

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Isa 61:1; Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Lk 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*What, then, must we do?*

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

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# Breaking Open the Word

**PREPARE WELL**

All of us have been involved at one time or another with preparing to meet a special guest. It is often a time of mixed emotions as excitement and joy vie with some measure of anxiety about the quality of our preparations.

As Paul's Christians at Philippi waited for the return of the Lord, he knew that it could be for many a time of anxiety; would they find acceptance on his return? Would they find a place in his kingdom? It was a time of trepidation because it was feared that he would return unexpectedly, like a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:2), and find them unprepared. In the face of such anxiety, Paul encourages them to put their trust in the Lord who loves them. Even now they are called to experience the Lord's peace and joy as they wait for his return. Especially, they are called to pray with confidence and trust.

John the Baptist knew that the Messiah was soon to be among us, and we see how he calls those who listen to his message to prepare by taking a hard look at themselves and how they live. In order to be ready when the Messiah comes he calls for a concern for others that expresses itself in generosity, fairness, and compassion.

As we prepare for the Lord's coming among us, today's readings call us to make ready with the confidence of Zephaniah, the peacefulness of Paul, and the justice and compassion of John the Baptist.

Christopher Monaghan CP

# THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

12 DECEMBER 2021

**FIRST READING**

Zeph 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.

*With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.*

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,  
Israel, shout aloud!

Rejoice, exult with all your heart,  
daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence;  
he has driven your enemies away.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;  
you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to  
Jerusalem:

Zion, have no fear,  
do not let your hands fall limp.

The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a victorious warrior.

He will exult with joy over you,  
he will renew you by his love;

he will dance with shouts of joy for you  
as on a day of festival.

■ The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Isa 12:2-6. R. v. 6

**R.** Cry out with joy and gladness: for  
among you is the great and Holy One of  
Israel.

1. Truly, God is my salvation, / I trust,  
I shall not fear. / For the Lord is my strength,  
my song, / he became my saviour. / With  
joy you will draw water / from the wells of  
salvation. **R.**

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to  
his name! / Make his mighty deeds known  
to the peoples! / Declare the greatness of his  
name. **R.**



3. Sing a psalm to the Lord / for he has done  
glorious deeds, / make them known to all the  
earth! / People of Zion, sing and shout for  
joy / for great in your midst is the Holy One of  
Israel. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

Phil 4:4-7

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

*The Lord is near.*

I want you to be happy, always happy in the  
Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness.  
Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the  
Lord is very near. There is no need to worry;  
but if there is anything you need, pray for it,  
asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving,  
and that peace of God, which is so much greater  
than we can understand, will guard your hearts  
and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

■ The word of the Lord.

12 Dec 2021  
Advent Wk 3 Yr C

## 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](mailto:westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au)  
Office Hrs: Wed-Thur 9.30 am -11.30 am  
**Parish Associate** 0411703608  
**St Josephs School** 67654079

<b>WEEKEND MASSES</b>	<b>Vigil:</b>	<b>Sat NO VIGIL MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY</b>		
	<b>Sun:</b>	9am and 5.30 pm		
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b>	<b>Mon:</b>	No Mass	<b>Tues:</b>	No Mass
	<b>Wed:</b>	12pm	<b>Thur:</b>	9 am
	<b>Fri:</b>	9am	<b>Sat:</b>	9 am

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



**Christmas Eve Children's Mass 5.30 pm**  
**Christmas Vigil Mass 7.30 pm**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**Christmas Day Mass Saturday 9.00 am**

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

**Recently Deceased:** Richard Bowler, Kevin Hamilton, Bernard Blanch, Sr Geraldine Maher OP, Irwin Brady, Shirley Burke, Aileen McDonnell, Richard Davison, Sr Margaret Keane rsj.

**Anniversaries:** Perce McInnes (2/12), John Paul Vella (4/12), William Coulston (22/12), Pam Davy (nee Barry) (6/1), Rod Kelly (20/1), Lawrence Vella (23/1),

**Deceased:** Andrew Tickner, John Keogh, Ray Gaffney, Michael Brady, Sr Phyllis McCann rsj.

**Sick:** Shirley Hobbs, Barbara Brennan, Peter Richards, Colin and Margaret MacPherson, Kevin Bonner, Maria Mood, Sophie Littlejohn, Lisa Foster, Kate Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Margaret Marshall, Graeme Bussell, Fr Bernie Flood.

### PADDY'S CORNER



Did you hear that Kmart is giving away dead batteries?  
*They are free of charge.*

What did the bald man say when he got a comb for  
Christmas? *I'll never part with it.*

### COMING EVENTS:

**12 Dec** Parish Morning Tea  
**19 Mar 22** Diocesan Men's Gathering

**CHURCH COLLECTIONS:** BSB 082105 **1st Coll:** Presbytery Acc 001023642  
(contactless option) **2nd Coll:** St Patricks Church Acc 001041198



### NSW STATE COVID RULES:

- 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.
- Vaccinated members of the congregation may sing only \*with a mask on\*.
- You must check in with QR Code OR alternative written registering.

**If using the QR code you do not need to register on the sheets unless without your phone.**

### NO VIGIL (5.30 PM) MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY 25 DECEMBER

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** *Thank you for your patience with the electrical work done in the church last week. I am sure you agree it has improved our wonderful church enormously.*

**CHRISTMAS ROSTERS:** Please advise the office if you will be away for the Christmas/holiday period so rosters may be co-ordinated for Christmas Masses and the ensuing weeks. Also if you are able to fill in for those absent please advise the office.

**SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION:** Will be held at St Patricks Wednesday 15 December at 5.30 pm. There will be a number of priests present to assist with this very special and valuable sacrament. As we approach the important Christmas season Fr Anthony is hopeful that everyone will be able to take advantage of this opportunity to prepare spiritually for the celebration of the nativity of our Lord.

**CHURCH WORKING BEE:** Thank you to all those who helped in our recent working bee.

**CRACKER'S TALES:** Need a gift that will lift someone's spirits? These 52 pages of laughter are available now for a very limited time. The books are available on the table at the back of the church.

**CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL:** A Christmas Memorial will be held at Lincoln Grove Cemetery on 16 December from 5.30 pm to 7 pm. Details at [Burke and Douglas website](http://Burke and Douglas website).

**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>

### WHAT IS CHRISTMAS FOR?

Christmas is the commitment to life made incarnate. It is the call to see God everywhere and especially in those places we would not expect to find glory and grace. It is the call to exult in life. Christmas is the obligation to see that everything leads us directly to God, to realize that there is no one, nothing on earth that is not the way to God for me. I know that the moment we begin to really celebrate Christmas, to look at everyone and everything as a revelation of God, to say "thank you" for them, that racism would be over, war would be no more, world hunger would disappear, everything would be gift, everyone would be sacred. Indeed, it is simple but oh, so clear: All we have to do to "make straight the way of God" is to say "thank you," to learn to live intensely, to have a zeal for life, to develop a passion for life.

### WEEK 3 ROSTER: 12/12/21

**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:** 18/12 K.O'Brien J Cunningham  
**Altar Linen:** E Jackson

### WEEK 4 ROSTER: 19/12/21

**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  
**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.

