

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.'

The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd;
I know my own
and my own know me,
just as the Father knows me
and I know the Father;
and I lay down my life for my sheep.
And there are other sheep I have
that are not of this fold,
and these I have to lead as well.
They too will listen to my voice,
and there will be only one flock
and one shepherd.

The Father loves me,
because I lay down my life
in order to take it up again.
No one takes it from me;
I lay it down of my own free will,
and as it is in my power to lay it down,
so it is in my power to take it up again;
and this is the command I have been given
by my Father.'

■ 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 EASTER / B

21 APRIL 2024

FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

One of the recurring themes in Acts is that of the apostles and disciples being 'filled with the Holy Spirit' which, in turn, finds expression in the boldness of their speech. As Peter addresses the rulers and elders, we observe his boldness in answering their query concerning the healing of a disabled person. Peter qualifies that he does this 'in the name of Jesus Christ the crucified one whom God raised.' He acknowledges that his power and authority come from God through Jesus Christ. He acts in the name of Jesus Christ; he heals as he did. His actions, and not just his words, are testament and witness to the one whom God raised.

The Gospel of John speaks of Jesus as the good shepherd, 'the one who lays his life down for his sheep.' This image of Jesus contrasts with that of the shepherds mentioned in the Old Testament who were bad leaders who led the people of Israel astray. It also interacts with New Testament writings that warn of false shepherds. Jesus, the good shepherd, can be trusted. He is the Son of God and not a hired hand. The focus of the passage is on Jesus as the one who laid down his life freely. In John's account, we hear that Jesus has the power to take up his life again. This is possible, Jesus says, as it is 'the command I have been given by my Father' and it offers strong assurance of God's power in Jesus, of his complete trust in the love of God and his own love for his sheep.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Acts 4: 8-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

This is the only name by which we can be saved.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PS

Ps 117: 1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29. R. v. 22

R. The stone rejected by the builders
has become the cornerstone. (or Alleluia!)

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, /
for his love has no end. / It is better to take
refuge in the Lord / than to trust in men: / it
is better to take refuge in the Lord / than to
trust in princes. R.

2. I will thank you for you have given
answer / and you are my saviour. / The stone
which the builders rejected / has become the
cornerstone. / This is the work of the Lord, / a
marvel in our eyes. R.

3. Blessed in the name of the Lord / is he who
comes. / We bless you from the house of the
Lord; / I will thank you for you have given
answer / and you are my saviour. / Give thanks
to the Lord for he is good; / for his love has no
end. R.



DW

SECOND READING

1 Jn 3: 1-2

A reading from the first letter of St John.

We shall see God as he is.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,

by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God

but what we are to be in the future has not yet
been revealed;

all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him

because we shall see him as he really is.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10: 14

Alleluia, alleluia! / I am the good shepherd,
says the Lord; / I know my sheep, and
mine know me. / Alleluia!

21 April 2024

Easter Wk 4 Yr B

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.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: 9.00am Sun: 5pm

CONFESIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.00 pm

*Or by appointment

WEEKDAY MASSES Wed: 12 noon Liturgy Thursday: 9 am Anzac Day Mass

Fri: 12 noon Liturgy

ENTRANCE The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;

ANTIPHON: by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

COMMUNION The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down His life for His sheep

ANTIPHON: and willingly died for His flock, alleluia.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Peter Newley, Colin MacPherson, Gary Donaldson.

ANNIVERSARIES: Marie Mansfield (3/3), William Grima (5/3), Anna (25/3),

Fr Bruce MacPherson (8/4), Harry Cunningham (30/4).

DECEASED: Margaret Marshall, Sr Rita Vella, Barry Schipp.

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

VEENA'S VERSION: A redhead goes for a drive through the country. She stops as a shepherd is moving his flock across the road. The redhead gets out of her car to stretch and has an idea. "Hey Mister! If I can guess how many sheep you have, may I keep one?" The shepherd has hundreds of sheep and feels confident enough to agree. The redhead looks over the flock and says, "361." The shepherd is stunned that she guessed correctly but, being a man of his word, allows her to pick out her favourite. The redhead is about to put her new pet in her car when the shepherd calls out to her. "Hey Lady! If I can guess your real hair colour, may I have my dog back?"



COMING EVENTS:

28 Apr Term 2 Commences

15 June REFLECTION DAY West Tamworth Parish Centre

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: BSB 082 105

1st. Collection West Tamworth Presbytery (Diocesan collection) Acc No: 001023642

2nd Collection West Tamworth Church (St Patricks Church) Acc No:001041198

MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS:

His holiness Pope Francis was deeply saddened to learn of the violent attack in Bondi, and he sends the assurance of his spiritual closeness to all affected by this senseless tragedy, especially those who are now mourning the loss of a loved one. He likewise offers his prayers for the dead, the injured, as well as the first responders, and invokes upon the nation the divine blessings of consolation and strength.



"God be praised." (1898)



VEENA'S UPDATE - FR ANTHONY'S LEAVE: Please keep Father Anthony in your prayers and pray for the return of his good health. Please also pray for blessings upon Fr Martin Maunsell and Fr John McHugh for their continued pastoral care of St Patricks in Fr Anthony's absence.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS: "Our life finds fulfilment when we discover who we are, what our gifts are, where we can make them bear fruit, and what path we can follow in order to become signs and instruments of love, generous acceptance, beauty, and peace, wherever we find ourselves." Pope Francis offered that summary of our Christian vocation in his message for the 61st World Day of Prayer for Vocations, which the Church marks on April 21, 2024.

WORSHIP WITHOUT FEAR: In light of the very sad events at Wakeley Christ the Good Shepherd Church, Archbishop Fisher has released a statement which is at the back of the church. In essence, he urges 'the best response to violence and fear is prayer and peace.' The full statement can be found on the News tab on the St Patrick's website.

PARISH REFLECTION DAY: Sr Maureen's reflection day which was postponed from March, is now rescheduled to 15 June. Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom - Pope Francis invites us to journey with God this Lent. During the day there will be the opportunity to open up the Lenten Message of Pope Francis as we reflect on his words, inviting us to grow to greater freedom.

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 42.

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. Very Importantly - in order to secure our booking at this early stage - 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. to be put on invitees list. Limited seating for this special Reunion! More information if required from Pete Stanley, mob 0401745406. Other information will come to your email.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Eternal God... Bless your Church with holy and faithful priests, deacons, brothers and sisters.

Give those you have called to the married state and those you have chosen to live as single

persons in the world, the special graces that their lives require.

Form us all in the likeness of your Son so that in him, with him and through him we may love you more deeply and serve you more faithfully, always and everywhere.

With Mary we ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

WEEK 6 ROSTER: 21/4/24

Vigil: R N Pullman, G Styman

9am Sun: R S Brown, A Sartori

5.00pm Sun: R A O'Halloran C Lavell

Counting Team S Brown, A Bowden

Fri Cleaning J Hutt J Moran

Altar Linen: E Smyth

WEEK 1 ROSTER: 28/4/24

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 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.

