

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me
will have the light of life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5:13-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

You are the light of the world.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.'

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word

FIRM FOUNDATIONS

When the people of Israel returned from exile it was a time of great hope and rejoicing. God's promises had proved true and their persistence in faith had been rewarded. Now was the time to rebuild and people set about re-establishing their lives, homes and businesses. During the exile, they had been united in their suffering but now there was the danger of people looking after themselves at the cost of others. Isaiah was concerned to nip this in the bud showing that the best foundation on which to rebuild was their concern for others, especially the poor and the disadvantaged. In this way, their lives would be a shining example. In the gospel, Jesus calls each of us to examine the quality of our care for our brothers and sisters. It is by means of our practical concern that we can be salt for the earth and light for our world.

Paul was concerned that the faith of some of the Corinthian Christians was not built on a firm foundation. They had been overly impressed by the quality of the preaching and rhetoric of the various preachers who had worked among them. He knew that while their response was understandable, it was nonetheless misguided. At the end of the day, he knew that rhetoric and philosophy would never build a foundation that could challenge the one built on the self-giving love of Jesus. With their eyes fixed on the crucified one, they could learn true wisdom and the meaning of love.



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

FIRST READING

Isa 58:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Your light will shine like the dawn.

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor;
clothe the man you see to be naked
and turn not from your own kin.
Then your light will shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.
Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'
If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 111:4-9. R. v. 4

R. A light rises in the darkness for the upright. (or Alleluia!)

1. He is light in the darkness for the upright: / he is generous, merciful and just. / The good man takes pity and lends, / he conducts his affairs with honour. R.
2. The just man will never waver: / he will be remembered for ever. / He has no fear of evil news; / with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. R.
3. With a steadfast heart he will not fear; / open-handed, he gives to the poor; / his justice stands firm for ever. / His head will be raised in glory. R.



SECOND READING

1 Cor 2:1-5

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

I came to you to proclaim Christ crucified.

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

Christopher Monaghan CP

5 Feb 23
Wk 5 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 Fri: 9 am St Scholastica

CONFESIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm

*Or by appointment

ENTRANCE O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us,
ANTIPHON: for he is the Lord our God.

COMMUNION Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men
ANTIPHON: for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

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), Shirley Hobbs (28/1), 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: The power of the verse....

An elderly woman had just returned home from an evening church service when she realized there was an intruder in her home. Seeing that he was in the act of robbing her home of its valuables, the lady yelled "Stop! Acts 2:38!"

...Hearing her, the burglar stopped dead in his tracks and stood motionless. The woman calmly called the police and explained what was going on. As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All the lady did was yell a Bible verse at you..."

"Bible verse?" said the burglar, "She said she had an axe and two 38's!"



COMING EVENTS:

22 Feb Lent begins **4 Mar** Reflection Day **22 Feb** Ash Wednesday Mases 12pm 5.30pm

***Evangelise 23** : Zoom hubs and physical gatherings will be held across the diocese on the Fridays 24th Feb, 26th May, 25th Aug, 17th Nov. Further information provided closer to the date.

PARISH COLLECTIONS: 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 Pats.

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

"True happiness here below depends on ourselves, not on those around us. " (1875)



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

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. Masses will 12 noon and 5.30 pm on Ash Wednesday.

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.

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 held in the parish centre by Sr Maureen McDermott (RSJ). Please include your name on the list at the back of the church.

USED STAMPS. Thankyou to all who have saved used stamps in 2022. Approximately \$42,500.00 was raised for the missions in Peru. A Total of \$486,00.00 It is through your efforts that the legacy of St Mary MacKillop continues in Peru. Please continue to deposit them at the back of the Church.

FOCUS ON THE WORD OF GOD: As we focus on the Word in our Eucharist today we are reminded, "Most are no doubt familiar with the saying of Vatican II: "the Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures as she has venerated the Lord's body offering people the bread of life from the one table of the Word of God and the body of Christ (Dei Verbum 21)." In the same vein, the second document quotes St Jerome: "We are reading the sacred Scriptures. For me, the Gospel is the body of Christ; for me, the holy Scriptures are his teaching. And when he says: 'whoever does not eat my flesh and drink my blood' (Jn 6:53), even though these words can also be understood of the [eucharistic] Mystery, Christ's body and blood are really the word of Scripture, God's teaching."

Visit www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodsunday to access resources.



WEEK 3 ROSTER: 5/2/23

Vigil: R C Ledwos D Bolitho
9am Sun: R M Holley A Sartori
5.30pm Sun: R M Murray C Lavell
Counting Team O and J Whale; A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 10/2 S Brown V Griffiths
Altar Linen: E Smyth

WEEK 4 ROSTER: 12/2/23

Vigil: R P Bamford Sr Kathryn
9am Sun: R S Brown, M Donaldson
5.30pm Sun: R J Murray D Bearman
Counting Team G & M Thrift, A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 17/2 K O'Brien J Cunningham
Altar Linen: H Reid

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.

