

Alleluia, alleluia! / You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church / the gates of hell will not hold out against it. / Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

THE SAVING WORD

27 AUGUST 2023

GOD CAN WORK THROUGH FRAILTY

Some years ago, a group of scholars from various Christian traditions examined the role of Peter that emerges from the New Testament. Despite the diversity in the texts and the traditions represented by the scholars themselves, there was general agreement that Peter played a critical role in the birth of early Christianity. While the New Testament writers stress his importance, they never avoid facing the complex reality of the man himself. Peter was the rock that crumbled and cracked under pressure when confronted after Jesus' arrest. Nonetheless, after the resurrection his faith did not waver, and he would justify Jesus' belief and trust in him.

In the concluding section of Romans 11, Paul is led to praise God for the unexpected ways in which God's saving plan for all humanity had come to fruition. While some in Israel had not come to believe in Jesus this had opened the way for the Gentiles. Gentile Christians had become the unforeseen means by which some of the people of Israel would be prompted to accept Jesus as the Messiah. Paul invites the Christians of Rome to join with him in wonder at the ingenious ways in which God always opens a new possibility for us, often despite ourselves.

That God can work through the frailty of Peter and the hardness of heart of some of the people of Israel can serve as a source of encouragement for us all. Rather than leave us disheartened God's word provides us with a firm basis for hope.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 22:19-23

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 137:1-3, 6, 8. R. v. 8

R. Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, / you have heard the words of my mouth. / Before the angels I will bless you. / I will adore before your holy temple. R.

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love / which excel all we ever knew of you. / On the day I called, you answered; / you increased the strength of my soul. R.



3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly / and the haughty he knows from afar. / Your love, O Lord, is eternal, / discard not the work of your hands. R.

SECOND READING

Rom 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.

27 Aug 23
Wk 21 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

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm

*Or by appointment

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: 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), Greig Gallagher (30/8), Sr Rita Vella (31/8).

DECEASED: 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, 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

 Scientists have conducted DNA Tests on a frog. They have discovered that the frog was:- 30% Russian; 30% French; 20% Italian; 10% Spanish; 5% British; 4% Dutch; And just a tad Pole...!



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:

Sep 3 - Father's Day Morning Tea and Social Justice Sunday 5-6 Sept - Clergy Assembly
Sept 10 - Child Protection Sunday Sept 24 - Migrant and Refugee Sunday
Sept 28-1 Oct: - Ignite Conference in Sydney Oct 15-20: Events for Marriage & Family Week

COVID: * FACE MASKS RECOMMENDED; * SANITISER AVAILABLE

"Never let any reasoning come between you and obedience." (1881)

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 in the coming month of September. Please also keep them in your prayers.

FATHER'S DAY MORNING TEA: Please join us for morning tea next Sunday 3 September for Father's Day. Please bring a plate if you can.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY: 3 September is set aside by the Catholic Bishops of Australia as Social Justice Sunday. Please see poster at the back of the church. This year's theme is "Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples".

The [Catholic Bishops Statement](https://shop.catholic.au/Social-Justice-Statement-2023-24-%E2%80%93-Listen-Learn-Love-A-New-Engagement-with-Aboriginal-and-Torres-Strait-Islander-Peoples-Statement-Download-p579933501) can be found at the [website](https://shop.catholic.au/Social-Justice-Statement-2023-24-%E2%80%93-Listen-Learn-Love-A-New-Engagement-with-Aboriginal-and-Torres-Strait-Islander-Peoples-Statement-Download-p579933501) <https://shop.catholic.au/Social-Justice-Statement-2023-24-%E2%80%93-Listen-Learn-Love-A-New-Engagement-with-Aboriginal-and-Torres-Strait-Islander-Peoples-Statement-Download-p579933501>.

As stated by the Bishops, they 'encourage all Catholics and people of goodwill to study this information and to participate in the many opportunities for learning and dialogue about the referendum.' For more details from the Australian Catholic Bishops and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC), please see the full statement [here](#).

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 place on the 14th of September 2023 at 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

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

WEEK 3 ROSTER: 3/9/23

Vigil: R C Ledwos Di Bolitho
9am Sun: R M Holley A Sartori
5.00pm Sun: R M Murray D Bearman
Counting Team: R Paull; A Bowden
Fri Cleaning: 8/9 J Hutt J Moran
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.