

by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

25 JULY 2021

## READING THE SIGNS

One of the major themes of the first half of John's gospel is whether people have the capacity to understand the meaning of the signs that Jesus worked. Time and again, a sign is worked but only partially comprehended. In the coming weeks the true meaning of the feeding of the multitude will be our focus.

The ministry of Jesus was having enormous success. His healing of the sick had attracted such a crowd that 200 denarii (over half a year's wages for a labourer) would only be sufficient to give them a small piece of bread each. Like Elisha before him, Jesus will work with what is at hand so that the people will not go hungry. In both cases what is at hand is minimal, but the resulting surplus is a powerful sign of what can happen when the Lord is given room to work with what we have to offer. When Jesus is at work there is always more than is needed, just as the fullness of his identity and mission cannot be exhausted by the crowd's perception that he is a prophet and king.

Paul knew that the abundance of the life that we have received in baptism is meant to be shared. If we have understood the gift we have been given then we will understand that we too are called to be a sign for the world. Our unity and charity towards one another are a sign of the life we share in Jesus, the living bread and source of our lives.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

2 Kings 4: 42-44

A reading from the second book of the Kings.  
*They will eat and have some left over.*

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. 'Give it to the people to eat,' Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over." ' He served them; they ate and had some over, as the Lord had said.'

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 144: 10-11, 15-18. R. v. 16

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

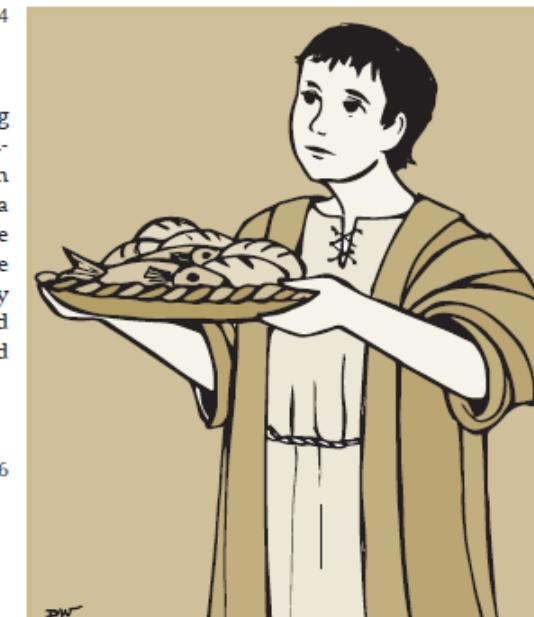
1. All your creatures shall thank you,  
O Lord, / and your friends shall repeat their  
blessing. / They shall speak of the glory  
of your reign / and declare your might,  
O God. R.
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you / and  
you give them their food in due time. / You  
open wide your hand, / 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, / who call on him from their hearts. R.

## SECOND READING

Eph 4: 1-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

*There is one body, one Lord, one faith, one baptism.*  
I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one



Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, through all and within all.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 7: 16

Alleluia, alleluia!  
A great prophet has appeared among us;  
God has visited his people.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Jn 6: 1-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*He distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted.*

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave

25 July 2021  
Year B Week 17

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

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



Parish Priest Fr Anthony Koppman  
Parish Assoc Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.  
Administration Di Bolitho / Anne Bowden  
Sacristan Elaine Smyth  
School Principal Mrs Katie Hanes

Presbytery 67658211  
[westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au)  
Office Hrs: Tues -Wed 9.30 am -11.30 am  
Parish Associate 0411703608  
St Josephs School 67654079

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

CONFESIONS  
Sat: 4.30-5.15pm  
\*Or by appointment

WEEKDAY MASSES Mon: \*No Mass Tues: \*No Mass

Wed: 12pm Thur: 9 am St Martha

Fri: 9am Sat: 9 am St Ignatius Loyola

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *God is in His holy place, God who unites those who dwell in His house; He himself gives might and strength to His people.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: *Bless the Lord O my soul, and never forget all His benefits.*

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

Recently Deceased: Vera Anne Pendergast, Sister Ita Harris (rsj), Sister Francis Gabriel (rsj), Pat Hill (UK), Margaret Kay, Aileen Fulwood.

Anniversaries: Heighton Betts (28/7).

Deceased: Margaret Burgess, Bruce Pullman, Sr Bede Hintz, Mary Plater, Andrew Tickner, William Coulston, Thomas Brown.

Sick: Sophie Littlejohns, Maree Southwell, Margaret Marshall, Colleen Greer, Fr Bernie Flood, Maria Mood, Kim Myers, Barbara Brennan, Monica Austin, Mimmie Bennett, Bob Worthington, Judy Cummins, Shirley Hobbs, Elaine White, Erin Hansen, Bill Press, Jenny Crawford, Sr Pat Bartley, Linda Bourke, Deacon Peter Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Margaret Doyle, Christopher Struck, Graeme Bussell, Brindley Cavallaro, Jack & Marge Attard.

## PADDY'S CORNER

AFTER 10 YEARS OF MARRIAGE,

WIFE DISCOVERS 5 EGGS AND \$5,000 ON THE CABINET.



*Wife: "Darling, I went to your office today and found 5 eggs and \$5,000, what's the deal with it?"*

*Husband: "Well, how can I explain it?"*

*Since the beginning of our marriage, I would store one egg for each time you annoyed me."*

*Wife: "Oh, that's so sweet! And what are the \$5000 for?"*

*Husband: "I usually wait till I have a dozen eggs on the cabinet before selling them."*

## COMING EVENTS

31 July Launch Online Mens Gathering

1 August Parish Morning Tea in Parish Centre 10 am (COVID permitting)



*Let no obstacles deter you from proceeding with courage*  
(1907)



## COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS CHANGED ON 26 JUNE 2021.

\*PLEASE READ THE NOTICES AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH  
FOLLOW ALL REQUESTS, INCLUDING:

\*\*MANDATORY MASK WEARING\*\*  
\*\*CHECKING IN and OUT

\*\*SOCIAL DISTANCING UNDER THE 4m<sup>2</sup> RULE  
\*\*SANITISING.

**PLANNED GIVING:** There are some envelopes that remain uncollected. If your name is on a box and you are no longer requiring them, please let the office know or put a note on the box so we may return them to available numbers.

**CONFIRMATION:** The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated in St Patricks last Sunday. Thank you to all those parishioners who changed their usual mass attendance to allow for our children to have their families and special people with them for this important event.

**WORLD GRANDPARENTS DAY:** Pope Francis has proclaimed the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated on the fourth Sunday in July each year – July 25 in 2021. The Day is marked near the feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. Sadly Grandparents' Day has been cancelled at St Joseph's due to COVID restrictions. We pray for our Grandparents and all the elderly in our Parish who share their gifts of wisdom and love with us. Furthe information is at <https://www.catholic.org.au/grandparents> .

**CHURCH PROJECTOR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Anyone willing to operate the projector for the Saturday evening or Sunday evening mass, please contact the Office.

**THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC MEN'S GATHERING FOR 2021** will be launched online on Saturday 31st July. The Diocese of Armidale will be holding its own Diocesan Catholic Men's Gathering as an in-person event on Saturday 16th October in Tamworth (Covid rules permitting)

**CHURCH LIGHTING FAILING:** Replacement of the church lights is imminent and a significant cost. We have noted improved savings with updating of lighting in the presbytery and grounds and would like to see the same in the Church. We are most gratefull for those who have donated to this already.

**MONTHLY PARISH MORNING TEA:** Will be held on the first Sunday each month in the  Parish Centre after the 9 am Mass . During Covid this will be assessed each month.

## CHURCH COLLECTIONS:

BSB 082105 1st Coll: Church Acc 001023642

2nd Coll: Acc 001041198

\*Please make separate payments for each account.

## WEEK 1 ROSTER: 25/7/21

Vigil: R D Gowing G Styman  
9am Sun: R S Nichols G Clout  
5.30pm Sun: R M and J Murray  
Counting Team 26/7 R Paull; A Bowden  
Sat Cleaning 31/7 K O'Brien J Cunningham  
Altar Linen: B Flood

## WEEK 2 ROSTER: 1/8/21

Vigil: R D Bolitho R Palmer  
9am Sun: R C Monet O Monet  
5.30pm Sun: R M and J Murray  
Counting Team 2/8 G&M Thrift; A Bowden  
Sat Cleaning 7/8 J Hutt & J Moran  
Altar Linen E Smyth

We acknowledge that we walk upon the traditional lands of First Nations peoples.

We pay our respects to them and recognise the continuing gift of their cultures to the life and spirit of Australia.

