

and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me.

But I speak
for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who
sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form, 11:1-45

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

26 MARCH 2023

GOD'S PLEDGE TO US

Lent is always an invitation to travel on the path of conversion. We are called to do our part and yet the work is not solely ours. One of the threads uniting today's readings is the encouragement provided by God's pledge to work with us as we journey towards the new life of Easter.

Ezekiel wrote to a dispirited and discouraged people far from where they wanted to be. In exile they felt powerless to change their situation and wondered whether God still had the power, or desire, to save them. Ezekiel has no doubts that God will bring them back from the grave to new life.

In writing to the Christians of Rome, Paul is led to reflect on the nature of conversion and the Christian life from two perspectives. From our perspective, we are challenged to open our hearts to what is of spiritual and lasting value. Lest we become disheartened by our weakness, Paul reminds us of the critical role God plays in our coming to spiritual maturity. The gift of the Spirit within us is a sign of God's pledge to enliven us so that we may share in the new life of Jesus' resurrection.

The moving story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead is a powerful reminder to us all that just as Jesus commanded, 'Unbind him, let him go free,' so it is with us. The Lord is still working with us to liberate what is bound, and to bring to life that which is not fully alive.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

FIRST READING

Ezek 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 129. R. v. 7

R. With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, / Lord, hear my voice! / O let your ears be attentive / to the voice of my pleading. R.
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, / Lord, who would survive? / But with you is found forgiveness: / for this we revere you. R.
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, / I count on his word. / My soul is longing for the Lord / more than watchman for daybreak. / (Let the watchman count on daybreak / and Israel on the Lord.) R.
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy / and fullness of redemption, / Israel indeed he will redeem / from all its iniquity. R.

SECOND READING

Rom 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not

belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 11:25, 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! / I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; / whoever believes in me will not die for ever. / Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

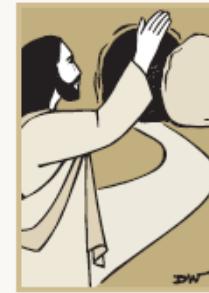
I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

*'I am the resurrection and the life.
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,*



26 Mar 23
Lent 5 Yr A

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org>
Email: westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au



Parish Priest Fr Anthony Koppman
Pastoral Associate: Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.
Administration Di Bolitho, Anne Bowden
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: 9am Fri: 9 am

CONFessions
PALM SUNDAY Sat: 4.30-5.15pm
*Or by appointment



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Gary McSweeney, Sr Clare Keating RSJ, Margaret Cummins, Janet Corcoran, Anna Fordham, Pam Perkins.

ANNIVERSARIES: Marie Mansfield (3/3), Vivian Betts (15/3), Sean Killen (26/3),

Fr Bruce MacPherson (8/4), Harry Cunningham (30/4).

DECEASED: Des Saunders, Cardinal George Pell, Barbara Smith, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

SICK: John Betts, Gerard Dunn, 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



My friends and I were at the Tamworth Country Music Festival. While we were walking to a stage we heard a song being played by Slim Dusty. My friend jokingly says, "Oh, I didn't know Slim was playing today!" I couldn't resist with, "I hear it's part of his Lazarus Project Tour!"

"Lent is 40 days long, not including Sundays" (that means the season is technically 46 days long). How many days left - try this: <https://days.to/until/lent-catholic>

CHURCH COLLECTIONS:

BSB 082105 1st. Collection - West Tamworth Presbytery Acc 001023642 (Diocese collection)
2nd Collection -West Tamworth Catholic Church. Acc 001041198 (Church Collection)

COMING EVENTS:

29 Mar Anointing of the Sick Mass 12pm and Easter Reconciliation 2nd Rite 5.30pm.
2 Apr Palm Sunday **6 Apr** Holy Thursday
7 Apr Good Friday **9 Apr** Easter Sunday
16 Apr Divine Mercy Sunday

"Let us at any cost be faithful." (1873)

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



PARISH 'IRISH' MORNING TEA: Thank you to all who joined us for this special gathering which was a great success. Special thanks to those who brought along lovely plates of food to share.

CATECHISTS: We congratulate Michael Donaldson on his recognition for 10 years' service to this important ministry. Others to be recognised by certificates from Bishop Kennedy for previous service are Cheryl Lavell and Rozanne Paull. The certificates for Rozanne and Cheryl were received in the dark days of the COVID era where we could not gather. Thank God we are now able to gather and especially that we can also recognise Rozanne and Cheryl for their significant service. You may not wish to sign up for ten years' service, however if you feel you can assist in any way—perhaps as an assistant or relief role—your assistance would be much appreciated and supported. Please contact Anne in the office or speak with Fr Anthony.

CHRISM MASS: This year's Chrism Mass will take place on Tuesday of Holy Week (4 April) at 11am with Bishop Hanna presiding. Mass will be followed by a light lunch in the Torreggiani Room for priests and parishioners. Parishioners are very welcome to attend the Mass and to stay for lunch afterwards. Confirmation candidates are also encouraged to attend. An RSVP of numbers will be required for catering purposes. Please contact the parish if you wish to attend and provide your numbers and if lunch will also be attended for catering purposes. Thank you

EASTER CONFESSIONS: Second Rite of Reconciliation at St Patricks Wed 29 March at 5.30 pm. A number of priests will be attending for reconciliation. Confessions will be held at St Nicholas Wednesday 5 April at 6 pm and also at St Edwards on a date to be advised

PROJECT COMPASSION: Please place Project Compassion boxes and envelopes in the crate provided in the centre of the church. You can always help people supported by Caritas by donating through Project Compassion at: www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion or Ph 1800 024 413.

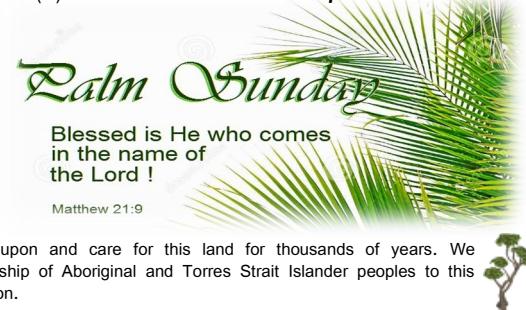
EASTER ROSTERS: ***Please advise the office if you are unable to read over the Easter period.*

PALM SUNDAY ROSTER 2 Apr 2023

5.30pm: C Ledwos D Bolitho (Passion Narrator) Sr Kathryn (Others) C Ledwos D Bolitho (Crowd) Everyone
9am: J Ryan G Clout (Passion Narrator) M Donaldson (Others) G Clout J Ryan (Crowd) Everyone
5.30pm: J Murray A O'Halloran (Passion Narrator) C Lavell (Others) J Murray A O'Halloran (Crowd) Everyone
Fri Cleaning 7/4 S Brown V Griffiths Alter Linen E Jackson Counting O & J Whale A Bowden

EASTER CELEBRATIONS 2023

HOLY THURSDAY 6 April 6pm
Readers: M Donaldson G Glout
STATIONS 10 am Good Friday 7 April
THE LORD'S PASSION 3 pm Good Friday 7 April
Readers: G Clout R Paull (Passion Narrator) Sr Kathryn
Others: D Gowing M Donaldson Crowd: Everyone
EASTER VIGIL 8 April 5.30pm
(R): C Ledwos P Bamford Sr Kathryn (Epistle) D Gowing
EASTER SUNDAY 9 April 9am
(R) G Clout A Sartori **** No 5.30pm Mass**



WEEK 4 ROSTER: 26/3/23

Vigil: R P Bamford Sr Kathryn
9am Sun: R G Clout, M Donaldson
5.30pm Sun: R J Murray D Bearman
Counting Team: G & M Thrift, A Bowden
Fri Cleaning: 31/3 M Vella A Jones
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.