

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?'

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

CHALLENGES OF DISCIPLESHIP

As we listen to Jeremiah pouring his heart out to the Lord, it is not unusual for us to be somewhat embarrassed by his candour. It is as though we are eavesdropping on a very personal and private conversation between the suffering prophet and the God who has commissioned him. There is an enormous battle in the heart of Jeremiah as he wrestles with the message he must proclaim and the impact his preaching has on his own life.

Last week Peter was praised because he had come to understand that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. Now he must learn what the consequences mean for Jesus and then for those who follow in his footsteps as disciples. His well-meaning attempt to protect Jesus is misguided and like Jeremiah, he must struggle to accept the paradoxical and costly ways of God.

The Christians of Rome are encouraged by Paul to continue with the struggle to live a life of faith in a world that did not share their values and vision. In a world where there were many temples, gods and sacrificial banquets, Paul goes to the heart of the matter when he calls for an offering of one's life as a living sacrifice to God.

All the readings for today converge in laying the challenge before us of not losing heart, even though at times the difficulties might seem beyond our strength. Making our own the mind of Christ is not easy, but then again, it never was.

Christopher Monaghan CP

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

3 SEPTEMBER 2023

FIRST READING

Jer 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah
The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.
I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.
Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'
The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.
I used to say, 'I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.'
Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones.
The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 62:2-6, 8-9. R. v. 2

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; / for you my soul is thirsting. / My body pines for you / like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary / to see your strength and your glory. / For your love is better than life, / my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

3. So I will bless you all my life, / in your name I will lift up my hands. / My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, / my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**

4. For you have been my help; / in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. / My soul clings to you; / your right hand holds me fast. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Eph 1:17, 18

Alleluia, alleluia! / May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ / enlighten the eyes of our heart, / that we might see how great is the hope / to which we are called. / Alleluia!

3 Sep 23
Wk 22 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: 5.30pm	Sun: 9am	Sun: 5.00pm	CONFESSIONS
WEEKDAY MASSES	Wed: No Mass	Thur: 12 noon		Sat: 4.30-5.15pm
	Fri: 12 noon	Mass Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary		*Or by appointment

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Have mercy on me O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.
O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Joy Graham, Shirley Collier, Nell Flexman, Josephine Galea, Suzanne Roberts, Tony Williams, Eric Johnston, Sr Margaret Lambert rsj, Sr Katharine Louis rsj, Fr Lewis Fenton, Sr Janet Cummings RSJ,

ANNIVERSARIES: Anthony Cavanagh (4/8), Margaret Parker (4/8), Phyl Pyrke (7/8), Jack Sampson (9/8), Joseph Urner (16/8), Greg Gallagher (30/8), Sr Rita Vella (31/8), Blake Hallam (1/9).

DECEASED: Wilma Grimer, Peter Sullivan, Harold Ward, Eva McLean, Joe McLean, Bill McLean, John Gray, Margaret Peterson, Sophie Littlejohns.

SICK: Monica Austin, Margaret Doyle, Baby Walker MacAlpine, Sandra Sheedy, John Betts, Gerard Dunn, Sr Gerard Joseph, Shane Davidson, Joan Crowe, Lisa Foster, 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 - - - especially for Dads



*Does a dad ALWAYS snore? .
No, only when he is asleep.
What does a dad say if asked to put the kettle on?
Sorry, I don't think it will fit.
What does a dad say when you ask to leave the table?
Where do you want to leave it?*



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; (envelopes are still available)

COMING EVENTS:

Sep 3 - Father's Day Morning Tea

Sep 10 - Child Protection Sunday

Sep 28-1 Oct: - Ignite Conference in Sydney

Sep 5-6 - Clergy Assembly

Sep 24 - Migrant and Refugee Sunday

Oct 15-20: Events for Marriage & Family Week

COVID: * FACE MASKS RECOMMENDED; * SANITISER AVAILABLE

"Really God is so good." (1870)



FATHER'S DAY MORNING TEA: We wish all our fathers of all descriptions a very happy and blessed Father's Day. Please join us for morning tea this Sunday 3 September. Please bring a plate if you can.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CLERGY ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATIONS: We specially congratulate Fr John Willis on his 50 years of priesthood and the enormous legacy he has left in our community. Many parishioners will join with other parish communities in wishing him well and thanking for his dedicated service to the Diocese. We also congratulate Deacon Paul Manvell and Fr Stephen O'Shea who celebrate their anniversaries during September. Please keep them all in your prayers.

CAMPION COLLEGE: Has an **Early Offer Scheme** as a way for both Year 12 students and recent graduates to gain acceptance into the college before the exam period. The primary benefit of this is that it will give those considering attending our College the confidence to know that their place is secure for 2024. This will in turn take away some of the pressure that surrounds the transitional period into tertiary studies. Further details can be found here: <https://www.campion.edu.au/admission/early-offer-scheme/>

PALMS AUSTRALIA: Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills and knowledge with those who have few other chances for training. Build enduring global relationships while assisting sustainable, self-reliant, community development. Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. If you would like to know more about PALMS AUSTRALIA please see the notice on the board, and attend a webinar on our global development opportunities taking on the 14th September 2023 6pm.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP PILGRIMAGE: An Australian Pilgrimage led by a Sister of Saint Joseph & the inaugural Director of the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Melbourne. 17 October – 28 October 2023. Please see the Noticeboard for more information or visit our website: www.marymackillopplace.org.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



WEEK 3 ROSTER: 3/9/23

Vigil: R C Ledwos Di Bolitho
9 am Sun: R M Holley A Sartori
5 pm Sun: R M Murray D Bearman
Counting Team R Paull; A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 8/9 J Hutt J Moran
Altar Linen: H Reid

WEEK 4 ROSTER: 10/9/23

Vigil: R P Bamford Sr Kathryn
9 am Sun: R S Brown, M Donaldson
5 pm Sun: R J Murray C Lavell
Counting Team S Brown, A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 15/9 M Vella A Jones
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.

