

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Phil 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia! / Shine on the world like bright stars; / you are offering it the word of life. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Reflections on the Gospel

OBEDIENCE TO GOD

Having entered Jerusalem as its messianic King, Jesus is drawn into a power struggle with representatives of various groups who, under the overall control of the Romans, currently wield power. To remove the threat he poses, they need to portray him to the Romans as dangerous and, at the same time, to lessen his authority with the people.

The tax question is a perfect stratagem to achieve these ends. If Jesus supports the payment of the unpopular poll tax, he will lose standing with the people; if he forbids payment, he risks being identified with groups rebellious towards Rome and so of appearing as a threat to peace and public order.

Jesus' majestic response not only frees him from the dilemma, it actually goes onto the offensive. By requiring *them* to produce a coin with Caesar's image on it he shows them up as already collaborating with the Romans. They carry around the offensive coinage. He does not.

Then his dual 'Render ...' instruction throws the dilemma back upon them. They had set the issue simply in terms of obligation to Rome; they had not brought God into the equation at all. Jesus takes possession of the religious and moral high ground by setting responsibility to the civil power (which he does not deny) within the broader and higher framework of obedience to God.

We can find here the beginnings of the later Christian sense of the separation of Church and State. We also have a recognition that believers have responsibilities in both realms that oblige in conscience before God.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-NINETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

18 OCTOBER 2020

FIRST READING

Isa 45:1, 4-6

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah
I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.*

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 95:1, 3-5, 7-10. R. v. 7

R. Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / Tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. R.

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise, / to be feared above all gods; / the gods of the heathens are naught. / It was the Lord who made the heavens. R.

3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, / give the Lord glory and power, / give the Lord the glory of his name. / Bring an offering and enter his courts. R.



4. Worship the Lord in his temple. / O earth, tremble before him. / Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' / He will judge the peoples in fairness. R.

SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

■ The word of the Lord.

18 Oct 2020
Wk 29 Yr A/2

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

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



Parish Priest Fr Anthony Koppman
Deacon Deacon Peter Harrison
Administration: 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**

CONFESIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm

*Or by appointment

WEEKDAY MASSES Mon: ****No Mass** Tues: ****No Mass**
Wed: ****12 noon** Thurs: 9 am
Fri: 9 am Sat: 9 am

Entrance Antiphon

*"To you I call, For you will surely heed me, O God; Turn your ear to me, hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me."*

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

Recently Deceased: John Ball, Barbara Scott, Anthony Press (Bathurst), Wendy O'Toole, Sr Jan Cetta rsj, Terry Smith, Peter Koch, Marie Trinder, June Foley.

Anniversaries: Warren Doherty (6/10), Keith Blanch (8/10), Ed Clarke (12/10), Michael Lillicrap (27/10), Alma Mulherin (29/10), Bill Teo (29/10), Sheila McNamara, France Martin.

Deceased: Peter Press, Bob Edgecock, Thomas Brown, Dudley Ryan, Sr Kathleen Price (sjm), William Coulston, Andrew Tickner, Hugh O'Brien, John O'Brien.

Sick: Bob Worthington, 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



After hearing a sermon on Psalm 52:3-4 (lies and deceit), a man wrote to the ATO, "I can't sleep knowing that I have cheated on my income tax. Enclosed is a check for \$150. If I still can't sleep, I'll send the rest."

COMING EVENTS

18 Oct Mission Sunday
8 - 13 Nov Clergy Retreat - No weekday masses.
25 Oct Blessing of Religious Items

Sat Cleaning Roster:

24/10/20 J Hutt & J Moran
31/10/20 M Vella & R Pace

Universalis

**"God won't ask how others do the work ...
but He will ask you how you have done yours."** (1890)



Today is Mission Sunday - The focus country this year is Cambodia and the Arrupe Centre run by Bishop Enrique Figaredo Alvargonzalez ("Bishop Kike") which works to support children with a disability, particularly those who have been maimed by landmines. There are also several "contactless" options available for people to make a donation. They can donate via: Catholic Mission's website: <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/our-work/see-our-work-in-action/wmm20-cambodia-appeal>. Text message. Simply text GIVE to 0488 854 436 and follow the prompts. Telephone: 1800 257 296 Envelopes are supplied for your donations if you prefer. Thank you.

BLESSING OF RELIGIOUS ITEMS: Sunday 25 October after the 9am Mass. Enrollment of Brown Scapular and blessing of religious items. All items available for sale after Mass each week.

READERS ROSTER: With Masses returning to larger allowable numbers we anticipate reinstating the reading roster. A sheet is provided at the back of the Church to add your name if you are able to recommence reading on a regular basis. A greater need currently exists for Sunday 9 am.

FORWARD NOTICE OF CHANGE TO MASS TIMES: Due to Clergy Retreat there will be NO EVENING MASS (5.30 PM) AT ST. PATRICK'S ON SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER and no weekday masses from 8 - 14 Nov (including Saturday 9 am). Normal Masses will resume from 5.30pm Sat. 14 Nov.

HELP FOR MARRIAGES UNDER STRESS: The BreakThrough Online Course created by SmartLoving will enable you to identify your conflict triggers, learn strategies to de-escalate an argument and find constructive ways to re-establish connection. Restore hope for your relationship's future. Visit: www.smartloving.org/breakthrough

COVID-19: 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 but not mandatory at the time of print.**

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

**** SANITISE HANDS ENTERING AND LEAVING
** MARK SEATING & KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**



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