

GOSPEL

Mt 14:22-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Command me to come to you over the water.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a headwind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost,' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord', he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Reflections on the Gospel

WALKING ON THE SEA WITH JESUS

Jesus sends his disciples off to cross the lake by boat, while he disperses the crowd. When eventually he rejoins the disciples, now battling with a headwind and heavy seas, he does so by walking on the sea.

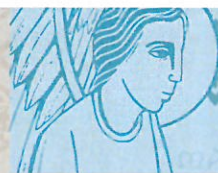
In biblical imagery to tread down raging water is something only God can do (Psalm 77:19; Job 9:8; Isaiah 43:16). Jesus' reassurance to the terrified disciples, 'It is I; fear not', echoes the revelation of God to Moses at the Burning Bush (Exodus 3:14).

What prompts Peter's desire to come to Jesus across the sea? Love or bravado? Perhaps a mixture of both—but also, surely, faith. Faith enables him to trample for a time the forces of destruction. But when he looks away from his Lord, to focus instead upon the wind and sea, doubt creeps in, and with doubt the gravest danger.

Peter 'models' the mixture of faith and doubt to which all believers are prone. Jesus' gentle rebuke, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?', applies to us all. Sometimes the Lord calls us to leave the security of the boat and come to him across the waves. We begin to falter when we take our eyes off Jesus and focus only on the difficulties that come our way.

Then we can make our own Peter's cry for rescue and feel, as he felt, the Lord's strong hand reaching out to raise us up. The Lord is not absent: he is 'with us' ('Emmanuel': Matthew 1:17; 28:19) to the end of time.

Brendan Byrne, SJ



THE SAVING WORD

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

09 AUGUST 2020

FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84:9-14. R. v. 8

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, / a voice that speaks of peace. / His help is near for those who fear him / and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; / justice and peace have embraced. / Faithfulness shall spring from the earth / and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

3. The Lord will make us prosper / and our earth shall yield its fruit. / Justice shall march before him / and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 129:5

Alleluia, alleluia! / I hope in the Lord, / I trust in his word. / Alleluia!

9 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 Anne Bowden
Ms Di Bolitho

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 Vigil: Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am and 5.30 pm

MASSES **72 people only in the church

WEEKDAY Mon: **No Mass Tues: **No Mass Wed: **12 noon
MASSES Thurs: 9am Fri: 9am St Maximilian Mary Kolbe
Sat: 9am Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

CONFESSIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm

*Or by appointment



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

Recently Deceased: Max Kennedy, Joy Aurelia Trowbridge, Lionel Grattan, John French, Margaret O'Callaghan, Michael Scott, Pauline Connor.

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).

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

Sick: Sr Kathleen Price (sjm), Kim Myers, Max Kennedy, Rachel MacPherson, Shirley Hobbs, Gail Styman, Deacon Peter Harrison, Jenny Buxury, Aria Lee Hawley, Joy Makepeace, John Joe Kielty, 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 priest, an evangelist, and a minister were in a row boat in the middle of a lake fishing. None of them had caught anything all morning. Then the evangelist stands up and says he needs to go to the bathroom so he climbs out of the boat and walks on the water to shore. He comes back ten minutes later the same way.

Then the minister decides he needs to go to the bathroom, too, so he climbs out of the boat and walks on the water to shore. He, too, comes back the same way ten minutes later.

The priest looks at both of them and decides that his faith is just as strong as his fishing buddies and that he can walk on water, too. He stands up and excuses himself. As he steps out, he makes a big splash down into the water. The evangelist looks at the minister and says, "I suppose we should have told him where the rocks were."

COMING EVENTS

9 August National Vocations Awareness Week

15 August Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

15 Aug National Catholic Mens Gathering Online Event

20 Sep Marriage Preparation Course. Gunnedah Parish



'Quietly leave all to God' (1870)



PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS: Good Shepherd Sunday, also known as Vocations Sunday, is being celebrated today. Your ongoing prayers for priestly vocations, and support to the clergy in retirement and in training through contributions to this appeal is greatly appreciated at these difficult times. **Please return envelopes from last week, or use those on the seats today by placing on either collection plate/box.** Please nominate the split of your contribution on the envelope. Note donations to the Priests Retirement Foundation are tax deductible. If you require a receipt the relevant information needs to be completed on the envelope.

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.

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

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.



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.

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/ZhmVnhq6HQg>

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.

"Walking with Jesus in Faith"

Sat Cleaning Roster: 15/8/20 B & B Lane 22/8/20 K O'Brien & J Cunningham

First Collection
Second Collection

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