

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

*Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.* Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

### WELCOME AND THANK YOU

Today we welcome Dr Rosemary Canavan as our reflection writer. Rosemary is Senior Lecturer in New Testament at Catholic Theological College, Melbourne.

In her reflection, she will briefly consider each of the Scripture readings set down for the Sunday.

We are very grateful and thank Fr Christopher Monaghan CM, for his insightful reflections on the readings over the past three years.

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

3 DECEMBER 2023

### WATCHING AND WAITING

The liturgical year begins, Advent dawns, and the readings call us into reflection and renewal of our relationship with God. The prophet Isaiah's plea resounds across the ages, lamenting the current state of affairs. Having already asked God to see how bad things are, he beseeches God "Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down." Then and now, God's help is needed to turn our lives around.

The psalm invites us to raise our voices in response "Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved." Paul writing to the Corinthians offers a thanksgiving to God for the revelation of Jesus Christ and prays with all gratefulness so that they, and we, "will not be without any of the gifts of the Holy Spirit while waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ."

In today's Gospel four imperatives emphatically call upon our hearts: "see" and "be alert" come in rapid succession, then "stay awake" is repeated. This warning to stay awake is echoed twice to the disciples in Gethsemane. The beginning of Mark's Gospel announces, "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ" (v1) and "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news" (v15). The ultimate moment of revelation of Jesus comes with the resurrection and the empty tomb. This is our time to turn our hearts to God, to hear the good news, to wait with gratitude and renew our souls before celebrating anew the birth of Jesus, God among us.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

### FIRST READING

Isa 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*  
*Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,  
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.  
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways  
and harden our hearts against fearing you?  
Return, for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down — at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity  
and keep your ways in mind.

You were angry when we were sinners;  
we had long been rebels against you.

We were all like men unclean,  
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.  
We have all withered like leaves  
and our sins blew us away like the wind.  
No one invoked your name  
or roused himself to catch hold of you.

For you hid your face from us  
and gave us up to the power of our sins.  
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;  
we the clay, you the potter,  
we are all the work of your hand.

■ The word of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 79:2-3, 15-19

**R.** Lord, make us turn to you, let us see  
your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,/shine forth  
from your cherubim throne./O Lord, rouse up  
your might,/O Lord, come to our help. **R.**



2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,/look down from heaven and see./Visit this vine  
and protect it,/the vine your right hand has  
planted. **R.**

3. May your hand be on the man you have  
chosen,/the man you have given your strength./  
And we shall never forsake you again:/give us  
life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

### SECOND READING

1 Cor 1:3-9

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

*The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.*  
May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ  
send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

■ The word of the Lord.

3 Dec 23

Wk 1 Advent 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

**Sat:** 4.30-5.00 pm

\*Or by appointment

**WEEKDAY  
MASSES**

**Wed:** 12 noon Anointing Mass

**Thur:** 9 am Mass

**Fri:** 12 noon Mass

**ENTRANCE  
ANTIPHON:**

- To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

**COMMUNION  
ANTIPHON:**

- The Lord will bestow His bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

**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.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Richard Bowler (1/12), John Paul Vella (4/12), Lawrence Vella (23/1), Anna Chu.

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

**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



*A Priest with a golf addiction has been waiting for the constant rain to stop... Finally he awakes to a beautiful Sunday morning after the long weeks of bad weather. He just can't work today, he HAS to find a way to fit in a round or two of golf. He calls in sick, and drives 2 hours to a distant course so no one will recognize him. He lines up his first shot, a par 5, and lets it rip... Meanwhile, Saint Peter and God are watching the wayward priest, and as he tees off God waves his hand and the ball flies straight and true all the way to the green, bounces once, and goes straight into the hole. St Peter is confused and asks, "Why didn't you punish him?" God responds "I did! ...who is he going to tell?"*



### 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:

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 24 Christmas Eve Mass 6pm

**Dec 25** Christmas 9am Mass



**"Only what you will, my God". (1898)**



**ANNOINTING MASS** will be offered this coming Wednesday 6 December at 12 noon.

Please let those you know who may benefit from the unique celebration of this special Mass.

**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 after 9am mass—please bring a plate if you are able to. 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>

**UKRAINE ADVENT APPEAL:** A special Advent collection will be held next weekend for donations to be transferred to the Ukraine Catholic Church in Australia to remit to the charity, Mudra Sprava (Wise Action). The organisation has 3 focus areas: Evacuations from frontline territories; Food packages for those in need; Shelters for internally displaced persons. Please come prepared and keep those people in the Ukraine & Russia in your prayers.

### 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 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

### WEEK 5 ROSTER: 10/12/23

**Vigil:** R C Ledwos, D Bolitho  
**9am Sun:** R J Ryan, G Clout  
**5.00pm Sun:** R J Murray A O'Halloran  
**Counting Team:** P Sheils, A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning:** S Brown V Griffiths  
**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

