

## MASS DURING THE DAY

**FIRST READING** Isa 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet  
Isaiah

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

■ The word of the Lord.

**RESP PSALM** Ps 97:1-6. R. v. 3  
**R.** All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy arm / have brought salvation. **R.**

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; / has shown his justice to the nations. / He has remembered his truth and love / for the house of Israel. **R.**

3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all the earth, / ring out your joy. **R.**

4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, / with the sound of

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music. / With trumpets and the sound of the horn / acclaim the King, the Lord. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Heb 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is.

things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received — yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

**GOSPEL** Jn 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO YOU ALL.  
MAY THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOUR  
BRING YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES  
HOPE, PEACE AND JOY.



# THE SAVING WORD

25 DECEMBER 2023

## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD / B

### MASS DURING THE NIGHT

**FIRST READING** Isa 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet  
Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

■ The word of the Lord.

**RESP PS** 95:1-3, 11-13 R. v. Lk 2:11

**R.** Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R.**

2. Proclaim his help day by day, / tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, / let the sea and all within it thunder praise, / let the



land and all it bears rejoice, / all the trees of the wood shout for joy / at the presence of the Lord for he comes, / he comes to rule the earth. **R.**

4. With justice he will rule the world, / he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Tit 2:11-14  
A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

■ The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Lk 2:10-11  
Alleluia, alleluia! / Good News and great joy to all the world:/

today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. / Alleluia.

**GOSPEL** Lk 2:1-14  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census — the first — took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour'.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

25 Dec 2023

Christmas Yr B

## 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

**WEEKDAY** \*No Weekday Masses this week

**CONFESIONS: Sat:**

**4.30-5.15pm**

\*Or by appointment



**ENTRANCE**

Today you will know that the Lord will come,  
and He will save us, and in the morning you will see His glory.

**ANTIPHON:**

The glory of the Lord will be revealed,  
and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Patricia Mooney, Grzegorz (Greg) Jurek, Cathie Menck

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Richard Bowler(1/12), Perce McInnes(2/12), John Paul Vella(4/12), Mary Sampson(2/1), John O'Brien (3/1), Pamela Mary Davy (nee Barry (6/1), Anna Chu, Ivan Lillicrap (18/1), Rod Taylor (20/1), Rod Kelly(20/1), Lawrence Vella (23/1).

**DECEASED:** Sr Iris Fittler rsj, Jacqueline Galvin, Father Morrie Clarke. Jack Sampson, Hugh and Dalis O'Brien, John O'Brien, Raphael, Evita and Philomena Smith, Peter Nally, Fr John Carey, Sandra Sheedy, Frank Koppman (Fr Anthony's Dad). Relatives and friends of Kathie O'Brien, Pamela Davy, Rod Kelly, Gwen Gerathy, Les Wallworth (Sydney), Margaret Marshall, Valerie Chillingworth, Sr Rita Vella, Barry Schipp.

**SICK:** Terry Dean, Sr Gerard Joseph, Gail Styman, Suzanne Roberts, Shane Davidson, Pauline Wiley, Joan Crowe, Lisa Foster, Shirley Collier, Norma O'Brien, Barbara Brennan, Colin MacPherson, Alison and baby Huxley Gallagher, William Bonner, Peter Richards, Graeme Bussell, Kate Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Fr Bernie Flood.

## twelve days of CHRISTMAS

**\*VEENA'S VERSION:** The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ. \*Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments. \*Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love. \*The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. \*The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old

Testament. \*The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation. \*Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophesy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy. \*The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes. \*Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control. \*The ten lords-a-leaping were the ten commandments. \*The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples and the twelve drummers drumming symbolised the



## 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

## Christmas Message 2023

As 2023 draws to a close, we reflect upon what we have achieved in the past twelve months; the challenges we have all faced, the joys and the disappointments, the losses, and the celebrations that we have witnessed.

And now as we look to the future with hope in 2024 we are invited to stop and pause for a moment and witness the star of Bethlehem rise before us.

This star heralding the birth of Jesus to guide us once more into the unknown of a new year ahead.

Firstly, let's give thanks to one another for the support we have shown and received in the past year and as we give thanks, we also acknowledge our growth of faith and our personal achievements.

This Christmas we join again as we walk the path of faith. Just like the Christmas tree, beautifully decorated not just with one light, but with many multi-coloured lights of different brightness and designs.

We too have not just one light of Christ to guide us, but many lights.

May we give thanks for what we have and be prepared to make a sacrifice to support those less fortunate than ourselves.

It appears the words we have heard many times this year "the cost of living", "rate hikes", "increased expenses", "a fragile world", will likely be repeated in the near future, but all of us will find hope and assurance as we unite to care and support each other in the months ahead.

Many difficulties and challenges are likely for us in the new year.

We have got through them in the past where we have learnt to adapt and grow through them together.

Our faith is the greatest gift we share with each other.

May we give thanks to the hard working committed volunteers, the emergency services, the medical service personnel, the various agencies who share their vocation of service to care for all during difficult times.

May they receive many blessings to continue their vital roles in our community.

I also want to thank the many volunteers carrying out parish ministries in and around our Church. Sisters, deacons and priests (active and retired),

I would also like to thank you for your support and love shown throughout the year.

May the star of Christmas bless us all and may this light continue to inspire us to be the beacons of light and love to each other in 2024.

May the birthday of the Child Jesus bring many blessings to you, and may God bless your families and friends as we continue to walk each day knowing we are never alone.

A Holy Christmas and a Blessed New Year to you all.

Fr. Anthony Koppman



## CHRISTMAS 25/12/23

**Vigil Mass 6.00 pm:** R Sr Kathryn D Gowing

**Christmas Day 9 am:** R R Paull S Brown

**\*No Sun Evening Mass**

**Counting Team** O & J Whale A Bowden

## WEEK 2 ROSTER: 31/12/23

**Vigil:** R Sr Kathryn N Pullman

**9am Sun:** R S Brown R Paull

**5.00pm Sun:** R Volunteer D Bearman

**Counting Team** S Brown, A Bowden

**Fri Cleaning 5/1** M Vella A Jones

**Altar Linen:** E Smyth

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and care for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

