

to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

24 SEPTEMBER 2023

GOD'S WAYS ARE NOT OURS

One of the misconceptions that Christians often have about the Old Testament is that God is portrayed as harsh and unforgiving. We are all too used to contrasting the Old Testament view of God and the loving Father of Jesus that emerges in his teaching and ministry. It is important to remember that it was the Hebrew Scriptures that shaped Jesus' own understanding of God as a loving father.

The first reading from Isaiah clearly challenges misconceptions we might have that the God of Israel is not merciful. Isaiah encourages the wicked to change their ways precisely because God's ways are not ours. While we might tend to punish, God's mercy reveals a sovereignty that is often beyond our grasp and understanding. Jesus' parable of the owner of the vineyard who deals with all the workers in an even-handed and generous manner is, or can be, just as challenging for us to comprehend. Sinners who repent, and those who have always been devout, will all receive the same reward. Indeed, God's ways are far from those of our world.

Paul finds himself in a quandary. He knows that God is a loving God, and his ultimate desire is to be with God. On the other hand, he knows how his fledgling community in Philippi needs his presence and support. Caught between the good of caring for the Philippian community and that of wanting to finish his journey to be with the Lord, he wrestles and struggles with what is best. In the end, the problem is resolved because he knows his reward lies before him. In the meantime, there is still much work to be done.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take
pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who
speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18. R. v. 18

R. The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day / and praise
your name for ever. / The Lord is great,
highly to be praised, / his greatness cannot be
measured. R.

2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, /
slow to anger, abounding in love. / How good
is the Lord to all, / compassionate to all his
creatures. R.

3. The Lord is just in all his ways / and loving
in all his deeds. / He is close to all who call
him, / who call on him from their hearts. R.

SECOND READING

Phil 1:20-24, 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by
my life or by my death. Life to me, of course,
is Christ, but then death would bring me
something more; but then again, if living in this
body means doing work which is having good
results – I do not know what I should choose.



I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia! / Open our hearts,
O Lord, / to listen to the words of your
Son. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of
heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak

24 Sep 23
Wk 25 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: 5.30 pm Sun: 9am Sun: 5 pm

CONFESIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.00 pm

*Or by appointment

WEEKDAY MASSES Wed: Mass 12 noon St Vincent De Paul Thur: Mass 9 am
Fri: Mass 12 noon Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Frank Koppman (Fr Anthony's Dad), Sandra Sheedy, Sr Gemma Burke rsm, Sr Petra Ries RSJ, Joy Graham, Shirley Collier, Nell Flexman.

ANNIVERSARIES: Blake Hallam (1/9), Bernard Roworth (14/9), Mary Betts (24/9), Barbara Scott (25/9).

DECEASED: Josephine Galea, Sr Betty Kennedy, Eva, Joe and Bill McLean, Mel and Mary Hutchins, Suzanne Roberts, Tony Williams, Eric Johnston, Sr Margaret Lambert RSJ, Sr Katharine Louis RSJ, Fr Lewis Fenton, Sr Janet Cummings RSJ, Wilma Grimer, Sophie Littlejohns.

SICK: Pauline Miller, Monica Austin, Margaret Doyle, Baby Walker MacAlpine, 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

 *And the Lord said unto John: "Come forth and receive eternal life!". But John came fifth and received a toaster.*



"You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late."

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:

Sept 24 - Migrant and Refugee Sunday
Sept 30 - 2 Oct—Long Weekend

Sept 28-1 Oct: - Ignite Conference in Sydney
Oct 15-20: Events for Marriage & Family Week

COVID: * FACE MASKS RECOMMENDED; * SANITISER AVAILABLE

"Let us really love one another". (1890)



PRAYERS: We ask you to keep Father Anthony in your prayers and respect his time of private grief after the sudden death of his father in a tragic accident. We will all be with him in support upon his return to the parish. In the meantime we acknowledge he has family to also support. Please offer many prayers for him and his family during this time of great sadness.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL: This annual appeal will be held this weekend 23 and 24 September 2023. We would be grateful for your financial support to this appeal. We all know that times are especially tough at the moment, and St Vincent De Paul's help is being called on more than ever. Any donation will be much appreciated by those in need.

POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY: A service will be held at St Patricks Church to commemorate this special day on 29 September. All are invited to the church service at 10 am.

PARISH APPOINTMENTS: A number of movements of priests within the Diocese have recently been announced. Fr Paul Chandler at Inverell, Fr James Poovathinkal at Tenterfield effective 22 September. Fr Damian Locke at Cathedral Armidale effective 12 October. Fr Roel Llave at South Tamworth, and Fr Paul Anthony Aguilar at Cathedral Armidale effective 7 November. Please keep these priests in your prayers as they take appointments in their parishes.

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY: Today is Migrant and Refugee Sunday. Pope Francis speaks to us about this important matter. The synodal path that we have undertaken as a Church leads us to see in those who are most vulnerable – among whom are many migrants and refugees – special companions on our way, to be loved and cared for as brothers and sisters. Only by walking together will we be able to go far and reach the common goal of our journey.

VIEWPOINT: Please see the below link for the latest edition of Catholic Viewpoint to view in Flipbook Magazine style. [Catholic Viewpoint – Issue 11 – Jul-Sept 2023](https://catholicviewpoint.org/issue-11-jul-sept-2023/)

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 6 ROSTER: 24/9/23

Vigil: R D Gowing, G Styman
9am Sun: R S Brown, A Sartori
5.00pm Sun: R M Murray C Lavell
Counting Team G & M Thrift, A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 29/9 K O'Brien M Brown
Altar Linen: M Vella

WEEK 1 ROSTER: 1/10/23

Vigil: R C Ledwos P Bamford
9am Sun: R S Nichols G Clout
5.00pm Sun: R M Murray C Lavell
Counting Team O & J Whale; A Bowden
Fri Cleaning J Hutt J Moran
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.

