

GOSPEL

Jn 12: 20-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus'. Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.'

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

A MATTER OF TIME

In this fifth week of Lent, we approach the crux of our belief. We are drawing near to our journey through Passion Sunday and Holy Week. Jeremiah heralds: "See the days are coming" and Jesus in the Gospel of John proclaims, "Now the hour has come!" These times are both important in their own context yet also mark God's time.

Jeremiah's prophetic words announce God's new covenant with the House of Israel, a covenant which God writes on their hearts that "I will be your God and you will be my people" (Jer 31:33).

As John's passage opens, it is the time of the Passover and some Greeks want to see Jesus. Their seeking of Jesus affirms the words of the Pharisees earlier "the world has gone after him" (John 12:19). The Greeks approach Philip as he has a Greek name, and Philip goes with Andrew, to Jesus. With the Greeks seeking him, Jesus recognises that the gathering has begun, "the world has gone after him," so he announces, "the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified" (John 12:23). An Amen saying follows: "Very truly (Amen, amen), I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24). In this image of a grain of wheat is firstly the revelatory sense of Jesus' fate, destiny and mission. Secondly it is the way to see the disciples and our own lives and mission.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

17 MARCH 2024

FIRST READING

Jer 31: 31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 50: 3-4, 12-15. R. v. 12

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. / In your compassion blot out my offence. / O wash me more and more from my guilt / and cleanse me from my sin. R.

2. A pure heart create for me, O God, / put a steadfast spirit within me. / Do not cast me away from your presence, / nor deprive me of your holy spirit. R.

3. Give me again the joy of your help; / with a spirit of fervour sustain me, / that I may teach transgressors your ways / and sinners may return to you. R.



SECOND READING

Heb 5: 7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 12: 26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! / If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; / and where I am, my servant will also be. / Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

17 March 2024
Lent 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.	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: 5.30 pm	Sun: 9 am	Sun: 5 pm	CONFESSIONS
WEEKDAY MASSES	Mon: St Patrick's Day 9 am	Tues: No Mass		Sat: 4.30-5.00 pm
	Wed: 12 noon	Thur: 9 am	Fri: 12 noon	*Or by appointment

ENTRANCE ANTI-PHON: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

COMMUNION ANTI-PHON: Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Susan Rice (Guyra), Elizabeth Foy (Morpeth), 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: ST PATRICK'S DAY PRAYER

"Here's to a long life and a merry one.
A quick death and an easy one.
A pretty girl and an honest one. A cold beer and another one."
And probably the best known: "May your glass be ever full.
May the roof over your head be always strong.

And may you be in heaven half an hour before the devil knows you're dead."

COMING EVENTS:

18 Mar St Patrick's Day 9 am mass
24 Mar Palm Sunday
29 Mar Good Friday
31 Mar Easter

CHANGES TO EASTER EVENTS: *There will be NO Anointing Mass*
OR Second Rite of Reconciliation during 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

"Take care of yourself, and don't work beyond your strength." (1901)



PROJECT COMPASSION: Caritas Australia partners with the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) to support communities living in urban slums in the Philippines. FCJ runs a number of important programs. Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Samoa to assist communities to have increased access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene to ensure human health and well-being by providing water tanks and sanitation facilities. Caritas Australia partners with the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi through the A+ program. Since 2016, the A+ program has helped 7,397 families across Malawi improve their food security, access to basic water and sanitation, boost women's income generation and strengthen child protection. Find out more at <https://www.caritas.org.au/>. **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](#)

ST PATRICK'S DAY this year falls today! And we wish all the very best of Irish luck and prayers for the day and year. May it be a celebration of our love for God and our fellow human no matter their race or creed. Mass will be celebrated on Monday at 9 am for St Patrick's Feast in Australia.

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: We thank Fr Martin Maunsell for his ongoing pastoral care and look forward to welcoming Fr John McHugh to pastor us in the coming weeks.

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

EASTER WORKING BEE: A working be held on Friday 22 March (this Friday) to spruce the church ready for our wonderful Easter celebrations. If you can assist please join us at 9.00 am.

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*



50 years
Celebrating 50 years in 2024

ADIG

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Account

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- Make an investment of at least \$10 or more within the month;
- AND
- Not make any withdrawals during that same month



SCAN HERE TO VIEW
OUR CURRENT RATES

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

WEEK 2 ROSTER: 24/3/24

Vigil: R P Bamford D Bolitho
9am Sun: R J Ryan G Clout
5.00pm Sun: R A O'Halloran C Lavell
Counting Team S Brown A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 29/3 M Vella A Jones
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.

