

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

11 DECEMBER 2022

ARE YOU THE ONE?

One can only begin to imagine the excitement, questioning and discussion that must have accompanied the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Reports were flying thick and fast about the carpenter-turned-preacher from Nazareth, whose preaching was accompanied by miraculous healings, and disconcerting sayings. Was it true that Isaiah's prophecy about the eyes of the blind being opened, and the deaf once again being able to hear was being fulfilled?

John the Baptist had spoken with courage about the messiah that was coming and this led to his imprisonment. He had preached that the coming messiah would be a figure of purification and judgement upon Israel. Could it be that Jesus was the promised one? John could not reconcile Jesus' message and ministry with the message for which he had risked his life. Jesus' response to John's question is simple – you must make your judgement based on what you see. If Isaiah's prophecy is being fulfilled, then there is no need to look any further.

A challenge for James' community was that they recognised Jesus was indeed the saviour, but how were they to manage until his return at the end of time? Their impatience for the Lord's return was leading them into the trap of being fractious with each other. James provides both them and us with the timely reminder that patience with the Lord and each other is a better way to prepare to greet the Lord on his return.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 35:1-6, 10

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.'

'Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy in their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

■ The word of the Lord.

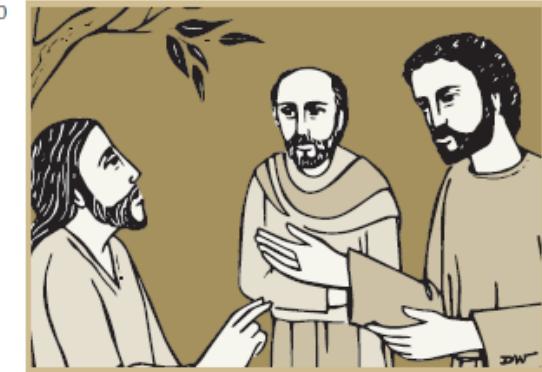
RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145:6-10. R. cf. Isa 35:4

R. Lord, come and save us. (or Alleluia!)

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, / who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord, who sets prisoners free. R.

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, / who raises up those who are bowed down, / the Lord, who protects the stranger / and upholds the widow and orphan. R.



3. It is the Lord who loves the just / but thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord will reign for ever, / Zion's God, from age to age. R.

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

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!

11 Dec 22

Advent 3 Yr A

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org>
Email: 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: Wed & Thurs 8.30-11.30 am

Presbytery 67658211

Pastoral Associate 0411703608

St Josephs School 67654079

WEEKEND MASSES **Sat:** 5.30pm **Sun:** 9am 5.30pm

CONFESIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm

*Or by appointment



WEEKDAY MASSES **Mon:** No Mass **Tues:** No Mass

Wed: 12 pm St John of the Cross **Anointing Mass

Thurs: 9am **Fri:** 9am **Sat:** No Mass

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

ANTIPHON: Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Margaret Greentree, Lyn Moore, Andrew Brennan, Beryl Wright.

ANNIVERSARIES: Johnpaul Vella (2/12), Mary McInnes (6/11), Shirley Burke (10/11), Gerry Griffiths (17/11), Antony John Croft (17/11), Irwin Brady (23/11), Ian Macpherson (30/11), Richard Bowler (1/12), Perce McInnes (2/12)

DECEASED: Pamela Davy, Rod Kelly, Gwen Gerathy, Les Wallworth (Sydney), Margaret Marshall, Valerie Chillingworth, Sr Rita Vella, Barry Schipp.

SICK: Sr Gerard Joseph, Gail Styman, Suzanne Roberts, Shane Davidson, Pauline Wiley, Joan Crowe, Lisa Foster, Shirley Collier, Norma O'Brien, Barbara Brennan, Colin MacPherson, Alison and baby Huxley Gallagher, William Bonner, Peter Richards, Kate Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Graeme Bussell, Fr Bernie Flood.

VEENA'S VERSIONS:

 Fr Murphy walks into a pub in Donegal on Christmas Eve, and says to the first man he meets, "Do you want to go to heaven?". The man said, "I do Father". The priest said, "Then stand over there against the wall." Then the priest asked the second man, "Do you want to go to heaven?" "Certainly Father," was the man's reply. "Then stand over there against the wall," said the priest.

Then Fr Murph walked up to O'Toole and said, "Do you want to go to heaven?" O'Toole said, "No, I don't Father." The priest said, "I don't believe this. You mean to tell me that when you die, you don't want to go to heaven?" O'Toole said, "Oh, when I die, yes. I thought you were getting a group together to go right now."

PARISH COLLECTIONS: BSB 082105 West Tamworth Catholic Ch. (St Pats) Acc 001041198
West Tamworth Presbytery (Dioc) Acc 001023642

'Never is God nearer to us than when danger threatens.' (1880)



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

CHRISTMAS ROSTERS: We currently have a lot of readers that will be away for the Christmas Masses. If you have read in the past or feel you are capable of reading over the Christmas period, could you please let the office know.

UKRAINE APPEAL: The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference are encouraging Catholics to respond to the call from the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia, Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR, to provide financial support to people in the war-torn nation as winter arrives. All donations raised during the Advent appeal will support the work of Mudra Sprava (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages for people in need; Shelters for internally displaced persons. The **COLLECTION BOXES** at the back of the Church may be used to deposit your donation *by this Sunday. Please keep the people of Ukraine and Russia in your prayers.

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION will be held at St Patrick's on Wednesday 14 December at 5pm. Please note also that First Rite of Reconciliation will only be held on Christmas Eve, Sat. 24/12 from 10am till 11am. There will be no afternoon confessions on Christmas Eve.

THANK YOU: to the parishioners of St Patrick's Parish for your generous donations to the St Vincent De Paul collection. An amount of \$1051.70 was raised.

CARITAS APPEAL– GLOBAL GIFT: A Global Gift is a donation to Caritas made on behalf of another that reflects real items that help the world's most vulnerable. Visit www.globalgifts.org.au or scan the QR code on the poster on the noticeboard. You can choose to send a card or email to your loved one who receives the third party gift notice.

ANOINTING MASS OF THE SICK: Mass on Wednesday 21 December at 12pm will include this special gift of anointing. All are welcome to attend and receive this special blessing from Fr Anthony, especially those facing difficulties in health and healing.

ADORATION FOR ADVENT: During Advent, Adoration will be held every Wednesday from 11 am till 12 midday, with mass to follow.

CHOIR PRACTICE: If you are interested in playing a part in St Pats Choir, please join us for practice at 5 pm on Tuesdays - especially if you are interested in learning the keyboard role.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT ST EDWARD'S: St. Edward's Parish-South Tamworth has hosted a Christmas lunch since 2015. If you can't be with family or friends this Christmas or if you are unable to make your own Christmas meal, we are inviting you to celebrate the joy and blessings of Christmas with us. Mary Help of Christians Church Hall 72 Hillvue Road, South Tamworth Sunday 25 December 2022 12pm for 12.30pm. For catering purposes, RSVP is required by December 20 Phone: 02 6765 9543 (leave a message if unattended) or email: southtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au

WEEK 1 ROSTER: 11/12/22

Vigil: R C Ledwos P Bamford
9am Sun: R S Nichols G Clout
5.30pm Sun: R C Lavell M Murray
Counting Team: P Sheils; A Bowden
Sat Cleaning: 17/12 J Hutt, J Moran
Altar Linen: J Hutt

WEEK 2 ROSTER: 18/12/22

Vigil: R Sr Kathryn N Pullman
9am Sun: R S Brown O Monet
5.30pm Sun: R (D Bearman J Murray
Counting Team: S Brown, A Bowden
No Sat Cleaning: 24/12/22
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.

