

GOSPEL

Mt 18:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.'

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Reflections on the Gospel

WINNING PEOPLE BACK

The Church is not a community of the perfect. Allowance has to be made for dealing with moral lapses and dissensions that inevitably occur in a community still on the way to the Kingdom.

In today's Gospel the procedure Jesus lays down for dealing with conflict reveals his sense of the Church as the *family of God*. Correction should as far as possible be carried out in private. Only if that proves unsuccessful should a carefully staged progression of increasingly public procedures be set in place. The goal is not simply to win, but rather to 'win back' the 'brother or sister', to preserve as far as possible the dignity of the errant person, and to enhance everyone's sense of being a valued member of the 'family'.

If, despite all, the process fails, there is nothing to be done but to treat the person as an outsider. There comes a point beyond which a community can no longer tolerate members who consistently defy its core values.

To set someone outside the community is no light matter. The Church needs to know that its decisions in this regard enjoy heavenly sanction. Hence Jesus' assurance that the 'binding and loosing' authority conferred personally upon Peter in regard to interpretations of the law (Matthew 16:19), is also enjoyed by the local community with respect to the exclusion or non-exclusion of errant members. As risen Lord, Jesus remains 'Emmanuel', 'God with us', in community life and deliberation (see Matthew 1:23).

The Church's canon law and way of proceeding has developed way beyond this simple instruction. But its fundamental spirit should remain.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

06 SEPTEMBER 2020



FIRST READING

Ezek 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 8

R. O that today you would listen to his voice!

Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail the rock who saves us. / Let us come before him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the Lord. R.

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; / let us kneel before the God who made us / for he is our God and we / the people who belong to his pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. R.

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! / Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as on that day at Massah in the desert / when your fathers put me to the test; / when they tried me, though they saw my work.' R.



SECOND READING

Rom 13:8-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Cor 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia! / God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; / and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. / Alleluia!

6 Sept 2020
Wk 23 Yr A/2

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrickswesttamtworthparish.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
westtamtworthparish@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 **** NO WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK ****
INCLUDING SATURDAY

CONFESIONS
Sat: 4.30-5.15pm
*Or by appointment

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

*You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.*

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

Recently Deceased: Peter Press, Bob Edgecock, Dudley Ryan, Thomas Brown, Sr Kathleen Price (sjm), Elizabeth (Betty) Perry.

Anniversaries: Betty Lynch (2/9), Matthew Moloney (9/9).

Deceased: Max Kennedy, Joy Aurelia Trowbridge, Lionel Grattan, John French, Margaret O'Callaghan, Michael Scott, Pauline Connor, Hugh O'Brien, John O'Brien, Br Bernard Murphy, William Coulston, William Grima.

Sick: Kim Myers, Rachel MacPherson, Shirley Hobbs, Deacon Peter Harrison, Jenny Buxury, Aria Lee Hawley, Joy Makepeace, John Joe Kiely, Monica Austin, Joe Lew, 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

The judge asked each one of the four children to come forward, say their names, and what they had done. The first child stepped forward and said, "My name is Jimmy, and I threw peanuts in the elephant pen." The next said, "My name is Susan, and I threw peanuts into the elephant pen." "My name is Billy," said the third kid, "and I also threw peanuts into the elephant pen." The fourth child then stepped forward and said, "My name is Peanuts."

COMING EVENTS

13 Sep
Postponed Good Friday Collection

20 Sep
Marriage Preparation Course, Gunnedah Parish

*If today you
hear his voice,
harden not
your hearts.*



"God loves those best who help the weak become whole." (1874)

NO WEEKDAY MASSES Due to upcoming construction scheduled in the church there will be no weekday masses from Monday 7 September through to Saturday 19 September inclusive. Please refer to St Nicholas' and Mary Help of Christians' websites for details of weekday masses.

****Weekend masses will be celebrated as normal during these two weeks.****

HOLY LANDS COLLECTION: (Next Weekend) Holy Father Pope Francis transferred the Pontifical Good Friday Collection for this year to September 13, 2020 due to the closure of Churches during the Coronavirus. Envelopes will be available this weekend and next. Your support of this important collection is greatly appreciated.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS: It was a joy celebrating first Eucharist with our six children last Sunday. As a parish we celebrated together this special occasion. Please keep our children in your prayers.

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 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.



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. The option of electronic transfer/direct debit is always available, and preferable. Collections are gratefully received by placing first 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.

OUR THANKS: Thank you to Acumentis Tamworth (Property Valuation & Consultant Service) for the generous donation of a photocopier /printer just as our office machine was being retired. This has saved the Parish a significant cost and we are very grateful.

Sat Cleaning Roster: 12/9/20 B & B Lane

19/9/20 J Cunningham & K O'Brien

First Collection WEST TAMWORTH PRESBYTERY BSB 082105 Acc 001023642

Second Collection WEST TAMWORTH CHURCH BSB 082105 Acc 001041198