

Alleluia, alleluia! / The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, / and you also will be my witnesses. / Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Do not fear those who can kill the body.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

St Anselm defined theology as faith seeking understanding. As people of faith, we seek to understand and respond to how God's plan is unfolding in our own lives. One of the most difficult hurdles for a person of faith to overcome is coming to terms with the fact that proclaiming the will of God can lead to persecution and suffering. The first reading and the Gospel address this challenge calling us to be steadfast and faithful in times of persecution and rejection. Jeremiah's natural response to persecution was calling on God to intervene and avenge him in the present. When Jesus commissioned the disciples, they were invited to respond in a different way. Disciples of every age are called to trust that our present faithfulness in times of persecution will not be forgotten or go unrewarded.

One of the tasks that faced Paul was teasing out and explaining to his contemporaries how Jesus' suffering and rejection fitted into God's saving plan. What looked like disaster and failure he had come to see as the dawn of a new age. Comparing Jesus to Adam provided Paul with the means to share his understanding that what had been lost by Adam's sin had now finally been regained, and more than regained, through the death of Jesus. God did not avenge Jesus' death but transformed a moment of violence into the most extraordinary moment of grace. Disciples are called to not only understand this mystery but let it penetrate our lives in times of suffering and rejection.

Christopher Monaghan CP



THE SAVING WORD

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

25 JUNE 2023

FIRST READING

Jer 20: 10-13

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.

Jeremiah said:

I hear so many disparaging me,
'Terror from every side!'

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!

All those who used to be my friends
watched for my downfall,
'Perhaps he will be seduced into error.
Then we will master him
and take our revenge!'

But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;
my opponents will stumble, mastered,
confounded by their failure;
everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be
theirs.

But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with
justice,
who scrutinise the loins and heart,
let me see the vengeance you will take on
them,
for I have committed my cause to you.
Sing to the Lord,
praise the Lord,
for he has delivered the soul of the needy
from the hands of evil men.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 68: 8-10, 14, 17, 33-35. R. v. 14

R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts, / that
shame covers my face, / that I have become
a stranger to my brothers, / an alien to my
own mother's sons. / I burn with zeal for your
house / and taunts against you fall on me. R.

2. This is my prayer to you, / my prayer for
your favour. / In your great love, answer me,
O God, / with your help that never fails: /
Lord, answer, for your love is kind; / in your
compassion, turn towards me. R.



3. The poor when they see it will be glad / and
God-seeking hearts will revive; / for the Lord
listens to the needy; / and does not spurn his
servants in their chains. / Let the heavens and
the earth give him praise, / the sea and all its
living creatures. R.

SECOND READING

Rom 5: 12-15

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

God's gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.

Sin entered the world through one man, and
through sin death, and thus death has spread
through the whole human race because everyone
has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before
the Law was given. There was no law and so no
one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking',
yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses,
even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was
not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the
gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it
is certain that through one man's fall so many
died, it is even more certain that divine grace,
coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came
to so many as an abundant free gift.

■ The word of the Lord.

25 June 23
Wk 12 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
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: 5.30 pm Sun: 9 am Sun: 5.00 pm
WEEKDAY MASSES Wed: 12pm Mass
 Thur: 9am Liturgy Service Sts Peter and Paul
 Fri: 9am Liturgy Service

CONFESSIONS
 Sat: 4.30-5.15pm
 *Or by appointment



ENTRANCE ANTI-PHON: *The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them forever.*

COMMUNION ANTI-PHON: *The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.*


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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Harold Ward, Margaret Peterson, Michael Kenny (Kendal), John Gray, **ANNIVERSARIES:** John Varga (1/6), Pat Smyth (7/6), Walter Uner (9/6), Grant D'Elboux (21/6), Alfred Uner (28/6), Stanley Blanch (29/6), Bridget Teo (29/7).

DECEASED: Sr Patricia Bartley rsj, Sister Carole Gibbins rsj, Sr Judith Carney rsm, Maureen Travers, Greg Hiscox, Terry Doherty, Marjie Balfe, Sophie Littlejohns, Father Efren Musngi, Marian Murphy, Ann Daly, Charlie Burns.

SICK: Monica Austin, Margaret Doyle, Baby Walker MacAlpine, Sandra Sheedy, John Betts, Gerard Dunn, Sr Gerard Joseph, Suzanne Roberts, Shane Davidson, Pauline Wiley, Joan Crowe, Lisa Foster, Shirley Collier, Norma O'Brien, Barbara Brennan, Colin MacPherson, Kate Harrison, Terry Dean, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, William Bonner, Graeme Bussell, Alison and baby Huxley Gallagher, Fr Bernie Flood.

VEENA'S VERSIONS

 A surgeon goes to return some books he borrowed from the library. The librarian quips after checking the books. "Sir, your books are always returned with the last page missing in every single book." The surgeon replies, "I just can't stop myself from removing an appendix whenever I see one".

COMING EVENTS:

29 Jun-2 Jul: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd first Level of formation –Armidale.

2 Jul Aboriginal Sunday—A New Life in Christ

4 Aug: Closing date for St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust (Website: pallottine.org.au/svpscholarship)

29 Aug: 17 Nov - Mission & Evangelisation Events

CHURCH COLLECTIONS:

1st. Collection - West Tamworth Presbytery Acc No: 001023642 (Diocesan collection)

2nd Collection - West Tamworth Church Catholic (St Patricks) Acc No: 001041198

**Direct Debit or EFT donations are preferred for planned giving; however envelopes are still available, please enquire.

COVID GUIDE: * FACE MASKS RECOMMENDED; *ANTISEPTIC WIPES/SANITISER AVAILABLE

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

We pray for all those who will be making their First Holy Communion this Sunday.

May they be truly enriched with the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and may they continue to live their faith in our community and beyond.

Please keep them all in your prayers and congratulate them on such a special day.



MASS TIME: *Please note Sunday afternoon Mass time is now 5 pm.

CHANGE TO FRIDAY MASS TIME: Friday mass time will change from 9 am to 12 noon from Friday 7 July. Please take note of this change of time to be trialled over winter.

ST JOSEPH'S PIE DRIVE: Like some pies for this wintery weather? Order Forms are at the back of the church. Place an order by returning the form to the front office of St Joseph's School

FORMATION OPPORTUNITY—CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD: The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is a Christian formation process for children aged 3-12 years to help them nurture their personal relationship with God. It is a worldwide ministry that we hope to start in our Diocese. The first Level of formation will be run at the Holy Family Parish Centre, Armidale, June 29th – 2nd July and 6-8th October (9am-5pm daily). All Parishioners welcome to attend. For details contact Janine Turner 0416 767 866 or Monica Nulley-Davis 0450 419 688.

SAVE CALVARY HOSPITAL: The ACT Government has announced the compulsory acquisition of Calvary Public Hospital in Canberra. You can support this taskforce by signing the petition 'Save Calvary' (<https://www.savecalvary.com.au/>).

PRAYER FOR OUR NEW BISHOP

God our Father, in Jesus, your Son, You have given to your Church the perfect model of priest, prophet and king, and so You have blessed us through His sacrifice, taught us through His Word, and guided us through His rule.

We ask You, Father, to guide and enlighten those who will be tasked with helping to choose the next bishop of our diocese. May the person they choose be one of deep and true prayer, a person of a compassionate heart and firm resolve, and a person of joy and peace, who desires above all to do Your will.

We entrust our prayers to our Patroness, Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen



"God will provide for the future."

WEEK 5 ROSTER: 25/6/23

Vigil: R C Ledwos, D Bolitho
9am Sun: R J Ryan, G Clout
5.00pm Sun: R J Murray A O'Halloran
Counting Team R Paull, A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 30/6 S Brown V Griffiths
Altar Linen: H Reid

WEEK 6 ROSTER: 2/7/23

Vigil: R D Gowing, G Styman
9am Sun: R S Brown, R Paull
5.00pm Sun: R M Murray D Bearman
Counting Team G & M Thrift, A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 7/7 K O'Brien, M Brown
Altar Linen: J Hutt

We acknowledge the First Nations people who have walked upon and care for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of First Nations people to this land and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

