

Alleluia, alleluia! / Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom / and healed all who were sick. / Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Woman, you have great faith.*

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply. 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

20 AUGUST 2023

## GOD OPEN TO NEW WAYS

For the people of Israel, Isaiah's words about all nations coming to worship in Jerusalem would have been a source of great disquiet, consternation, and surprise. Surely, they were the chosen people and as such stood apart from the nations that surrounded them. It is perhaps difficult for us to imagine their horror at the idea that Gentiles would have the effrontery to worship in the Lord's own temple in Jerusalem. Isaiah goes further and points out that all this will happen with God's blessing.

Paul speaks at a time when Gentiles had come to accept Jesus, but many Jews had not. His problem was to work out how this possibly fits into the tapestry of God's saving plan. He came to see that by means of Israel's non-acceptance, a way was opened for the Gentiles. This would serve as a prompt for other Jews to accept Jesus and so pave the way for the general resurrection of the dead.

The Canaanite woman shouting out to Jesus clearly unhinged the disciples. In the first place, they were in Gentile territory, in the second place she was advertising to all and sundry that Jesus and his companions were Jewish, in the third place Jesus seemed to be turning a deaf ear to the woman's request. Ultimately both the disciples, and Matthew's readers must come to terms with the fact that faith, and God's response to it, recognises no boundaries. The loving mother's persistence and faith will have its just reward.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Isa 56:1, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.*

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 66:2-3, 5-6, 8. R. v. 8

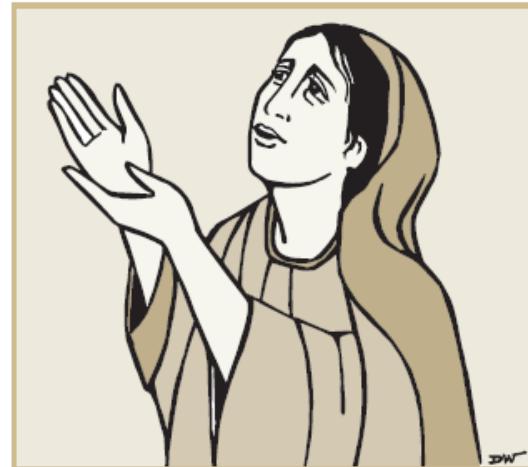
R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us / and let your face shed its light upon us. / So will your ways be known upon earth / and all nations learn your saving help. R.

2. Let the nations be glad and exult / for you rule the world with justice. / With fairness you rule the peoples, / you guide the nations on earth. R.

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; / let all the peoples praise you. / May God still give us his blessing / till the ends of the earth revere him. R.

■ The word of the Lord.



## SECOND READING

Rom 11:13-15, 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.*

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

20 Aug 23  
Wk 20 Yr A

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.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

### CONFESIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm

\*Or by appointment

**WEEKDAY  
MASSES** Wed: 12 noon Mass  
Thur: 9am Mass St Bartholomew Fri: 12pm Mass

**ENTRANCE  
ANTIPHON:** Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

**COMMUNION  
ANTIPHON:** With the Lord there is mercy; in Him is plentiful redemption.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Josephine Garlean Suzanne Roberts, Tony Williams, Eric Johnston, Sr Margaret Lambert rsj, Sr Katharine Louis rsj, Fr Lewis Fenton, Sr Janet Cummings RSJ, John Geaney.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Anthony Cavanagh (4/8), Margaret Parker (4/8), Phyl Pyke (7/8), Jack Sampson (9/8), Joseph Urner (16/8).

**DECEASED:** Peter Sullivan, Harold Ward, Eva McLean, Joe McLean, Bill McLean, Margaret Peterson, John Gray, 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, 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.

*Spring is nearly here – Time to spring clean your prayer habits ??*

### VEENA'S VERSIONS

A father was a little taken aback in a recent conversation with his daughter. Daughter: "Daddy, did you ever eat cat food when you were little?" Father: "Yes, but it didn't taste very good." Daughter smiles and nods, "Yes I know. It tastes like dog food doesn't it?"

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STATEMENT

**COVID:** \* FACE MASKS RECOMMENDED; \* SANITISER AVAILABLE

*"Live in charity and peace" (1895)*



**GOLDEN JUBILEE – FR JOHN WILLIS:** As a parish community we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Fr Willis on his Golden Jubilee for the 23 August 2023. Please keep Father in your prayers and ask that God may continue to grant him many blessings.

**VINNIES SLEEPOUT TAMWORTH:** McCarthy Catholic College Friday 25 August 2023. Please enrol as a participant or donate via QR code on the poster at the back of the church. A great night with dinner provided by the **HOPe Kitchen** on site and presentations about **homelessness** and the work of Vinnies. Contact: Patrick Mahony 0427851651 or Jann Browne 0409657277.

Go to [Vinnies Community Sleepout](#) for more.

**MISSION AND EVANGELISATION YOUTH AND THE CHURCH:** Parishioners are invited to an evening of engagement and discussion on Friday 25th August 6pm-8pm at our Parish Centre or online 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. Further information or RSVP - Chris da Silva phone 6771 8700 or [Chris@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:Chris@armidale.catholic.org.au) to register and receive the zoom meeting link for online participation.

**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 place on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2023 at 6pm.

**IGNITE CONFERENCE:** The next Ignite Conference will be held at the Broken Bay Cathedral Precinct from 28 Sep - 1 Oct. St Nicholas' Parish Tamworth and McCarthy Catholic College have already planned to take a group. Expressions of interest are invited from other parishioners around the Diocese to join them. Ignite is no longer simply a conference for youth; there are now streams available for every age group, so families, couples and singles are all welcome to join in. Please direct your enquires/expressions of interest to Chris Da Silva at [chris@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:chris@armidale.catholic.org.au), or visit <https://igniteconference.com.au/sydney> for more information

### 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.

### COMING EVENTS:

25 Aug: Mission & Evangelisation Youth & the Church

Sept 28 - 1 Oct Ignite Conference in Sydney

Aug 25 Vinnies Sleepout

Oct 15-20: Events for Marriage & Family Week

### WEEK 1 ROSTER: 20/8/23

Vigil: R C Ledwos Sr Kathryn  
9am Sun: R S Nichols G Clout  
5 pm Sun: R M Murray C Lavell  
Counting Team S Brown, A Bowden  
Fri Cleaning 25/8 S Brown and V Griffiths  
Altar Linen: M Vella

### WEEK 2 ROSTER: 27/8/23

Vigil: R Sr Kathryn N Pullman  
9am Sun: R S Brown R Paull  
5.00pm Sun: R M Murray D Bearman  
Counting Team G & M Thrift, A Bowden  
Fri Cleaning 1/9 K O'Brien M Brown  
Altar Linen: E Smyth

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.

