

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me,  
so have I loved you.  
Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments  
you will remain in my love,  
just as I have kept my Father's commandments  
and remain in his love.

I have told you this  
so that my own joy may be in you  
and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment:  
love one another,  
as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love  
than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends,  
if you do what I command you.  
I shall not call you servants any more,  
because a servant does not know  
his master's business;

I call you friends,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me,  
no, I chose you;  
and I commissioned you  
to go out and to bear fruit,  
fruit that will last;  
and then the Father will give you  
anything you ask him in my name.  
What I command you  
is to love one another.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word

## THE INCLUSIVENESS OF GOD

Our first reading from Acts today is an edited story of the encounter of Peter and Cornelius. It is worth reading the full episode of Chapter 10. What we have is enough to relate the momentous occasion when Peter, a Jew, enters the house of Cornelius, a Gentile. This is significant of itself, laying aside any impropriety. More than this, Peter declares that God shows no partiality. It doesn't matter whether Jew or Gentile, anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. Simultaneously with Peter speaking, the Holy Spirit came upon all the audience, Jews and Gentiles alike.

In John's Gospel, Jesus begins: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you, remain in my love.' This invitation to abide or remain in God's love opens the command to love one another which is ever more poignant in light of the inclusivity of God. In this passage Jesus calls his disciples 'friends' and no longer servants, indicating the closeness of their relationship, their walking together and their collaboration in the work of Jesus. Yet we know even today there are barriers or hurdles that Pope Francis also acknowledges but urges us to find a way forward as a Church. 'Abide in my love' could be our mantra so the love of God is enacted to everyone we meet. How can we seek to be inclusive of all who seek God? How do we develop our ecumenical relationships and outreach to all those whom God desires to be welcomed?

Dr Rosemary Canavan



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / B

# THE SAVING WORD

5 MAY 2024

**FIRST READING** Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also.*

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.'

■ The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 97: 1-4. R. cf. v. 2

**R.** The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. (*or Alleluia!*)

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy arm / have brought salvation. **R.**

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; / has shown his justice to the nations. / He has remembered his truth and love / for the house of Israel. **R.**

3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all the earth, / ring out your joy. **R.**



**SECOND READING**

1 Jn 4: 7-10

A reading from the first letter of St John

*God is love.*

My dear people,  
let us love one another  
since love comes from God  
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.  
Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,  
because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed  
when God sent into the world his only Son  
so that we could have life through him;  
this is the love I mean:

not our love for God,  
but God's love for us when he sent his Son  
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

■ The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Jn 14: 23

Alleluia, alleluia! / All who love me will keep my words, / and my Father will love them and we will come to them. / Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Jn 15: 9-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.*

5 May 2024

Easter Wk 6 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: 9.00am Sun: 5pm

**WEEKDAY MASSES** Mon: 9 am Tues: 9 am Wed: 12 noon  
Thurs: 9 am Fri: 12 noon

### CONFESSIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.00 pm

\*Or by appointment

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth:  
The Lord has freed His people, alleluia.

**COMMUNION** If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and He will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Bishop Peter William Ingham (Wollongong), John Nash, Peter Newley, Colin MacPherson, Gary Donaldson.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Sophie Littlejohns (2/5), Peg MacRae (4/5), 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:**



Said Moses after smashing the Ten Commandments:  
"It's okay, I have a backup in the cloud."



Could they come in Word or Excel format ?

## 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



**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

*"Always try to have success in your work  
but remember God is often glorified in your failure ."* (1874)



**VEENA'S UPDATE - FR ANTHONY'S LEAVE:** Please keep Father Anthony in your prayers and pray for the return of his good health. Should you wish to relay any well wishes to Father Anthony please do so via the parish office. Please also pray for blessings upon Fr Ross O'Brien, Fr Martin Maunsell and Fr John McHugh for their pastoral care of St Patricks during this time.

**MAY THE MONTH OF MARY:** It's a Catholic tradition to honour Mary during the month of May by crowning her statue with flowers. The reason why we crown Mary is best summed up by Pope Paul VI who wrote in 1965 that May is an occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world pay to the Queen of Heaven." The crown symbol is attributed to Mary because she is the Mother of the Son of God, who is our Heavenly King.

*"She who is full of grace, the object of God's pleasure,  
exalted above all the angels and the saints, lived an ordinary life."*

**PARISH REFLECTION DAY:** Sr Maureen's reflection day is on 15 June. Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom - Pope Francis invites us to journey with God. During the day there will be the opportunity to open up the Message of Pope Francis as we reflect on his words, inviting us to grow to greater freedom. Please register on the sheet at the back of the church.

**From Pope Francis' Reflection:** *Today too, the cry of so many of our oppressed brothers and sisters rises to heaven. Let us ask ourselves: Do we hear that cry? Does it trouble us? Does it move us? All too many things keep us apart from each other, denying the fraternity that, from the beginning, binds us to one another.*

**DEATH OF BISHOP PETER WILLIAM INGHAM:** Bishop Peter William Ingham, died peacefully in the late evening at 83 years of age. He had served almost 60 years of priesthood. Bishop Peter was ordained a priest in 1964 for the Archdiocese of Sydney. He served as Private Secretary to Cardinal Freeman, and in 1993 was ordained as auxiliary bishop of Sydney, before being appointed Bishop of Wollongong in 2001 until his retirement.

**SCHOOL OF IDENTITY PARISH MISSION:** Come experience a two-day intensive to help you grow in your identity as a son or daughter of God! Drawing from the rich tradition of Catholic teaching and Sacred Scripture as well as honouring different Christian faith denominations, our dynamic teachers, transformative content, and uplifting culture will prepare you to walk with Jesus under an open Heaven. **Friday 24 May 5.30—9.30 pm (includes dinner) and Saturday 25 May from 9 am—9.30 pm (includes morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner).**

Registration : <https://app.tickets.org.au/ESMbrisbane/EncounterSOI>

**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 [dlsarmidale@yahoo.com](mailto:dlsarmidale@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.

### WEEK 2 ROSTER: 5/5/24

**Vigil:** R Sr Kathryn N Pullman  
**9am Sun:** R S Brown A Sartori  
**5.00pm Sun:** R A O'Halloran T Mitchell  
**Counting Team** R Bryant A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** K O'Brien M Brown  
**Altar Linen:** J Hutt

### WEEK 3 ROSTER: 12/5/24

**Vigil:** R Sr Kathryn Di Bolitho  
**9am Sun:** R M Holley A Sartori  
**5.00pm Sun:** R J Moloney D Bearman  
**Counting Team** O & J Whale; A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** J Hutt J Moran  
**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.

