

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*They do not practise what they preach.*

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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# Breaking Open the Word

## CALLED TO SERVE

Leadership has always been a risky business. With leadership comes prestige and the esteem of others and yet these can be dangerous and murky waters. Those involved in leadership often experience being caught in the tension between the respective privileges and responsibilities that accompany their position. Today's readings converge in their concern to reflect on the nature of authority and how it should be exercised.

At the time Malachi wrote, the people of Israel were in dire need of religious reform and the priests were called to account for their role in creating that situation. If the charge could be laid at the feet of the priests in Malachi's time that they did not care for the people, the same could not be said for Paul. While Paul was called to be an apostle, he was also most concerned to offer the gospel without charge. In the ancient world wandering teachers were usually sponsored financially. Paul avoided such ambiguous relationships by not accepting any help from a community till he had established it and was ready to move on to another.

When Jesus sets out to address the disciples and the people about the scribes and Pharisees it probably sounded fairly safe. Anyone can be comfortable when another person is being subjected to scrutiny and criticism! But the second half of the Gospel suddenly changes direction and disciples in every age are given some guiding principles. Firstly, leadership comes from God, secondly, we belong to one family and thirdly, leadership means service.

Christopher Monaghan CP



# THE SAVING WORD

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

5 NOVEMBER 2023

## FIRST READING

Mal 1: 14-2: 2, 8-10

A reading from the prophet Malachi

*You have strayed from the way, you have caused many to stumble by your teaching.*

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 130

**R.** In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

- O Lord, my heart is not proud  
nor haughty my eyes.  
I have not gone after things too great  
nor marvels beyond me. **R.**
- Truly I have set my soul  
in silence and peace.  
A weaned child on its mother's breast,  
even so is my soul. **R.**
- O Israel, hope in the Lord  
both now and for ever. **R.**



## SECOND READING

1 Thess 2: 7-9, 13

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

*We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our lives as well.*

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 23: 9, 10

Alleluia, alleluia! / You have one Father, your Father in heaven; / you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ. / Alleluia!

5 Nov 23  
Wk 31 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:

Forsake me not O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my aid O Lord, my strong salvation!

### COMMUNION

#### ANTIPHON:

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** 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), Sandra Sheedy.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Neddie Clarke (12/10), Mary McInnes (6/11), Stuart Betts (13/11)  
Ian MacPherson (30/11).

**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 -

A small boy was at the zoo with his father.  
They were looking at the tigers, and his father was telling him how ferocious they were. "Daddy, if the tigers got out and ate you up..." "Yes, son?" the father asked, ready to console him. .... .. "Which bus would I take home?"



### 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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OUR DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT

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

*"If men and women forget, God does not." (1886)*



**SUPPORT FOR DAVID SMITH'S FAMILY:** A funeral mass will be held for Raphael, Evita and Philomena Smith on 6 November at 11 am at St Mary and Joseph's Cathedral, Armidale. A bus will be leaving St Nicholas Presbytery carpark at 9am Monday 6th November. The Funeral will commence at 11.00am. If you would like to book a seat on the bus, would you please telephone the Parish office on 6766 2228.

NB: Many people would like to give something to assist the Smith Family but were not keen to go on the internet to do so via the Go Fund me project set up by one of David's family and in this regard, an account has been set up with ADIG in the name of two of ADIG's board members, (for legal reasons), being Mrs Alison Hamilton and Mrs Kerry Aaby, in trust for the David Smith Family. Details of the account are: BSB 082105 Acc. Number: 001063226. Account Name: A Hamilton and K Aaby in Trust David Smith Family. Both the Armidale and Tamworth branches will be accepting both cash and cheque gifts for this worthy cause. It is also possible for electronic transfers using the details provided.

**NOVEMBER MASS:** Please use envelopes to make requests for November Masses to be said for those deceased members of your family and/or friends with their **names written very clearly** as they will be printed and displayed on the church notice board. Thank you

**OCTOBER:** All parishioners of all ages are invited to a rosary procession by candlelight on Friday 10 Nov at 7.30 pm at Nazareth House Chapel. The event will be coordinated by the Frassati Society. Please take a leaflet from the back of the church and for more info phone Tammy on 0459784171. The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. The Rosary is recited each Saturday and Sunday before the 5.30pm and 9am Masses and before each mass during the week.

### 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 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). 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 10: Rosary Procession by candlelight Nov 28 - First Reconciliation

### WEEK 6 ROSTER: 5/11/23

**Vigil:** R D Gowing, G Styman  
**9am Sun:** R S Brown A Sartori  
**5.00pm Sun:** R M Murray D Bearman  
**Counting Team** R Paull, A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** M Vella A Jones  
**Altar Linen:** E Smyth

### WEEK 1 ROSTER: 12/11/23

**Vigil:** R C Ledwos D Gowing  
**9am Sun:** R S Nichols G Clout  
**5.00pm Sun:** R M Murray C Lavell  
**Counting Team** O & J Whale, 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 to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

