

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Happy are the poor in spirit.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for
what is right:
they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the
cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and
persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny
against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

29 JANUARY 2023

WORKING FOR GOD'S KINGDOM

There is a consistency between the Old Testament reading and the Gospel of today in that they speak of the qualities that should mark the life of faith in the face of difficulty – integrity, humility, truthfulness, and steadfastness. There is a call to hope that despite the presence of obstacles, misunderstanding, and sometimes rejection, God still has the power to intervene in our world. For the people in exile, it was no easy matter to continue to believe that God would intervene to re-establish the faithful in their own land. Would it have been any easier for the people of Jesus' time to hear the words of the beatitudes that proclaimed comfort for mourners, or a sumptuous banquet for those who were starving? There is a fundamental challenge that underlies both these readings: do we really believe that God's kingdom can be established in our midst? Secondly, are we prepared to work to bring that kingdom into reality?

While the Christians of Corinth felt they were living in that reality Paul knew that while there was division the process of conversion still had a long way to go. Paul was convinced that there is no place for competition or envy. He had already used the example of Jesus' humble death to show them that jealousy is misplaced in the Christian community since Jesus displayed his power in humble service. He now goes one step further reminding the Corinthians that their own humble origin is a sign that God's call is best received with humble gratitude.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Zeph 2: 3; 3: 12-13

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

Seek the Lord

all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.

Seek integrity, seek humility:
you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.

In your midst I will leave
a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge
in the name of the Lord.

They will do no wrong,
will tell no lies;
and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

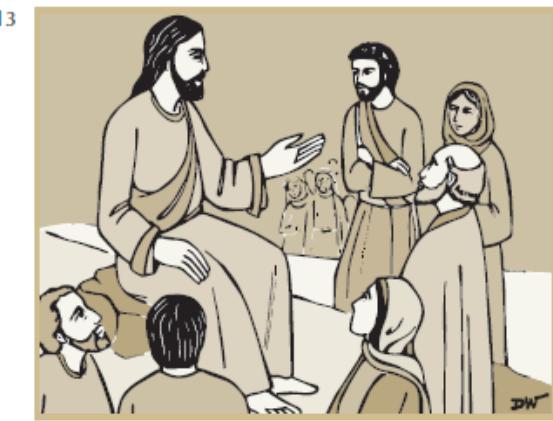
Ps 145: 7-10

R. Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom
of heaven is theirs! (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

1 Cor 1: 26-31

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 5: 12

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad:

your reward will be great in heaven.

Alleluia!

29 Jan 23
Wk 4 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 and 5.30pm
WEEKDAY MASSES Wed: 12pm
Thurs: 9 am The Presentation of the Lord
Fri: 9 am

CONFESIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm

*Or by appointment

ENTRANCE Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations,
ANTIPHON: to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

COMMUNION Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love.

ANTIPHON: O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: William Barry Davy, Cardinal George Pell, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Barbara Smith.

ANNIVERSARIES: Mary Sampson (2/1), John O'Brien (3/1), Pamela Davy (nee Barry) (6/1), Ivan Lillicrap (18/1), Rod Taylor (20/1), Maria Mood (16/2).

DECEASED: Des Saunders, Val McInnes (Riordan), Margaret Greentree, Lyn Moore, Andrew Brennan, Beryl Wright.

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

VEENA'S VERSIONS:


A grandmother, celebrating her golden wedding anniversary, once told the secret of her long and happy marriage. "On my wedding day, I decided to make a list of ten of my husband's faults which, for the sake of our marriage, I would overlook," she said. A guest asked the woman what some of the faults she had chosen to overlook were. The grandmother replied, "To tell you the truth, my dear, I never did get around to listing them. But whenever my husband did something that made me hopping mad, I would say to myself, 'Lucky for him that's one of the ten!'"

Today, the words of the **beatitudes** invite us to consider anew our dependence on God, to acknowledge Him as the supreme authority in our lives and to find the source of our identity and happiness in Him.

COMING EVENTS:

31 Jan St Joseph's students return to school
22 Feb Lent begins
4 Mar Reflection Day

"Do all you can to assist and love one another." (1875)

COVID GUIDE: * **FACE MASKS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**
* **ANTISEPTIC WIPES & SANITISER ARE AVAILABLE.**



VOLUNTEER CALL OUT FOR ST PATRICK'S AND NAZARETH CARE: There are so many roles needing to be fulfilled in our Parish and in our wider Catholic community. If you feel you could give some time for one of these important roles, like reading, scripture teaching, garden maintenance, operating overhead projector or so many others, please get in touch with the Office on 6765 8211.

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart." (Elizabeth Andrew) Will you consider becoming a volunteer and make a difference in the lives of the elderly at Nazareth Care? Please ring Sr Ana on 6761 2356, she would welcome a chat with you.

LENT: Ash Wednesday will be on 22 February - a very early Lent this year. Keep this in mind if you are wanting to participate in any program. Lists will be placed at the back of the church for you to show your preferred time to join a group. Also remember the reflection day to be held on 4 March in preparation for Lent.

2023 SAVE THE DATES: Following the success of the Evangelise 2022 Diocesan hubs Bishop Kennedy invites interested parishioners to attend a series of follow-up zoom hubs and face to face gatherings to be held across the diocese on the following Fridays 24th February, 26th May, 25th August, 17th November. Further information will be provided closer to the date

SATURDAY 4 MARCH 2023: A special Parish reflection day will be conducted by Sr Maureen McDermott (RSJ). The day will be held in the Parish Centre. Please include your name on the list at the back of the church, or contact the office if you would like to attend.

USED STAMPS. Thankyou to all who have saved used stamps in 2022. Approximately \$42,500.00 was raised for the missions in Peru. Since 2001 till now the total is \$486,00.00 (almost half a million). It is through your efforts that the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop continues in Peru. Used stamps with a decent margin around them can be left in the box at the back of the church.

WORD OF GOD SUNDAY: The Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February (Feb 5 in 2023) (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A). Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to "the celebration, study and dissemination" of the Word of God. Visit www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodsunday to access resources to help commemorate the day and suggestions on how to better engage with Sacred Scripture in various ways and settings.

PARISH COLLECTIONS: The parish is thankful for all your support. The first collection (Presbytery Acc) goes to the Armidale Diocese to support diocesan clergy with the second collection (Church Acc) supporting the running of St Patricks.

BSB 082105 1st. Collection - West Tamworth Presbytery (Dioc) Acc 001023642
2nd Collection - West Tamworth Catholic Church. (St Patricks) Acc 001041198

WEEK 2 ROSTER: 29/1/23

Vigil: R C Ledwos N Pullman
9am Sun: R S Brown R Paull
5.30pm Sun: R D Bearman J Murray
Counting Team S Brown, A Bowden
Sat Cleaning 4/2 M Vella & R Pace
Altar Linen: B Flood

WEEK 3 ROSTER: 5/2/23

Vigil: R C Ledwos D Bolitho
9am Sun: R M Holley A Sartori
5.30pm Sun: R C Lavell M Murray
Counting Team O and J Whale; A Bowden
Sat Cleaning 11/2 B & B Lane
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.

