

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

19 DECEMBER 2021

## GOD IN OUR LIVES

Judah was not one of the more powerful tribes of Israel. It must have come as a surprise to many when Micah prophesied that it was from Bethlehem, one of the least clans of Judah, that a future king would come. The future king that Micah promised was one who would feed the flock of God's people using his power to protect them. The passage from the letter to the Hebrews reminds us that as king Jesus more than fulfilled that promise when he offered his very life as a sacrifice.

In the Gospel, the new age promised by Micah dawns as Mary visits her kinswoman Elizabeth in the hill country of Judah. Elizabeth wonders at the visit of Mary, the mother of the Lord, and she is filled with the Holy Spirit by whose power she recognises that the promises God made long ago are now coming to their fulfilment. Perhaps her wonder at John's birth, against all expectations when hope had been lost, has sharpened her perception of the mysterious ways of God.

Often it is those who have experienced God's unexpected intervention in their own lives who are the most adept at perceiving how God is working in the lives of others. Advent can be the same for us, a moment of blessing that invites us to recognise how God is working in our lives and world, most of all, in the birth of Jesus our Lord.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Mic 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah.  
*Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.*

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
the least of the clans of Judah,  
out of you will be born for me  
the one who is to rule over Israel;  
his origin goes back to the distant past,  
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon  
them  
till the time when she who is to give birth  
gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come  
back  
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock  
with the power of the Lord,  
with the majesty of the name of his God.  
They will live secure, for from then on he  
will extend his power to the ends of the  
land.

He himself will be peace.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19. R. v. 4

R. Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, / shine  
forth from your cherubim throne. / O Lord,  
rouse up your might, / O Lord, come to our  
help. R.

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, / look  
down from heaven and see. / Visit this vine  
and protect it, / the vine your right hand has  
planted. R.



3. May your hand be on the man you have  
chosen, / the man you have given your  
strength. / And we shall never forsake you  
again: / give us life that we may call upon your  
name. R.

## SECOND READING

Heb 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.  
*I am coming to do your will.*

This is what Christ said, on coming into the  
world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me.  
You took no pleasure in holocausts or  
sacrifices for sin;  
then I said,  
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the  
book,  
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your  
will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

■ The word of the Lord.

19 Dec 2021  
Advent Wk 4 Yr C

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrickswesttamtworthparish.org>



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

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

**WEEKEND MASSES** :Christmas Day 9 am  
Mon: No Mass  
Wed: 12 noon  
Fri: No 9 am mass

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

Tues: No Mass  
Thur: 9 am  
Sat: 9 am

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



**Christmas Eve Children's Mass 5.30 pm**  
**Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 7.30 pm**  
**Christmas Day Mass Saturday 9.00 am**  
**No Vigil 5.30 pm Mass on Christmas Day**

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

**Recently Deceased:** Joe Chetcuti (Malta), 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), Mary Sampson (2/1), John O'Brien (3/1), John Paul Vella (4/12), William Coulston(22/12), Pam Davy (nee Barry) (6/1), Rod Kelly (20/1). Lawrence Vella (23/1),

**Deceased:** Jack Sampson, Hugh O'Brien, Dalis O'Brien, 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: AS MANY OF US MAY NOW TRAVEL

Paddy goes to the train station ticket office. "I'd like a return ticket please."

"Where to Sir?", asks the ticket officer. "Well to here of course".

### COMING EVENTS:

25 Dec Christmas Day

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

**\*FOUND:** A gold earring has been found in the church. Please contact the presbytery if you have lost one.



### NSW STATE COVID RULES:

From 15 December, 2021 there are no limits on numbers in places of worship, singing is permitted by all, masks are not required but are encouraged when you cannot socially distance. Checking in with QR code or written register is still required.

**MASS FOR ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Wednesday 22 December the 12 noon mass will incorporate Anointing of the Sick. This special gift is for anointing for those seeking healing of spiritual ills as well as physical and other ills. Please join us if you are able to.

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

**NO 9 AM WEEK DAY MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE** Friday 24 December.

**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.

### WHAT IS CHRISTMAS FOR?

*In this season of Advent. we are invited to enter into communion with one another and the Source of our being. Be it ever so simply by showing up to share a meal, a conversation, or a laugh or two, we receive a precious gift.*

*Love is ever present. Love seeks us. The door opens from within, receive Her blessing and experience the peace that surpasses all understanding.*

**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>

### Christmas Eve Children's Mass Fri 24/12

**5.30pm** Readers: Josh Murray and Patricia Bamford

**7.30 pm** Readers: Sr Pat and David Gowing

### Christmas Day Mass Sat 25/12

**9 am** Readers: Rozanne Paull and Sheryl Brown

### 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

### WEEK 5 ROSTER: 26/12/21

**Vigil:** R D Gowing D Bolitho  
**9am Sun:** R R Paull G Clout  
**5.30pm Sun:** R M and J Murray  
**Counting Team** P Sheils ; A Bowden  
**Sat Cleaning** 1/1 M Vella and R Pace  
**Altar Linen:** E Smyth

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.

