

Alleluia, alleluia! / Shine on the world like bright stars; / you are offering it the word of life. / Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mt 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.*

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word

## FAITH IN ACTION

Jesus was certainly caught on the horns of a dilemma as he faced the hostile demands of his opponents in Jerusalem. The Pharisees as religious authorities had combined with the Herodians (those who supported the Roman-backed Herod) to trap him on the question of payment of taxes. Jesus' response not only unmasks their hypocrisy but demonstrates his adroitness in dealing with a particularly pointed question: 'Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.' Stated like this it all seems clear; the problem arises when we must determine what belongs to Caesar and what belongs to God. What is the proper response for a Christian?

Today's readings warn us that false dichotomies are to be avoided between faith and the world. Isaiah reflects on the way Cyrus, the great ruler of Persia, is an unwitting instrument of God's will. In other words, God is at work in the world in ways that are unseen and often unnoticed. Consequently, if God is at work in the world the person of faith is called not to withdraw from the world but to transform it.

As far as Paul is concerned, the community of Thessalonika is a living example of what it means to be Christian in the world. Their faith has been expressed in actions seen in their working together in love, and persevering through hope. Living in the Roman empire they are praised for their ability to give both to Caesar and to God.

Christopher Monaghan CP



# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

22 OCTOBER 2023

## FIRST READING

Isa 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.*

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 95:1, 3-5, 7-10. R. v. 7

**R.** Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / Tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise, / to be feared above all gods; / the gods of the heathens are naught. / It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**

3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, / give the Lord glory and power, / give the Lord the glory of his name. / Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**

4. Worship the Lord in his temple. / O earth, tremble before him. / Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' / He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**



## SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

*We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.*

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

■ The word of the Lord.

22 Oct 23  
Wk 29 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: 5.30 pm Sun: 9am Sun: 5 pm

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

### CONFESSIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.00 pm

\*Or by appointment

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

To you I call, for you will surely heed me, O God;  
turn your ear to me, hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye;  
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The Son of Man has come to give His life as a ransom for many.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Raphael, Evita and Philomena Smith, Peter Nally, Fr John Carey, Frank Koppman (Fr Anthony's Dad), Sandra Sheedy.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Warren Doherty (6/10), Neddie Clarke (12/10), Michael Brady (13/10), Bill Teo (29/10), Mary McInnes (6/11).

**DECEASED:** Sr Gemma Burke rsm, Sr Petra Ries RSJ, Joy Graham, Shirley Collier, Nell Flexman,

**SICK:** Elaine Murray, 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 Be Careful with your money!

A man went to auction to buy an exotic parrot. On seeing the bird he wanted it and didn't think twice about the anonymous bidder who was always outbidding him so he bid higher until he finally won the bird at a ridiculous price. As he was paying for the parrot, he said to the auctioneer "I sure hope this parrot can talk as I'd hate to have paid so much for it, only to discover that he can't speak!"

"Oh, don't you worry," said the Auctioneer. "Who do you think kept bidding against you?"



### CHURCH COLLECTIONS:

**BSB 082 105**

#### 1st. Collection

West Tamworth Presbytery Acc No:  
001023642

(Diocesan collection)

#### 2nd Collection

West Tamworth Church  
(St Pats) Acc No: 001041198

Thank you

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

*"God won't ask how others do the work..... but He will ask you  
how you have done yours." (1890)*



**CATHOLIC MISSION SUNDAY:** This weekend is Catholic Mission Sunday. This is an opportunity for you to partner with the Salesian Sisters in Timor-Leste as they continue to provide an essential community project that addresses the gaps in care and well-being in rural communities like Venilale. This work simply will not be possible without your support. We hope you will accept this invitation to make a real and lasting impact for those in need. The Maria Auxiliadora Clinic is a vital project for the Salesian Sisters and the Church in Venilale. Since its establishment, the clinic has provided life-saving treatment for families in need, like Petrolina's, whose daughter Vitoria was found to have tuberculosis. But, with an increase in the demand for treatment, the Sisters' resources can only carry them so far. Please give generously today to help continue this life-giving program by using the appeal envelope in your seat, going online at [catholicmission.org.au/timor](http://catholicmission.org.au/timor), or scanning the QR code on the poster. Your gift will also help many other similar Church-run mission programs around the world.

**ALL SAINTS DAY MASS:** Wednesday 1 November is All Saints Day and Thursday 2 November is All Souls Day. Masses will be held at 12 noon on both days. Please remember to write clearly on envelopes for November Masses to be said during this month.

**OCTOBER:** The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions. October includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary last Friday with October 13th the date of our Blessed Mother's final public appearance to the shepherd children of Fatima and the occurrence of the "Miracle of the Sun" (1918). If we consider the power of the Rosary as seen in its effects, we find a great abundance of proofs of its wonderful value. The Rosary is recited each Saturday and Sunday before the 5.30pm and 9am Masses and before each mass during the week.

**JOSEPHITE CALENDAR 2024:** These will be available \$10. Please place your order on the sheet provided at the back of the church. Orders need to be in by the end of October.

### IMMACULATA MISSION SCHOOL 2024: FISHERS OF MEN

Start the new year by going deeper in God's love through awesome speakers on the Catholic faith, daily Mass, Adoration and the Rosary, praise and worship, fellowship and more! There are two different programs, so there is something for everyone. Youth & adults (14 years & up): 1-6 Jan. 2024 Married couples & families (specifically designed for married couples. Includes childrens and teens program): 7-10 Jan 2024. Special guest speakers: Dan & Stephanie Burke from the USA (co-founders of the Avila Institute, presenters on EWTN & Dan is an author of over 15 books on Catholic spirituality), plus Fr Francesco Gavazzi (from the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal).

Where: NEGS (New England Girls' School), Armidale NSW. For costs, additional information and TO REGISTER visit: <http://www.immaculata.org.au/ims>

**COMING EVENTS:** Nov 1 - All Saints Day Mass 12 noon Nov 2 - All Souls Day Mass 12 noon

### WEEK 4 ROSTER: 22/10/23

**Vigil:** R P Bamford Sr Kathryn  
**9am Sun:** R S Brown, M Donaldson  
**5.00pm Sun:** R J Murray C Lavell  
**Counting Team** S Brown, A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** K O'Brien, M Brown  
**Altar Linen:** E Jackson

### WEEK 5 ROSTER: 29/10/23

**Vigil:** R D Bolitho N Pullman  
**9am Sun:** R J Ryan, G Clout  
**5.00pm Sun:** R J Murray A O'Halloran  
**Counting Team** G & M Thrift, A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** J Hutt J Moran  
**Altar Linen:** M Vella

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.

