

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

This is the first commandment, and the second is similar to it.

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

31 OCTOBER 2021

GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER

All too often Christians fall into the trap of characterising the Jewish faith as being legalistic. It is a judgement that is both unfair and inaccurate. It is true that Jesus engaged in sometimes heated debates with other interpreters of the Jewish Torah (Law), and this is reflected in the gospel tradition. At the same time, the gospel tradition attests that, apart from the regulations concerning ritual purity, Jesus agreed with many of his contemporaries about the key values that lay at the heart of their religion.

Poised to enter the promised land after forty years of wandering in the desert Moses takes the opportunity to remind the people what will be required to flourish in the future. Their loyalty to God will be measured by the degree to which they write God's law in their hearts. This is the compass that will guide them in the years ahead and nurture their relationship with the living God.

The great first-century Rabbi Hillel was challenged to explain the Torah while standing on one foot. His reply was "Don't do to others what is repugnant to you. All else is commentary." Asked by a scribe to articulate his view of the greatest commandment Jesus highlights Moses' instruction to love God with all one's heart, mind, and strength adding the command to love our neighbour as ourselves. Hillel, like the ten commandments, focused on avoiding harming others. Jesus' genius can be seen in phrasing it positively in terms of love – our best compass and guide.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Deut 6:2-6

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy
Hear Israel, you shall love the Lord with all your heart.

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R. v. 2

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, / my rock, my fortress, my saviour. / My God is the rock where I take refuge; / my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. / The Lord is worthy of all praise: / when I call I am saved from my foes. R.

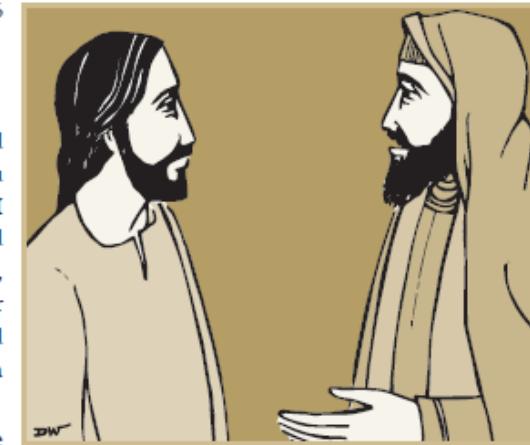
2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! / Praised be the God who saves me. / he has given great victories to his king / and shown his love for his anointed. R.

SECOND READING

7:23-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews
This one, because he remains for ever, has an eternal priesthood.

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ,



because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

31 Oct 2021
Yr B 31st Sunday

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.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

Presbytery 67658211
westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au
Office Hrs: Wed-Thur 9.30 am -11.30 am
Parish Associate 0411703608
St Josephs School 67654079



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

Mon: All Saints Day Liturgy 12 noon

Tues: All Souls Day Mass 12 noon

- Followed by liturgy service at Tamworth Regional Cemetery Old Catholic Section

Wed: 12pm Thur: 9am St Charles Borromeo Fri: 9am Sat: 9am

CONFESIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm

*Or by appointment

ENTRANCE: Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me!

ANTIPHON: Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

COMMUNION: You will show me the path of life,

ANTIPHON: the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.



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

Recently Deceased: John Keogh, Ray Gaffney, Michael Brady, Sr Phyllis McCann rsj, Michael Sullivan.

Anniversaries: Andrew Tickner, Bill Teo (29/10) Mary McInnes (6/11), Perce McInnes (2/12), William Coulston(22/12), Rod Kelly (20/1).

Deceased: Stan Hobbs, Sr Claire Burgess (rsj), Colleen Greer, Gwen Press, Marcia Tutin,

Sick: Shirley Hobbs, Barbara Brennan, Kevin Bonner, Maria Mood, Sophie Littlejohn, Lisa Foster, Kate Harrison, Deac. Peter Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Margaret Marshall, Graeme Bussell, Fr Bernie Flood.

PADDY'S CORNER Late one night Jack takes a shortcut through the cemetery. Hearing a tapping sound he becomes scared and quickens his pace. The tapping gets louder and Jack is now scared out of his wits.

Then he notices a man chiselling a tombstone.

"Thank goodness", Jack says. "You gave me the fright of my life.

Why are you working so late?" The man replies, "They spelt my name wrong."



Bishop Kennedy has announced a new diocesan initiative named **Heart of Peace (HOPe)**
The purpose of HOPe is to assist the Bishop in providing support to those for whom there are no other safety nets and who require assistance in accessing any services that they are eligible to receive.



CURCH COLLECTIONS: Contactless Option Below.

BSB 082105 1st Coll: Presbytery Acc 00102364 2nd Coll: St Patricks Church Acc 001041198



NSW STATE COVID UPDATE:

Currently having reached 80% vaccination rate for those 16yrs or over the following rules apply.

- Entry to churches is open for both fully vaccinated and not fully vaccinated people
- Masks must be worn by all over 12 yrs inside the church but not outside.
- Social distancing is required at 4m².
- No congregational singing.
- QR Code check in or alternative written sign in is completed

NOVEMBER MASSES: Special services will be held for **All Souls** and **All Saints** Days. See details opposite. Please use envelopes to make requests for Masses to be said for those deceased members of your family and/or friends with their **names written very clearly** so they may be printed and displayed. Thank you.

MISSION SUNDAY: Thank you to those who contributed to this important cause. If you have envelopes this weekend please place them on one of the collections. Remember, you can donate at the website <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/ways-to-donate> if you prefer. This mission has always been the hallmark of the Church, for "she exists to evangelize".

STAND UP FOR LIFE: Contact local MP Kevin Anderson 67661422 registering your opposition to the NSW Euthanasia legislation. Vote in his survey at www.kevinanderson.com.au/voluntary-assisted-dying-bill-2021 Please see the Bishop's letter on this important matter at www.armidale.catholic.org.au

INFORMATION ON THE PLENARY COUNCIL: A plenary council is a relatively unusual event, so it is not surprising that for many there is considerable curiosity about what happens now. Surely, after a week-long 'conference' there are some outcomes? Well, not really in this context.

Having undertaken a long preparation seeking widely among the Church members for ideas and synthesising these into an Agenda; the assembly of the delegates who met from October 3 – 10 now move to another step – seeking clarity from the views and discussions of that week to develop proposals. Next July, the second assembly will consider proposals, and vote. After that, some proposals will become 'law' within the Australian Church, others will be ideas and requests forwarded to the Vatican for consideration where they apply to the universal Church.

Patrick McArdle <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/assembly-over-where-to-from-here/>

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>

WEEK 3 ROSTER: 31/10/21

Vigil: R Sr Kathryn P Bamford
9am Sun: R G Clout A Sartori
5.30pm Sun: R M and J Murray
Counting Team: O & J Whale; A Bowden
Sat Cleaning: 6/11 M Vella and R Pace
Altar Linen: J Hutt

WEEK 4 ROSTER: 7/11/21

Vigil: R D Gowing G Styman
9am Sun: R R Paull M Donaldson
5.30pm Sun: R M and J Murray
Counting Team: S Brown A Bowden
Sat Cleaning: 13/11 B & B Lane
Altar Linen: E Jackson

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.

