

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Let your face shine on your servant,  
and teach me your laws.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Lk 14:25-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.*

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.'

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, 'Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish.' Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

■ 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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

4 SEPTEMBER 2022

## GETTING OF WISDOM

The search for wisdom has never been an easy one and each of us grapples with the challenge of making sense of the complex tapestry of life. As the first reading so pointedly observes, 'It is hard enough to work out what is on earth ... who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?' In the centuries that preceded Jesus' birth the people of Israel were fascinated, frightened and challenged by their encounter with the culture and philosophy of the Greek-speaking world. The book of Wisdom is one of the fruits of that encounter and was itself written in Greek. While the Greeks looked to Plato and Aristotle, the author of the book of Wisdom had come to see that true wisdom is a gift from God and is to be found in the traditions of Israel most particularly in the Law of Moses.

Jesus knew all too well that true wisdom has its price. As he journeys towards his death, those who would be disciples are forcefully reminded to carefully consider the cost of discipleship.

Paul was one apostle of the Lord who knew the cost of discipleship. For the sake of the gospel he had gone through many trials (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:22-29) and had suffered and learnt much. Writing from prison he now has to call on all his stores of wisdom to convince Philemon to take back his runaway slave Onesimus. In a world where slavery was an accepted reality, Philemon is challenged to see his former slave as a brother in Christ.

## FIRST READING

Wis 9:13-18

A reading from the book of Wisdom  
*Who can comprehend the will of the Lord?*

'What man can know the intentions of God?  
Who can divine the will of the Lord?  
The reasonings of mortals are unsure  
and our intentions unstable;  
for a perishable body presses down the soul,  
and this tent of clay weighs down the  
teeming mind.'

It is hard enough for us to work out what  
is on earth,  
laborious to know what lies within our reach;  
who, then, can discover what is in the  
heavens?

As for your intention, who could have learnt  
it, had you not granted Wisdom  
and sent your holy spirit from above?  
Thus have the paths of those on earth been  
straightened  
and men been taught what pleases you,  
and saved, by Wisdom.'

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 89:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v. 1

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been  
our refuge.

1. You turn men back into dust / and say: 'Go  
back, sons of men.' / To your eyes a thousand  
years / are like yesterday, come and gone, / no  
more than a watch in the night. R.

2. You sweep men away like a dream, / like  
grass which springs up in the morning. / In  
the morning it springs up and flowers: / by  
evening it withers and fades. R.

3. Make us know the shortness of our life /  
that we may gain wisdom of heart. / Lord,  
relent! Is your anger for ever? / Show pity to  
your servants. R.

4. In the morning, fill us with your love; / we  
shall exult and rejoice all our days. / Let the  
favour of the Lord be upon us: / give success  
to the work of our hands. R.



## SECOND READING

Philem 9-10, 12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to  
Philemon

*Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very  
dear brother.*

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

■ The word of the Lord.

4 Sept 2022  
Week 23 Year C

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

**Website:** <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org>  
**Email:** [westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au)



**Parish Priest** Fr Anthony Koppman  
**Pastoral Associate:** Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.

**Administration** Di Bolitho/Anne Bowden/Wendy Emery  
**Sacristan** Elaine Smyth  
**School Principals** Greg O'Toole and Maree Holland

Office Hrs: Mon & Thurs 8.30-11.30 am  
**Presbytery** 67658211  
Pastoral Associate 0411703608  
St Josephs School 67654079

**WEEKEND MASSES** 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: No Mass  
Thurs: No Mass Fri: No Mass Sat: No Mass

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;  
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for  
you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Sr Rita Vella, Barry Schipp, Lois O'Brien, Bill (William) McCulloch.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Greig Gallagher (30/8), Lawrence McDonall (11/9), Sr Maureen Casey OP (13/9),  
Dulcie Smith (19/9).

**DECEASED:** Hugh O'Brien, William Grima, John Fittler, Colleen Dunn, Molly Miller, Judy McGregor,  
Vincent O'Shea, Shirley Chandler, Mary Sampson.

**SICK:** Pauline Wiley, Joan Crowe, Shirley Collier, Norma O'Brien, Lisa Foster, Alison and baby  
Huxley Gallagher, Barbara Brennan, Peter Richards, Colin MacPherson, Kevin Bonner,  
Kate Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Margaret Marshall, Graeme Bussell,  
Fr Bernie Flood.

### VEENA'S VERSIONS:



When others  
need to search  
for something



When Catholics  
need to search  
for something



Wisdom

### COMING EVENTS:

Sun 11 Sept: Child Protection Sunday

Mon 19 Sept: Our Lady of La Salette Feast Day

Sun 25 Sept: World Day of Migrants and Refugees

**PARISH COLLECTIONS:** West Tamworth Cath. Church (St Pats) **BSB** 082105 **Acc** 001041198  
West Tamworth Presbytery **Acc** 001023642

*'God is our Father and He loves us all in spite of all our faults'*

**NSW STATE COVID GUIDE:** \* FACE MASKS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED  
\* ANTISEPTIC WIPES ARE AVAILABLE TO WIPE OVER SEATS  
\* SANITISE HANDS ON ENTERING. \* NO CHECK IN REQUIRED

**IGNITE CONFERENCE:** is a bold vision of the Church for the future: A Church passionate about discovering a real, present God and gathering a generation to be on fire for Jesus. Every year, Ignite Youth hosts one of Australia's most powerful Catholic youth conferences. The event will be held in Sydney from 29 September to 2 October 2022. Experience four days of real-world formation, encouragement in faith, great people and powerful worship. There are opportunities to join the conference as a group from Tamworth. Please contact St Nicholas Parish if you would be interested in joining this group. See <https://igniteconference.com.au/> for more details.

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED:** ACN is the Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting the suffering and persecuted Church. In areas of crisis, churches are often destroyed by violence. Where the faith is growing new churches are needed. ACN supports the reconstruction in these areas because a church is the centre of the life of faith and even the smallest chapel provides people with hope and a spiritual home. Can you help build churches to support the faithful throughout the world? [www.aidtochurch.org/construction](http://www.aidtochurch.org/construction)

**GIVING COLLECTIONS:** Giving to St Patricks Church is possible contact free by electronic transfer to the Church Account as shown below or by Direct Debit arranged via your bank. The parish is so thankful for all your support.

**EMBRACE THE CALL TO GLOBAL MISSION:** American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Zambia are requesting Australian Catholics to live in and share their skills with parish communities. Embrace one of these [Mission opportunities abroad](#) and mentor those with little other opportunity. You will be well prepared and supported by Palms Australia who Palms Australia have engaged Australian Catholics in this mission since 1961.

[Enquire online](#) or Ph: 0422 742 567 and [Register](#) for a Webinar on **Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup>** at 11:30am where you can talk directly with Veronica Lawson who is mentoring teachers in Pago Pago, American Samoa now. Or visit others already engaged in Mission with Palms on our [13-day Encounter Tour to Timor-Leste from October 16<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>](#).

### CATHOLIC WEEKLY STORIES IN THIS EDITION.

- Making better dads
- The conversion everyone is talking about
- Blackmailing parents
- WYD 2023: 12 months to go!
- Movie review: *She-Hulk*
- Discover your faith: New online resource

### WEEK 5 ROSTER: 4/9/22

Vigil: R Sr Kathryn, G Styman  
9am Sun: R J Ryan, G Clout  
5.30pm Sun: R D Bearman, J Murray,  
Counting Team O and J Whale, A Bowden  
Sat Cleaning 10/9 S Brown, V Griffiths  
Altar Linen: E Jackson

### WEEK 6 ROSTER: 11/9/22

Vigil: R D Gowing, Sr Kathryn  
9am Sun: R S Brown, A Sartori  
5.30pm Sun: R D Bearman M Murray  
Counting Team G & M Thrift, A Bowden  
Sat Cleaning 17/9 K O'Brien, J Cunningham  
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.

