

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Mt 17: 5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice  
is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL**

Mk 9: 2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according  
to Mark.

*This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi', he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah'. He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him'. Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

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# Breaking Open the Word

**THE GIFT OF GOD'S OWN SON**

In the second week of Lent, we are taken to an encounter of God with Abraham where he is asked to sacrifice his son. This seems incomprehensible to us. Is this the ultimate sign of commitment or faithfulness to God? If it is a test, Abraham shows his fidelity but the sacrificing of Isaac doesn't happen. God spares Abraham's son. This reading is in direct confrontation with the second reading from Romans where "God did not spare God's own son." These words are stark and a testament to the faithfulness and compassion of God.

This invites our attention to the enormity of God's gift echoed in the words of Jesus: "God loved the world so much, he gave his only Son" (John 3:16). It is in this context that we embrace the transfiguration. This is the second occasion in Mark's Gospel where Jesus is revealed to be God's son. In light of the dazzling appearance of Jesus with Moses and Elijah and the voice from heaven, we see these disciples in fear. Occurring shortly after Jesus has revealed his fate, these leaders, Peter, James and John, witness this event and when it subsides and they go down the mountain, they are told not to say anything till the Son of Man has risen from the dead. This is baffling. They are distressed about what "rising from the dead" could mean. This insight into the community of Mark may also intersect with our own searchings. How do we understand God's gift in the death and resurrection of God's own son?

Dr Rosemary Canavan



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / B

# THE SAVING WORD

25 FEBRUARY 2024

**FIRST READING**

Gen 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis.

*The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.*

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son', God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

■ The word of the Lord.

**RESP PSALM**

Ps 115: 10, 15-19. R. 114: 9

**R.** I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said: / 'I am sorely  
afflicted.' / O precious in the eyes of the Lord /  
is the death of his faithful. **R.**



2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; /  
you have loosened my bonds. / A thanksgiving  
sacrifice I make: / I will call on the Lord's  
name. **R.**

3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil / before all  
his people, / in the courts of the house of the  
Lord, / in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

Rom 8: 31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Romans.

*God did not spare his own Son.*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

■ The word of the Lord.

25 Feb 2024  
Lent 2 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.

**Office Hrs:** Wed & Thurs 8.30-11.30 am

**Administration** Di Bolitho, Anne Bowden

**Presbytery** 67658211

**Sacristan** Elaine Smyth

**Pastoral Associate** 0411703608

**School Principals** Greg O'Toole and Maree Holland

**St Josephs School** 67654079

**WEEKEND MASSES**  
Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am Sun: 5pm

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

### CONFESSIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.00 pm  
\*Or by appointment

**ENTRANCE ANTI-PHON:** Of you my heart has spoken: Seek His face.

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

**COMMUNION ANTI-PHON:** This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Maureen Sampson, Christopher George, Sr Antoinette Walsh RSJ, Sr Therese Conroy RSJ, Leonard Fordham, Margaret Hough.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Julia Blanch (12/2), Dalis O'Brien (12/2), Vivian Betts (15/2), Maria Mood (16/2), Anna Fordham (19/2), Fr Wayne Peters (22/2), Mavis Parsons (26/2), William Grima (5/3).

**DECEASED:** Margaret Marshall, Valerie Chillingworth, Sr Rita Vella, Barry Schipp, Kevin O'Toole, Marie Wren, Greg Mood, Patricia Mooney.

**SICK:** Christine Porters, Gary Donaldson, Shane Davidson, Monica Austin, Colin MacPherson, Terry Dean, Barbara Brennan, Graeme Bussell, Kate Harrison, William Bonner, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Fr Bernard Flood, John Betts.

### VEENA'S VERSIONS:

What would Jesus tell Peter, James and John on Mt Tabor today?

"There may be no Wi Fi on the mountain, but you'll be sure to find a *better connection* here"

So...What kind of WiFi does God have in heaven? "Eternet"! Of course. (*eternally connected*)



the gospel comes into its own when it  
is accepted that life does not work  
without it ...

### COMING EVENTS:

**25 Feb** Parish Morning Tea **7 Mar** Memorial Mass Sr Conroy **20 Mar** Anointing Mass 12 noon

**21 Mar** Second Rite of Reconciliation 5.30 pm

**DE LA SALLE ARMIDALE REUNION:** All Ex-students of De La Salle College Armidale are invited to a School Reunion to be held In Armidale on Saturday 26th October THIS YEAR, which is the 50th Anniversary of the closing of the College as we knew it. We need to soon know NUMBERS coming! If you (wife/partner also welcome) intend to come please send a "YES" email to [dlscarmidale@yahoo.com](mailto:dlscarmidale@yahoo.com). to be put on invitees list. Limited seating for this special Reunion! More information - Pete Stanley, mob 0401745406. Other information will come to your email.

### 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

*"The cross is my portion - it is also my sweet rest and support." (1872)*



**LENTEN GROUPS:** If you would like to join a Lenten Tuesdays at 6 pm please contact the office.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** After the birth of her children, 22-year-old **Ronita** was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family. **Please donate to Project Compassion.** Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.** You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or calling 1800 024 413.

**PARISH MORNING TEA:** Will be held this Sunday after the 9am Mass. All welcome to come and bring food to share if you can.

**EASTER ROSTERS** are now being developed. Please let the office know if you will **not** be available for reading during the Easter period. Thank you.

**MEMORIAL MASS FOR SR THERESE CONROY RSJ:** The Sisters of St Joseph are meeting in Tamworth, and a Memorial Mass has been organised to celebrate the life of Sr Therese Conroy rsj at St Nicholas's Church, East Tamworth, on Thursday, 7 March at 5.00 p.m. Local priests are invited to concelebrate. All welcome.

### PLEASE NOTE POSTPONEMENT OF REFLECTION EVENT 9 MARCH AT ST PATRICK'S PARISH:

Unfortunately, due to sickness in the family of Sr Maureen, the reflection day for 9 March has been postponed until a date to be determined. It is with regret that the decision has been made.

**ANointing MASS:** During holy week - Anointing Mass to be held Wednesday 27 March at 12 noon.

**SAVING PALITATIVE CARE FUNDING:** Archbishop Anthony Fisher has made a plea for all of us to sign a petition requesting reinstatement of the funding withdrawn from palliative care and other funding being made available to euthanasia programs.. Please go to the [online petition](#) and record your opposition.

**menALIVE WEEKEND FOR MEN.** What are you doing on the 4th and 5th of May? Could you benefit from a weekend featuring talks, personal testimonies, opportunities for discussion and space to reflect? Since menALIVE commenced in 2003 thousands of Catholic men have been encouraged and inspired at weekends across Australia. Now, Armidale's 3rd menALIVE weekend is being hosted at Echidna Gully at Metz Gorge. Further information - [www.trybooking.com/CPBWS](http://www.trybooking.com/CPBWS) to register or contact Chris on 0433 775 429 .

### 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,



### WEEK 4 ROSTER: 25/2/24

**Vigil:** Sr Kathryn N Pullman  
**9am Sun:** R S Brown, M Donaldson  
**5.00pm Sun:** R A O'Halloran C Lavell  
**Counting Team** S Brown A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** 1/3 M Vella A Jones  
**Altar Linen:** H Reid

### WEEK 5 ROSTER: 3/3/24

**Vigil:** R C Ledwos, D Bolitho  
**9am Sun:** R J Ryan, G Clout  
**5.00pm Sun:** R J Moloney D Bearman  
**Counting Team** O & J Whale, A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** 8/3 S Brown V Griffiths  
**Altar Linen:** J Hutt

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.

