

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

4 DECEMBER 2022

## CHANGE OF HEART

By the time Isaiah wrote, Israel had had some centuries of experience of kings, both good and bad. In that time there had been plenty of opportunities to learn what were the qualities that marked an ideal king – the presence of the spirit of the Lord, wisdom, insight, integrity, fairness, faithfulness, and concern for the poor. The longed for messiah would establish true quality of life, where even natural enemies would be able to live in peace.

One of the vexing problems Paul addressed among the Christians of Rome was how to overcome division and encourage tolerance, understanding and peace. His solution was to use the example of Jesus' tolerance and love as the basis and springboard for our way. In this way, even Jewish and Gentile Christians who were divided on the issue of food laws, would be able to live in peace with one another as they waited for the Lord's coming.

As John the Baptist began his ministry the time of the messiah, longed for by Isaiah, was finally dawning. The hope that had sustained generations was now being realised. John looked upon the evils of his day and saw that while the messiah was soon to return the people were not yet prepared to greet him. They mistakenly relied on belonging to the people of Israel by virtue of their birth. John saw that such children of God were as plentiful and as worthless as the stones that made farming so difficult. Then, as now, what was called for was a change of heart and an openness to the invitation to prepare for the Lord's coming among us.

Christopher Monaghan CP

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

## FIRST READING

Isa 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
*He judges the poor with justice.*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PS

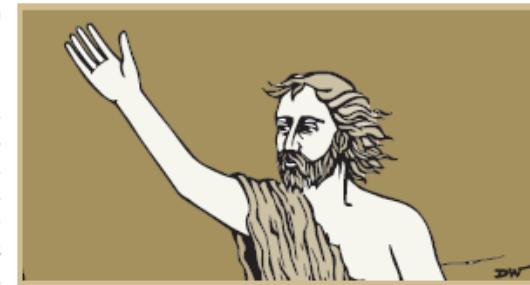
Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17. R. cf. v. 7

R. Justice shall flourish in his time,  
and fullness of peace for ever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, / to a king's son your justice, / that he may judge your people in justice / and your poor in right judgement. R.

2. In his days justice shall flourish / and peace till the moon fails. / He shall rule from sea to sea, / from the Great River to earth's bounds. R.

3. For he shall save the poor when they cry / and the needy who are helpless. / He will have



pity on the weak / and save the lives of the poor. R.

4. May his name be blessed for ever / and endure like the sun. / Every tribe shall be blessed in him, / all nations bless his name. R.

## SECOND READING

Rom 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Christ, the hope of all people.*

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia! / Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. / Alleluia!

4 Dec 22

Advent 2 Yr A

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

**Website:** <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.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:** 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 Andrew **Thurs:** 9am  
**Fri:** 9am **Sat:** No Mass

**ENTRANCE** O people of Zion behold, the Lord will come to save the nations,  
**ANTIPHON:** and the Lord will make the glory of His voice heard in the joy of your heart.

**COMMUNION** Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,  
**ANTIPHON:** and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Margaret Greentree, Lyn Moore, Andrew Brennan, Beryl Wright, Jill Moroney,

**ANNIVERSARIES:** John Paul 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:

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December. Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, according to EVERY historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, EVERY single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a girl. We should have known... ONLY women would be able to drag a fat man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost.

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

*'Only what you will my God.' (1898)*



**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

**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 **Sunday 11 December**. Please keep the people of Ukraine and Russia in your prayers.

**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](http://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.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** We need to get our beautiful church prepared for Christmas. Spring cleaning will be done on **9 Dec at 9.30am** to clean the church and the grounds. Please lend a hand if you can.

**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 be held on Christmas Eve, Saturday 24/12 at 10am till 11am ONLY. There will be no afternoon confessions on Christmas Eve.

**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.

**PLANNING FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS:** Please keep a close watch on the Coming Events.

**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 ROSTERS:** As Christmas approaches please advise the office if you will be away for the Christmas/holiday period so rosters may be co-ordinated. Please arrange a replacement if you can and advise the office.

### COMING EVENTS:

**6 Dec** Choir Practice 5 pm **7 Dec** Adoration 11 am  
**10/11 Dec** Bambinelli Sunday - Blessing of Baby Jesus figurines  
**11 Dec** Parish Christmas Party Morning Tea — please bring a plate  
**14 Dec** Advent Reconciliation Liturgy 5 pm



### WEEK 6 ROSTER: 4/12/22

**Vigil:** R D Gowing, P Bamford  
**9am Sun:** R S Brown, A Sartori  
**5.30pm Sun:** R B Davis, M Murray  
**Counting Team** G & M Thrift, A Bowden  
**Sat Cleaning** 10/12 K O'Brien, J Cunningham  
**Altar Linen:** H Reid

### 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

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.

