

Office Hours:

Tues - Fri 9.30 - 11.30 am

[westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto: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 MASS FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS  
Thurs: 9am Fri: 9am Sat: 9am

### CONFESIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm

\*Or by appointment

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

Recently Deceased: Sr Kathleen Price (sjm), Elizabeth (Betty) Perry, Max Kennedy, Joy Aurelia Trowbridge, Lionel Grattan, John French,

Anniversaries: Heighton Betts (29/7), Toni Lillicrap (29/7), Eric Graham (3/8), John Jackson (8/8), Jack Sampson (9/8), Stan Hobbs (16/8), Andrew Tickner (20/8), Mel Arnold (22/8), Geoff Lillicrap (23/8), Arthur Blanch (29/8).

Deceased: Margaret O'Callaghan, Michael Scott, Pauline Connor, Michael Scott, Pauline Connor, Br Bernard Murphy, Tony McDonald, Mary Sampson, William Coulston, William Grima, John Killen, Eibhlín Killen.

Sick: Kim Myers, Rachel MacPherson, Shirley Hobbs, 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 contractor dies in a car accident on his 40th birthday and finds himself at the Pearly Gates. St Peter himself runs over, apologizing for not meeting him earlier, shakes his hand and says, "Congratulations son, we've been waiting a long time for you." Totally confused and a little embarrassed the contractor looks at St Peter and says, "St Peter, I tried to lead a God-fearing life, love my family and obey the 10 commandments. But congratulations for what?" "Congratulations for what?" says St Peter totally amazed at the man's humility. "We're celebrating the fact that you lived to be 160 years old! God himself wants to see you." The contractor is awestruck and can only look at St Peter with his mouth wide open. When the power of speech returns he remarks, "I lived my life in the eternal hope that when I died I would be judged by God and found to be worthy, but I only lived to be 40 years old." "That's simply impossible", says St Peter. "We've added up your timesheets."*

### COMING EVENTS

30 August First Holy Communion Mass

30 August Social Justice Sunday

13 Sep Postponed Good Friday Collection

13-16 Sep Clergy Assembly Armidale

20 Sep Marriage Preparation Course, Gunnedah Parish



**'I beg that He will guard and comfort you all" (1867)**



**SPECIAL MASS TO PRAY FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS:** The mass on **Wednesday 26**

August at 12 noon will be offered in thanksgiving for all health care workers who are keeping us all safe at this difficult time. Everyone is welcome to join us in prayer for their ongoing safety and wellbeing. Please let others know about this mass if they would like to attend. The normal restriction of 72 people will need to be observed, however it is hoped this mass will give many people an opportunity to join us in prayer.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS:** Celebrated at St Patricks on **Sunday 30 August at 9am**. This year we have six children receiving this most important Sacrament. As a parish we celebrate together this special occasion. Please keep our children in your prayers as they prepare to receive their First Holy Communion.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 30 AUGUST 2020:** The 2020-2021 Social Justice Statement *To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia Today*, encourages faith communities and others to make mental health a priority. It is a timely message in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year the Statement and prayer card will be available as a free download from:

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2020/07/03/social-justice-statement-2020-21/>

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED:** In response to the horrific explosion in Beirut, Aid to the Church in Need Australia is running a national emergency appeal to support the people of Lebanon. To help the appeal visit [www.aidtochurch.org/lebanon](http://www.aidtochurch.org/lebanon) or call 1800 101 201 Mon-Fri 8am-5pm AEST.

**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.

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**COVID-19 UPDATE:** Masses are continuing 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 not registered 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. **\*\*Masks are currently strongly recommended however not mandatory at the time of print.**

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

**- \*SANITISE HANDS ENTERING AND LEAVING**

**- \*KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**

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**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.

**Sat Cleaning Roster:** 29/8/20 J Hutt and J Moran 5/9/20 M Vella & R Pace

**First Collection** WEST TAMWORTH PRESBYTERY BSB **082105** Acc **001023642**

**Second Collection** WEST TAMWORTH CHURCH BSB **082105** Acc **001041198**