

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

What God has joined together, no one must divide.

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

03 OCTOBER 2021

CALLED TO RELATIONSHIP

Given the context in which we live where the breakdown of marriage is an ever increasing and painful reality, the readings for today call for us to examine anew the Christian foundations for marriage. The first reading in speaking of Adam's search for a helpmate and companion poignantly brings into relief the deep seated sense of incompleteness which is a part of the experience of each of us. The underlying truth is that it is by being in relationship with another, or others, that we can become most fully ourselves.

Jesus' authority as a teacher was being sorely tested by his opponents and they used the question of divorce as a means to discredit him. Without denying the authority of Moses Jesus takes his opponents back to the story of creation in order to show the dignity and purpose of marriage. There is no doubt that Jesus speaks powerfully regarding the value of marriage, but it is also critical to note that Jesus' reply does not pretend to cover all the situations that can befall a marriage, nor how to respond to them.

From now until the end of the year we will be following the letter to the Hebrews and paying particular attention to its reflection on the person of Jesus and his relationship to God and to us. Some of the images used in the letter are unfamiliar, and so it's important that the modern reader appreciate the belief that underpins them – that Jesus has shared in our experience, and so is able to be our leader and representative before God.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Gen 2:18-24

A reading from the book of Genesis.

They were two in one flesh.

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones,
and flesh from my flesh!
This is to be called woman,
for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 127. R. v. 5

R. May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord / and walk in his ways! / By the labour of your hands you shall eat. / You will be happy and prosper. R.

2. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine / in the heart of your house; / your children like shoots of the olive, / around your table. R.



3. Indeed thus shall be blessed / the man who fears the Lord. / May the Lord bless you from Zion / in a happy Jerusalem / all the days of your life! / May you see your children's children. / On Israel, peace! R.

SECOND READING

Heb 2:9-11

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have the same origin.

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Jn 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

If we love one another,
God will live in us in perfect love.
Alleluia!

3 Oct 2021
Yr B 27th Sunday

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

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

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

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WEEKEND MASSES	Vigil: Sat 5.30pm Sun: 9am and 5.30pm	CONFESIONS
	Mon: No Mass	Sat: 4.30-5.15pm
WEEKDAY MASSES	Tues: No Mass	*Or by appointment
	Wed: 12 noon	
	Thur: 9am Our Lady of the Rosary	
	Fri: 9am	Sat: 9am

ENTRANCE: Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that

ANTIPHON: can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven, you are the Lord of all.

COMMUNION The Lord is good to those who hope in him,

ANTIPHON: to the soul that seeks him. .

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

Recently Deceased: Sr Claire Burgess (rsj), Colleen Greer, Gwen Press, Marcia Tutin.

Anniversaries: Fr Watson (8/9), Matthew Moloney (9/9), Dulcie Smith (19/9), Mary Betts (24/9), Barbara Scott (25/9), Warren Doherty (6/10), Bill Teo (29/10).

Deceased: Betty Hodgens, Coral Markey, Loyola Hawthorne, Vera Anne Pendergast, Sister Ita Harris (rsj), Sister Francis Gabriel (rsj), Mary Sampson, William Coulston.

PLEASE REMEMBER: Daylight Savings begins this weekend at 2 am Sunday morning

PADDY'S CORNER -

An Irishman goes to the doctor, who after examining him says "You have some problems with your heart, but if you take these tablets, I think it will be okay. "So the doctor gives the man the tablets and the patient asks, "Do I have to take them every day?" No," replies the doctor, "take one on the Monday, skip the Tuesday, take one on the Wednesday, skip the Thursday and go on like that." Two weeks later the doctor is walking down the street, and he sees the patient's wife. "Hello Mrs Murphy," he says, "how's your husband?" "Oh he died of a heart attack," says Mrs Murphy. "I'm very sorry to hear that," says the doctor, "I thought if he took those tablets he would be all right." "Oh the tablets were fine," says Mrs Murphy, "It was all the skipping that killed him!"



MASS AT HOME: **Television:** Mass for You at Home airs on **Channel 10** at 6am each Sunday, and also **Foxtel Channel 173** at 10am. **Online:** Online Masses streamed by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney on: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZxfrykD8iSWExFBdM7fpRg>

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: Contactless Option Below.

BSB 082105 1st Coll: Presbytery Acc 001023642 **2nd Coll:** St Patricks Church Acc 001041198



NSW STATE COVID UPDATE: Please keep updated with NSW Health Orders as things are changing very quickly and this bulletin could be incorrect after the time of printing.

Please *Sanitise hands on your entry.

***one person per 4 square metre rule with no singing.**

*** MASKS ARE MANDATORY * YOU MUST SIGN IN.**

COVID UPDATE: AN UPDATE WILL BE COMING REGARDING UNVACCINATED PERSONS

ATTENDANCE AT MASSES. ONCE DETAILS ARE CONFIRMED WE WILL ADVISE IN DUE COURSE.



PLENARY COUNCIL: The Opening Mass of the Plenary Council is 2.00 p.m. AEST today and can be viewed online: Visit <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/assembly-1/>

During the first General Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, key moments will be live-streamed between **October 3 and 10**, including. Visit the [Plenary Council website](#) for more information.

ST MARY'S TOWERS ONLINE RETREATS: Long Weekend, 4 DAYS, 1-4 Oct: The Retreat Team presents "A Simple Prayer Weekend" This retreat is designed to encourage you in your prayer. Jesus teaches us what it means to pray. Daily 9:30 and 4pm reflections. \$200 for all materials and live presentations, \$350 if you'd also like daily spiritual direction.

Option 2: Retreat Weekend, 3 DAYS, 8-10 Oct: Sr Jennifer Scally rsj presents "The Hidden Wisdom of Women in the Gospels." This retreat is a chance to allow some of the Gospel women to come alive and speak to us in our lives today. Daily 9:30 and 4pm reflections. \$175 for all materials and live presentations, \$250 if you'd also like daily spiritual direction. Prices are neg. Email Enquiries: contact@towersretreat.org.au. Website <https://www.towersretreat.org.au>

STAND UP FOR LIFE: Contact our local MP Kevin Anderson today in person or by phone 6766 1422 registering your opposition to the NSW Euthanasia legislation. Also vote in his survey at www.kevinanderson.com.au/voluntary-assisted-dying-bill-2021 Please take home a copy of the Bishop's letter on this important matter or access it at www.armidale.catholic.org.au

JOSEPHITE CALENDAR 2022. \$8 each. Please place your order on the sheet provided at the back of the church. Orders to be in by the end of October.

ST VDP PICNIC INVITATION: The Society is inviting members and parishioners, weather permitting, to a BYO Picnic at Anzac Park at 12 noon on Sunday October 12, in order to reunite and share in each other's company. Any queries contact John Wallace on 0437 976 244.

WEEK 5 ROSTER: 3/10/21

Vigil:	R D Bolitho TBA
9am Sun:	R R Paull G Clout
5.30pm Sun:	R M and J Murray
Counting Team	5/10 P Sheils A Bowden
Sat Cleaning	9/10 M Vella and R Pace
Altar Linen	E Jackson

WEEK 6 ROSTER: 10/10/21

Vigil:	R P Bamford
9am Sun:	R S Brown A Sa rtori
5.30pm Sun:	R M and J Murray
Counting Team	S Brown; A Bowden
Sat Cleaning	16/10 B & B Lane
Altar Linen	B Flood

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and care for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

