

they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

'LISTEN TO ME'

Returning to the Gospel of Mark this week, we have an edited version of a dispute raised by the Pharisees and some of the scribes from Jerusalem about some of Jesus' disciples eating loaves with unwashed hands. Particularly in light of our recent pandemic experiences, we may have some sympathy with them. Yet as the narrative unfolds, we are given further background, that this is but one of the observations of their tradition. The prescriptions about washing do not stem from the Torah, the Law, but are local interpretations by specific groups.

Importantly we can join the extended crowd to hear Jesus say, 'Listen to me.' The same words are used by the prophets to call the people of Israel to listen to the word of God. Here it is a call to pay attention to Jesus' words that 'nothing that goes into a person from outside can defile.' It is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions can grow.

Today let us pick up on Jesus' call to 'listen to me' as we read and pray with the scriptures. Let us also hear Pope Francis reminding us, 'The believer does not turn to the Holy Scriptures to support his or her own philosophical and moral view, but because he or she hopes for an encounter; the believer knows that those words were written in the Holy Spirit, and that therefore in that same Spirit they must be welcomed and understood, so that the encounter can occur.'

(Pope Francis audience, 27 Jan. 2021)

Dr Rosemary Canavan



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

1 SEPTEMBER 2024

FIRST READING

Deut 4:1-2, 6-8

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.
You may add nothing to the word which I speak to you – keep the commands of the Lord.

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 14:2-5. R. v. 1

R. The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain? / He who walks without fault; / he who acts with justice / and speaks the truth from his heart. R.

2. He who does no wrong to his brother, / who casts no slur on his neighbour, / who holds the godless in disdain, / but honours those who fear the Lord. R.

3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may; / who takes no interest on a loan / and accepts no bribes against the innocent. / Such a man will stand firm for ever. R.



SECOND READING

James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

A reading from the letter of St James.
Be doers of the word.

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

James 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Father gave us birth by his message of truth,
that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

You forget the commandments of God to hold on to human tradition.

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and

1 Sept 2024

Wk 22 Yr B

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org>
Email: westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au



Parish Administrator: Fr Sabu Pulimalayil

Pastoral Associate: Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.

Office Administration: Di Bolitho, Anne Bowden

Sacristan: Elaine Smyth

School Principals: Greg O'Toole & Maree Holland

Office Hrs:

Tues 8.30-10.30

Wed & Thurs 8.30-11.30 am

Presbytery

67658211

Pastoral Associate

0411703608

St Josephs School

67654079

WEEKEND MASSES Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am & 5pm



CONFESIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.00 pm and
before every Mass
or by appointment

WEEKDAY MASSES Mon: 9am Thur: 9am Fri: 12pm

ENTRANCE *Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.*

ANTIPHON: *O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.*

COMMUNION *How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.*

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: John Sweeney, George Hurn, Mary Camden, Tommy Hudson.

ANNIVERSARIES: Tony Williams (31/7), Margaret Parker (4/8), Jack Sampson (9/8),

Barry Schipp (18/8), Susan Tan Dy (24/8), Greg Gallagher (30/8).

DECEASED: We remember all our fathers now in God's care, Noeline Turner, Bishop Peter William Ingham, John Nash, Peter Newley, Gary Donaldson, Colin MacPherson, .

SICK: Daphne Sweeney (Sr Kathryn's mum), Col Hassett, Judy Murphy, Elaine Murray, Thelma Gaff, Bill Press, 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.

PRAYER TO ST. GREGORY THE GREAT

*O holy Saint Gregory, confessor and priest of the Lord,
I pray thee that thou wouldest intercede with our Lord God for me, that,
being purified from all vice, I may please Him in all things,
and that He will grant me the peace possessed by all His servants. Amen*

An Act of Contrition Prayer

*Merciful Lord, with a pure heart I thank you for taking away my sins.
Let your Holy Spirit guide my life so that my soul may bear
the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
trustfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Amen*



COMING EVENTS:

3 and 4 Sept Clergy Assembly

8 Sept Safeguarding Sunday

11 Sep Anointing Mass

19 Sept Feast Day of Our Lady of La Salette

28 Sept Migrant and Refugee Sunday

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: (BSB 082 105)

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

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

Twenty-second Week in Ordinary Time Year B

"Never lose courage under your sufferings." (1873)



PLEASE NOTE CHANGE TO MASS TIMES THIS WEEK: No masses will be said in Tamworth on Tuesday or Wednesday this week as the Clergy are all meeting on those days.

FIRST RECONCILIATION: Our Parish children will make their First Reconciliation on Monday 2 Sept. Please keep these children in your prayers that their Faith Journey will be strong and blessed.

ANOINTING MASS: Fr Sabu will be holding the next Anointing of the Sick Mass on Wednesday 11 September at 12 noon. Please share this information with all those you may know who would like to receive this special blessing.

EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION: Will be held on the First Friday of every month at 11.30 am before 12 noon mass. The first exposition and benediction will be held on 6 September.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP: Pilgrimage to be held 14-26 October 2024. Mary MacKillop Place invites you to The National Pilgrimage, "In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop" tracing the path of the Australian trailblazer, Mary MacKillop. This pilgrimage invites you to explore sacred sites integral to her inspiring story. Witness first-hand how her legacy continues to thrive both in Australia and overseas. Reserve your spot today and be part of a pilgrimage resonating with the spirit of compassion, courage, and faith. *"Never see a need without doing something about it."* A flyer is on the notice board at the back of the church or at <https://www.marymackillopplace.org.au/retreats-spirituality/australian-national-pilgrimage/>

HAPPY FATHERS DAY TO ALL OUR FATHERS: We wish all our fathers, grandfathers, and 'fathers to be' a very happy Fathers Day this Sunday, including all our clergy fathers who give their lives for our pastoral care. We pray that you all receive the abundant love of family and friends on this special day. Please also pray for those fathers who are unwell at this time and those who have recently passed from our earthly home, that they will receive the many blessings of their heavenly father.

Prayer for Fathers

God our Father, we give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old.

We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation; may they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We pray for fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering; may they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.

We remember fathers, grandfathers and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.

Amen.

WEEK 1 ROSTER: 1/9/24

Vigil: R C Ledwos Sr Kathryn
9am Sun: R S Nichols A Sartori
5.00pm Sun: R J Moloney C Lavell
Counting Team: O & J Whale A Bowden
Fri Cleaning: J Hutt J Moran
Altar Linen: M Vella

WEEK 2 ROSTER: 8/9/24

Vigil: R Sr Kathryn N Pullman
9am Sun: R S Brown J Woodbridge
5.00pm Sun: R A O'Halloran T Mitchell
Counting Team: S Brown A Bowden
Fri Cleaning: M Vella A Jones
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.

