

a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

23 JULY 2023

THE SPIRIT COMES TO US IN OUR WEAKNESS

It has been said that nothing is as strong as gentleness and that nothing is as gentle as real strength. Oftentimes gentleness is interpreted as a sign of weakness or indecisiveness. If God is all powerful, how is it that God does not judge our world? The book of Wisdom gives a glimpse into how the people of Israel reflected on this question in the centuries immediately preceding the birth of Jesus. What the surrounding people saw as God's weakness they had come to see as God's gracious strength which provides a model for our own lives.

The parable of the darnel addresses a similar question for the community of Matthew. In a time of opposition, they may have impatiently wondered why God had not forcefully intervened to establish the kingdom on earth. Jesus' parable of the darnel calls them to understand that the time of judgement will come when each person receives what their actions deserve. In the meantime, the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast are timely reminders that while the kingdom's beginnings may be humble and hidden the final outcome is assured.

Like Matthew, Paul saw that the period between the resurrection of the Lord and his return at the end of time was a time of struggle between good and evil. This struggle continues, and Paul reminds Christians of every age that we are not alone in this struggle since the Spirit is the one who carries our prayers and pleads to our gracious and loving God.

FIRST READING

Wis 12:13, 16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom
In the place of sin, you give repentance.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, / to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. / Your justice has its source in strength, / your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. / You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned / and you expose the insolence of those who know it; / but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, / you govern us with great lenience, / for you have only to will, and your power is there. / By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people / how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, / and you have given your sons the good hope / that after sin you will grant repentance.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16. R. v. 5

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, / full of love to all who call. / Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer / and attend to the sound of my voice. R.

2. All the nations shall come to adore you / and glorify your name, O Lord: / for you are great and do marvellous deeds, / you who alone are God. R.

3. But you, God of mercy and compassion, / slow to anger, O Lord, / abounding in love and truth, / turn and take pity on me. R.

SECOND READING

Rom 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts



knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia! / Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; / you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 13:24-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this," he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which

23 July 23
Wk 16 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	Sun: 5.00pm	CONFESIONS
WEEKDAY MASSES	Wed: 12pm Mass	Thur: 9am Mass	Fri: 12pm Mass	Sat: 4.30-5.15pm *Or by appointment

ENTRANCE See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, Lord, for it is good.

COMMUNION The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of His wonders.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Margaret Lambert, rsj, Katharine Louis, rsj, Fr Lewis Fenton, Sr Janet Cummings RSJ, John Geaney, Peter Sullivan, Harold Ward.

ANNIVERSARIES: Patricia Kennedy(2/7), Wally Warner(2/7), Peter Parsons, (12/7), William Barry Davy (25/7), Heighton Betts (28/7), Bridget Teo (29/7), Max Kennedy (31/7).

DECEASED: Margaret Peterson, Michael Kenny (Kendal), John Gray, Sr Patricia Bartley rsj, Sister Carole Gibbins rsj, Sr Judith Carney rsm, Maureen Travers, Greg Hiscox, Terry Doherty, Marjie Balfe, Sophie Littlejohns.

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

 An elderly man looked down to see a frog at his feet. He reached down and grabbed the frog and started to put him in his pocket when the bullfrog said, "Kiss me on the lips and I will turn into a beautiful wife." Again the gentleman started to put the frog in his pocket. The frog asked, "Didn't you hear what I said?" The gentleman looked at the frog and said,..... "At my age I'd rather have a talking frog."



COMING EVENTS:

4 Aug: Closing date for St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust (pallottine.org.au/svpsscholarship)
13 Aug: Confirmation Mass 9 am

29 Aug: 17 Nov - Mission & Evangelisation

Oct 15-20: Events Marriage and Family Week

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: BSB 082105

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; *ANTISEPIC WIPES/SANITISER AVAILABLE

"Let us love and praise God in all."

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

* Friday mass time is now 12 noon.



WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY: Pope Francis has declared this Sunday 23 July as the day we acknowledge the enormous contribution of, and celebrate the blessings given to us by our grandparents and the elderly. The Holy Father Francis has also granted a plenary indulgence for those who attend mass. The indulgence is subject to the usual conditions of sacramental Confession, reception of the Eucharist, and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. This indulgence extends to those who dedicate significant time to visit—either in person or by virtual means of communication—their elderly brothers and sisters who are in need or facing difficulties, such as the sick, abandoned, and those with disabilities. For those unable to leave their homes due to serious reasons, spiritual participation in Mass celebrated for the World Day through prayer, offering their sufferings, and joining in the broadcasts of the People's various celebrations will also grant them the opportunity to obtain a plenary indulgence.

YOUTH & THE CHURCH: Parishioners are invited to an evening of engagement and discussion on Friday 25 August 6 - 8 pm on the topic of "Youth & The Church, the open generation" An interactive Diocesan event designed to bring generations closer together in our Catholic communities. Featuring speakers from Alpha Youth Catholic and local WYD pilgrims.



For further information or RSVP contact Chris da Silva chris@armidale.catholic.org.au or ph 6771 8700 or use QR code to register and receive the zoom meeting link for online participation.

THE ADIG 2023 ANNUAL REPORT is now available. ADIG provided record distributions totalling \$4.58M to support the charitable works of the Church and its operations. We would like thank our investors whose continued support demonstrates the important role that ADIG plays within the Diocese. The mission of ADIG is to assist advancing the pastoral role of the Church in the Diocese by providing attractive financial products and most importantly distributions to support ongoing viability. As we move forward towards 2024, being our 50th year of operations, we look forward to your ongoing support. For a copy of the report please see our friendly staff in our Armidale and Tamworth offices, or on online at <https://adig.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/ADIG-Annual-Report-2023.pdf>

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,



WEEK 3 ROSTER: 23/7/23

Vigil: R C Ledwos
9am Sun: R M Holley A Sartori
5.00pm Sun: R M Murray D Bearman
Counting Team: A Bowden, P Sheils
Fri Cleaning: 28/7 S Brown, V Griffiths
Altar Linen: E Smyth

WEEK 4 ROSTER: 30/7/23

Vigil: R P Bamford Sr Kathryn
9am Sun: R S Brown, M Donaldson
5.00pm Sun: R J Murray C Lavell
Counting Team: A Bowden, G & M Thrift
Fri Cleaning: 4/8 K O'Brien, M Brown
Altar Linen: H Reid

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.

