

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 3: 16

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! / God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, / that all who believe in him might have eternal life. / Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Jn 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

10 MARCH 2024

GOD'S LOVE, GIFT AND GRACE

On this *Laetare* Sunday (so called for the first word of the liturgy is "rejoice") we find in the Letter to the Ephesians: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" (2:8). To contemplate this statement is to begin to understand the generous mercy and love of God for each of us.

This reading follows 2 Chronicles that recounts the fall of Jerusalem, despite the compassion of God for the people, but then King Cyrus of Persia liberating the exiles. So as the passage begins in Ephesians we see the continuity with God, who is rich in mercy. Three times "grace" is repeated: "by grace you have been saved," "the immeasurable riches of God's grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" and "for by grace you have been saved through faith." This reiteration accentuates the love of God and invites us to know that "we are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus for good works."

John's Gospel reminds us "God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (3:16). With his clear illumination of light and darkness, John affirms that "those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

How will we respond to God's love, gift and grace?

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

2 Chron 36: 14-16, 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles.
The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 136. R. v. 6

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

1. By the rivers of Babylon / there we sat and wept, / remembering Zion: / on the poplars that grew there / we hung our harps. R.



2. For it was there that they asked us, / our captors, for songs, / our oppressors, for joy / 'Sing to us,' they said, / 'one of Zion's songs.' R.

3. O how could we sing / the song of the Lord / on alien soil? / If I forget you, Jerusalem, / let my right hand wither! R.

4. O let my tongue / cleave to my mouth / if I remember you not, / if I prize not Jerusalem / above all my joys! R.

SECOND READING

Eph 2: 4-10

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

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life. God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he has meant us to live it.

■ The word of the Lord.

10 March 2024
Lent 4 Yr B

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org>
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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 Mon: 9 am Tues: 9 am
Wed: 12 noon Thur: 9 am Fri: 12 noon

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

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), Marie Mansfield (3/3), William Grima (5/3).

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

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

VEENAS VERSION:

The frugal Catholic man walked into the house panting and almost completely exhausted. "What happened, hon-ey?" inquired his wife. "It's a great new idea I have for alms giving during Lent," he gasped. "I ran all the way home from work behind the bus and saved \$5.00 for Project Compassion." "That wasn't very bright," replied his flustered wife. "Why didn't you run behind a taxi and save \$50?"



COMING EVENTS:

24 Mar Palm Sunday 29 Mar Good Friday 31 Mar Easter

CHANGES TO EASTER EVENTS: *There will be NO Anointing Mass OR Rite of Second Reconciliation* during this years Holy Week.

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

"God has always helped me, and I have more than every cause to trust in Him." (1874)



PROJECT COMPASSION: Memory is 26 years old and lives in rural Malawi. With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Memory was able to enrol at a technical college where she learnt technical skills in carpentry. She undertook a three-year carpentry course, with CADECOM supporting part of her tuition and boarding fees creating life changing outcomes for her and 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, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413. Click on the link to see the full story: [Memory and Other Stories](#)

EASTER ROSTERS Are now displayed at the back of the church. Please check these and speak with Sr Kathryn if you will not be available.

VEENA'S UPDATE - FR ANTHONY ON LEAVE: A big Welcome and thanks to Fr Martin Maunsell as he provides for our pastoral care during Fr Anthony's absence.

HOLY WATER BOTTLES: Please return last year's or be sure to bring your own for holy water at Easter.

PLEASE NOTE POSTPONEMENT OF REFLECTION EVENT 9 MARCH: 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.

SAVING PALITATIVE CARE FUNDING: Archbishop Anthony Fisher has made a plea for all of us to sign a petition for reinstatement of funding from palliative care funding being made available to euthanasia programs. Please go to https://comms.sydneycatholic.org/v/75218/31191175/email.html?k=cBDXIfndtl6ZniZ9e6_K_v0-mhpMTcBP1aXYFuvaqmo 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 to register or 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, and ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

WEEK 6 ROSTER: 10/3/24

Vigil: R D Gowing, G Styman
9am Sun: R S Brown, A Sartori
5.00pm Sun: R A O'Halloran Volunteer
Counting Team: R Bryant, A Bowden
Fri Cleaning: 15/3 K O'Brien M Brown
Altar Linen: M Vella

WEEK 1 ROSTER: 17/3/24

Vigil: R C Ledwos Sr Kathryn
9am Sun: R S Nichols G Clout
5.00pm Sun: R J Moloney C Lavell
Counting Team: O & J Whale A Bowden
Fri Cleaning: 22/3 J Hutt J Moran
Altar Linen: E Smyth

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.

