

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*He sells everything he owns and buys the field.*

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word

## FINDING OUR TREASURE

As a young king, Solomon knew that he had much to learn to be the ruler the people of Israel needed him to be. When God invited him to ask for whatever he needed he asked for the gift of discernment between good and evil. Wealth might come and go, but the treasure he needed most of all was the gift of wisdom.

Matthew concludes the parabolic discourse with four parables that emphasise the wisdom that is required to not only recognise what is of lasting value but to hold on to it when we find it. It can be that what is of value is often hidden like the treasure in the field, or needs to be discovered like the pearl, or sorted like the catch that the dragnet brings in. While Jesus spoke of the treasure of the kingdom of God, Matthew has come to see that the pearl of great price is Jesus himself who is the source of our hope and the wisdom we need to live life to the full.

Throughout the eighth chapter of the letter to the Romans, Paul encourages his readers to take heart during the struggles and difficulties that they face as Christians. Our faith itself is a pearl of great price, a gift and treasure that gives us the strength to deal with the struggles and complexities of our lives. God can transform even the darkest moments and our faith helps us to live with hope in the future glory God has prepared for us.

Christopher Monaghan CP



# THE SAVING WORD

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

30 JULY 2023

## FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

*You have asked for wisdom.*

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this', the Lord said, 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130. R. v. 97

R. Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, / is to obey your word. / The law from your mouth means more to me / than silver and gold. R.
2. Let your love be ready to console me / by your promise to your servant. / Let your love come to me and I shall live / for your law is my delight. R.
3. That is why I love your commands / more than finest gold. / That is why I rule my life by your precepts: / I hate false ways. R.
4. Your will is wonderful indeed; / therefore I obey it. / The unfolding of your word gives light / and teaches the simple. R.



## SECOND READING

Rom 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*He predestined us to become true images of his Son.*

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

■ 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!



30 July 23  
Wk 17 Yr A

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

**Website:** <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org>  
**Email:** [westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto: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  
**WEEKDAY MASSES** Wed: 12pm Mass St Dominic  
Thur: 9am Mass St John Vianney Fri: 12pm Mass

**CONFESSIONS**  
Sat: 4.30-5.15pm  
\*Or by appointment

**ENTRANCE** God is in His holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house;  
**ANTIPHON:** He himself gives might, and strength to his people.  
**COMMUNION** Bless the Lord, oh, my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Eric Johnston, Sr Margaret Lambert, rsj, Sr 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), Phyl Pyrke (7/8), Jack Sampson (9/8).

**DECEASED:** Eva McLean, Joe McLean, Bill McLean, Margaret Peterson, 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, Joan Crowe, Lisa Foster, Shirley Collier, Norma O'Brien, Terry Dean, Barbara Brennan, Colin MacPherson, Graeme Bussell, Kate Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Alison and baby Huxley Gallagher, William Bonner, Fr Bernie Flood, Pauline Wiley.

**VEENA'S VERSIONS** An old lady was on a flight. She was sitting beside a young businessman. After the in-flight meal she took out her Holy Bible and started her devotion. The businessman glances at her and says. "Do you really believe that stuff in the Bible is true?" "Well, yes, as a matter of fact I do", said the old lady. "Yeah, right..." the man scoffs, "like... what's that guy's name, the one who got swallowed by a whale..." "You mean Jonah?" "Yeah, Jonah, I mean, how do you actually survive for 3 days in a fish's bowel?" "I don't know," replied the old lady, "but I can ask him when I see him in heaven someday." Feeling smart, the young man said: "Ok, but what if he's not in heaven because he went to hell?"

*"Then young man, \*you\* can ask him" replied the old lady calmly.*

### COMING EVENTS:

**4 Aug:** Closing date for St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust ([pallottine.org.au/svpscholarship](http://pallottine.org.au/svpscholarship))  
**6 Aug** Parish Morning Tea  
**8 Aug:** Feast of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop  
**13 Aug:** Confirmation Mass 9 am  
**25 Aug:** Mission & Evangelisation Youth & the Church  
**Oct 15-20:** Events for Marriage & Family Week

**CHURCH COLLECTIONS:** BSB 082 105

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

**2nd Collection - West Tamworth Catholic Church (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

*"Keep up your courage, it is for God and not for creatures you are working"*



**MASS TIME:** \*Please note Sunday afternoon Mass time is 5pm. \*Friday weekdays now 12pm.

**PARISH MORNING TEA:** All are invited to join in the Parish Morning Tea next **Sunday 6 August** after the 9am Mass. Please bring a plate to share if you are able.

**YOUTH & THE CHURCH:** Parishioners are invited to an evening of engagement and discussion on Friday 25 August 6-8pm 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](mailto:chris@armidale.catholic.org.au) Ph.67718700, QR code to register and receive the zoom meeting link for online attendance.



**NOTICES AND FLYERS IN THE CHURCH:** Please note that if you would like any notices displayed, or flyers placed in the church for parishioners' information, approval must be given by Fr Anthony Koppman. Please contact the office before displaying or leaving any material.

**CWL THANK YOU:** to all who participated in and assisted with the fund raiser for HOPE Kitchen recently, which was held at St Patrick's. It was a great success raising \$1800 which was donated to HOPE Kitchen.

**FEAST OF SAINT MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP:** 8th of August. Throughout her life, Mary accompanied many people during moments of hardship as well as moments of great happiness. She offered friendship to all, truly leading a life that placed her in the Grace of God. For so many, Mary is the ultimate embodiment of Christ's love for humanity through her "zeal for the poor and marginalised". Her empathy and compassion for children and young people in particular highlights how genuine concern and love for those who are placed on the edges of society can bolster the fight for social justice and equality.

**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 thank our investors whose continued support demonstrates the important role that ADIG plays within the Diocese. The mission of ADIG - to assist advancing the pastoral role of the Church in the Diocese by providing attractive financial products and distributions to support ongoing viability. As we move 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 4 ROSTER: 30/7/23

**Vigil:** R P Bamford Sr Kathryn  
**9am Sun:** R R Paull, 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

### WEEK 5 ROSTER: 6/8/23

**Vigil:** R C Ledwos, D Bolitho  
**9am Sun:** R J Ryan, G Clout  
**5.00pm Sun:** R J Murray A O'Halloran  
**Counting Team** P Sheils, A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** 11/8 J Hutt J Moran  
**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.

