

He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty; a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE / A

26 NOVEMBER 2023

## INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

One of the duties of a king in the ancient world was that of being the judge of the highest court in the land and the last court of appeal for anyone seeking justice. In the readings for today, we are invited onto a large stage to witness a drama in which the lives of individuals, nations, and all forms of authority and power, must stand before God's judgement.

In Ezekiel, the cries and suffering of the people have not gone unnoticed by God. The religious leaders had proved themselves to be unworthy and God will now provide the care and leadership that had been entrusted to them. Using the beautiful image of the shepherd who shelters, comforts, and heals, Ezekiel shows how God's judgement and rule are accompanied by loving care for those who suffer.

For his part, Paul reflects on the role of Jesus in the larger scheme of salvation history. The resurrection of the Lord had convinced him that a new age, a new creation was dawning. Jesus had been exalted as Lord and King and his rule would last until death had been conquered. Then he will offer a renewed creation back to God the source of all.

The fascinating development in the Gospel passage is that we are called to share in the development and growth of the kingdom by means of our loving concern for others. The responsibility of caring for the flock is one in which we are all called to share, and it is on this basis that we will be judged.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Ezek 34:11-12, 15-17

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel  
*You, my flock, I judge between sheep and sheep.*

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them. As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22:1-3, 5-6. R. v. 1

R. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; / there is nothing I shall want. / Fresh and green are the pastures / where he gives me repose. R.
2. Near restful waters he leads me, / to revive my drooping spirit. / He guides me along the right path; / he is true to his name. R.
3. You have prepared a banquet for me / in the sight of my foes. / My head you have anointed with oil; / my cup is overflowing. R.
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me / all the days of my life. / In the Lord's own house shall I dwell / for ever and ever. R.

## SECOND READING

1 Cor 15:20-26, 28

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

*He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, so that God may be all in all.*

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way



the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mk 11:9, 10

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mt 25:31-46

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*He will take his seat on his throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats.'

26 Nov 23  
Wk 34 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: 5.30 pm Sun: 9 am Sun: 5 pm

### CONFESIONS

Wed: 12 noon Mass

Sat: 4.30-5.00 pm

**WEEKDAY  
MASSES** Thur: 9 am Mass 10 am combined schools advent liturgy

\*Or by appointment

Fri: 12 noon Mass

**ENTRANCE  
ANTIPHON:** • How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour.

To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

**COMMUNION  
ANTIPHON:** • The Lord sits as King forever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Cathie Menck, Sr Iris Fittler rsj, Jacqueline Galvin, Father Morrie Clarke; Raphael, Evita and Philomena Smith; Peter Nally, Fr John Carey, Frank Koppman (Fr Anthony's Dad).

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Mary McInnes (6/11), Stuart Betts (13/11), Gerry Griffiths (17/11),

Antony Croft (17/11), Ian MacPherson (30/11), Richard Bowler (1/12), Anna Chu.

**DECEASED:** Sandra Sheedy, Sr Gemma Burke rsm, Sr Petra Ries RSJ.

**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 - Help the stranger?



A man and his wife were awakened at 3:00 am by a loud pounding on the door. The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push. "Not a chance," says the husband, "it is 3:00 in the morning!" He slams the door and returns to bed. "Who was that?" asked his wife. "Just some drunk guy asking for a push," he answers. "Did you help him?" she asks. "No, I did not, it's 3am in the morning and it's bloomin well pouring with rain out there!" "Well, you have a short memory," says his wife. "Can't you remember about three months ago when we broke down, and those two guys helped us? I think you should help him, and you should be ashamed of yourself! "God loves drunk people too you know." The man does as he is told, gets dressed, and goes out into the pounding rain. He calls out into the dark, "Hello, are you still there?" "Yes," comes back the answer. "Do you still need a push?" calls out the husband. "Yes, please!" comes the reply from the dark. "Where are you?" asks the husband. "Over here on the swing," replied the drunk.

### CHURCH COLLECTIONS: BSB 082 105

1st. Collection West Tamworth Presbytery (Diocesan collection) Acc No: 001023642

2nd Collection West Tamworth Church (St Pats Church) Acc No:001041198

### COMING EVENTS:

Nov 29 First Reconciliation

Nov 30 School Christmas Liturgy

9/10 Dec Bambinelli Sunday - Blessing of Baby Jesus figurines

Dec 14 Christmas Reconciliation

Dec 17 Parish Advent/Christmas Morning Tea after 9 am mass

Dec 25 Christmas 9am Mass

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Mass 6pm

**"Does God ever allow anyone that trusts in him to be confounded?"**



**NOVEMBER MASS:** The November Mass List will come to completion this coming Thursday as the month of November comes to a close. You may still request prayers throughout the year by submitting an envelope via the plate collection clearly labelled as such or delivered to the parish office.

**ADVENT PREPARATION:** As the end of the year speeds to a conclusion there is always much to do and prepare for. If you will be away over the Christmas period and unable to fulfil your commitments such as reading, preparation, cleaning and counting etc could you please notify the parish of your dates of unavailability so rosters may be prepared accordingly. Thank you

How long till Christmas : <https://www.timeanddate.com/countdown/christmas> try this link in your browser (28 days this Sunday).

**CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT ST PATRICKS:** Please note in your calendars the dates of our Christmas events. Bambinelli Sunday 9/10 December; Second Rite of Reconciliation Thursday 14 December at 5.30 pm; Parish Morning Tea 17 December. Christmas Eve mass at 6 pm is the Vigil Mass for Christmas Day and will not meet your Sunday mass obligation for the weekend.

**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, -Youth & adults (14 years & up): 1-6 Jan. 2024 Married couples & families (specifically designed for married couples. Includes children's 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). Held: NEGS (New England Girls' School), Armidale NSW. For costs, additional information and to register visit: <http://www.immaculata.org.au/ims>

**CENTENARY:** St Patricks will begin planning in the coming years for our centenary. Anyone who has any documentation or information (factual) on the history of St Patricks is invited to provide it (preferably in copies) to the parish in the lead up the celebrations. Please contact the office if you would like further information.

### 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: 26/11/23

**Vigil:** R C Ledwos Di Bolitho  
**9am Sun:** R M Holley A Sartori  
**5.00pm Sun:** R M Murray D Bearman  
**Counting Team** P Shiels; A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** J Hutt J Moran  
**Altar Linen:** M Vella

### WEEK 4 ROSTER: 3/12/23

**Vigil:** D Gowing 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** M Vella A Jones  
**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.

