

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

4 FEBRUARY 2024

CELEBRATING THE WORD OF GOD

Today the Church in Australia celebrates 'Word of God Sunday'. In establishing this day, Pope Francis invited us "to grow in religious and intimate familiarity with the sacred scriptures" (*Aperuit Iles*, 30 Sep 2019). This celebration brings our attention to how we engage with the Word in the liturgy, and how we take the Word with us and proclaim it in our daily lives. Today let's focus on the Gospel.

Mark portrays Jesus discerning his ministry. We accompany Jesus on his journey: having left the synagogue, where he had been teaching and healing, he enters the house of Simon and Andrew, along with James and John, where he finds and heals Simon's mother-in-law. By evening as the sun is setting, the word is already out, and people are bringing the sick and possessed to him. Indeed, "the whole city was gathered at the door" (v. 33), and Jesus ministers to them. In the morning, while it is still dark, Jesus goes to pray. Simon leads a search, and when they find him, Jesus declares, "Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is why I came" (v. 38). What we see in this Gospel passage is the word and deed in action in Jesus, and his discernment through prayer to take his mission out further.

Nourished by the Word of God let us pray and discern our mission in our daily lives sharing the Good News beyond our doors.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Job 7: 1-4, 6-7

A reading from the book of Job.

I am filled with sorrow all day long.

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'
Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 146: 1-6. R. v. 3

R. Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted. *or Alleluia!*

1. Praise the Lord for he is good; / sing to our God for he is loving; / to him our praise is due. R.
2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem / and brings back Israel's exiles, / he heals the broken-hearted, / he binds up all their wounds. / He fixes the number of the stars; / he calls each one by its name. R.
3. Our Lord is great and almighty; / his wisdom can never be measured. / The Lord raises the lowly; / he humbles the wicked to the dust. R.



SECOND READING

1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23

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

Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessing.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 8: 17

Alleluia, alleluia!
He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering.
Alleluia!

4 Feb 2024
Wk 5 Yr B

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org>
Email: 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: 5.30pm Sun: 9am Sun: 5pm

CONFESIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.00 pm
*Or by appointment

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O Come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for He is the Lord our God.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Let them thank the Lord for His mercy, His wonders for the children of men, for He satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry He fills with good things.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Sr Therese Conroy RSJ, Kevin O'Toole, Marie Wren, Greg Mood, Patricia Mooney.

ANNIVERSARIES: John O'Brien (3/1), Pamela Mary Davy (nee Barry (6/1), Mary Sampson(18/1), Ivan Lillicrap (18/1), Rod Kelly (20/1), Lawrence Vella (23/1), Dalis O'Brien (12/2), Maria Mood (16/2).

DECEASED: Grzegorz (Greg) Jurek, Cathie Mencke, Gwen Gerathy, Les Wallworth (Sydney),

Margaret Marshall, Valerie Chillingworth, Sr Rita Vella, Barry Schipp.

SICK: Sr Therese Conroy RSJ, Monica Austin, Colin MacPherson, Terry Dean, Barbara Brennan, Graeme Bussell, Kate Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, William Bonner, Fr Bernard Flood, John Betts.

VEENA'S VERSION:

A priest asks his Men's Group, "What would you do if you knew you only had four weeks left before the great Judgment Day?" A gentleman says, "I would go out into my community and minister the Gospel to those that have not yet accepted the Lord into their lives." "Very good!" says the priest. Another speaks up and says enthusiastically, "I would dedicate all of my remaining time to serving God, my family, my church, and my fellow man with a greater conviction." That's wonderful!" the priest comments. One gentleman in the back finally speaks up loudly and says, "I would go to my mother-in-law's house for the four weeks." The priest thinks this is very kind of the man to look after his mother-in-law at this important time and asks, "Why your mother-in-law's home?"
..... "Because that will make it the longest four weeks of my life!"

COMING EVENTS:

13 Feb Shrove Tuesday
14 Feb Ash Wednesday mass at 12 noon
9 Mar Sr Maureen McDermott RSJ Reflection Day 9.30 am —2 pm

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A SPECIAL COLLECTION for missionary orders will be taken up **next** weekend 10/11 February. Please place your donation in the receptacle as you leave the church to support this important work.

LENTEN GROUPS: Lent commences early on 14 February. If you would like to join a Lenten group, please contact the office by email or phone.

LENT 2024 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY, BRUCE DOWNES: Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed! For 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is FREE and you can sign up here: <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent> Go to BruceDownes.org for more information.

SR THERESE CONROY passed away in Nioka Palliative Care on Friday morning. Sr Therese humbly simply asked that you pray for her and that you are aware of her gratitude.

2024 ROSTERS: Should anyone be interested in reading, counting, cleaning or other volunteer duties please call or email the office and supply your contact details. We are especially short of readers for Sunday afternoon masses. Please volunteer if you are able to help in these areas. Thank you.

WORD OF GOD SUNDAY: The Church in Australia celebrates Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February. Pope Francis established the day, devoted to "the celebration, study and dissemination" of the Word of God. Visit www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodsunday for resources to help commemorate the day and for suggestions on how to better engage with Sacred Scripture in various ways and settings.

SICK LIST: The Sick list has been cleared as of the end of January. Please advise the office if you would like anyone kept on the list to receive our prayers in their illness.

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

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 1 ROSTER: 4/2/24

Vigil: R C Ledwos Sr Kathryn
9am Sun: R S Nichols G Clout
5.00pm Sun: R J Moloney C Lavell
Counting Team P Shiels; A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 9/2 S Brown V Griffiths
Altar Linen: J Hutt

WEEK 2 ROSTER: 11/2/24

Vigil: R Sr Kathryn N Pullman
9am Sun: R S Brown R Paull
5.00pm Sun: R A O'Halloran D Bearman
Counting Team G & M Thrift, A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 16/2 M Brown K O'Brien
Altar Linen: M Vella

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.

