

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.*

Jesus said to the crowd:

'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied:

'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you.

Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood

has eternal life,

and I shall raise him up on the last day.

For my flesh is real food

and my blood is real drink.

He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me

and I live in him.

As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate:

they are dead,

but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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# Breaking Open the Word

## LIVE FOREVER

What does it mean for us to live forever, to abide in Christ and have Christ abide in us? This is the question that lingers for me. I invite you to ponder too.

The reading from Proverbs brings an invitation from Wisdom to a banquet where a question is raised: Will you leave the way of ignorance and join the way of insight? This is the only way forward to life. This snippet links to the Gospel where the Bread of Heaven discourse continues by reiterating the final sentence from last week's Gospel. We observe that 'Whoever eats of this bread [the living bread from heaven] will live forever' is replicated in the last line, 'But the one who eats this bread will live forever.' These sentences frame the 'Amen, Amen' ('I tell you solemnly') saying given in response to the Judeans dispute about eating Jesus' flesh. Life, eternal life, is only possible for those who partake of Jesus' flesh and blood.

These readings remind us how difficult it must have been for first century followers to understand fully who Jesus is and what he offered. For the Johannine community the reinterpretation of the Mosaic Law to a new understanding of the Christ causes distress. It isn't that easy for us to understand today. What we might understand is our deep need to be in communion in the body and blood of Christ in the community. How much we missed that during the pandemic. Blessed, broken, shared and given: the body of Christ, Amen.

Dr Rosemary Canavan



# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

18 AUGUST 2024

## FIRST READING

Prov 9:1-6

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

*Come and eat my bread, drink the wine I have prepared.*

Wisdom has built herself a house, she has erected her seven pillars, she has slaughtered her beasts, prepared her wine, she has laid her table.

She has despatched her maidservants and proclaimed from the city's heights: 'Who is ignorant? Let him step this way.' To the fool she says, 'Come and eat my bread, drink the wine I have prepared! Leave your folly and you will live, walk in the ways of perception.'

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 33:2-3, 10-15. R. v. 9

**R.** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, / his praise always on my lips; / in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. / The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**

2. Revere the Lord, you his saints. / They lack nothing, those who revere him. / Strong lions suffer want and go hungry / but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing. **R.**

3. Come, children, and hear me / that I may teach you the fear of the Lord. / Who is he who longs for life / and many days, to enjoy his prosperity? **R.**

4. Then keep your tongue from evil / and your lips from speaking deceit. / Turn aside from evil and do good; / seek and strive after peace. **R.**



## SECOND READING

Eph 5:15-20

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

*Be watchful that you may know the will of God.*

Be very careful about the sort of lives you lead, like intelligent and not like senseless people. This may be a wicked age, but your lives should redeem it. And do not be thoughtless but recognise what is the will of the Lord. Do not drug yourselves with wine, this is simply dissipation; be filled with the Spirit. Sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when you are together, and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts, so that always and everywhere you are giving thanks to God who is our Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 6:56

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me and I in them, says the Lord. Alleluia!

18 Aug 2024  
Wk 20 Yr B

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

**Website:** <https://stpattrickswesttamworthparish.org>  
**Email:** [westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto: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:** Wed & Thurs 8.30-11.30 am  
**Presbytery** 67658211  
**Pastoral Associate** 0411703608  
**St Josephs School** 67654079

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

**WEEKDAY** Mon: 9am Tues: 9am St Bernard Wed: 12pm St Pius X  
**MASSES** Thur: 9 am The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin May  
Fri: 12 pm

### CONFESSIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.00 pm  
Before masses  
or by appointment

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** *Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** *With the Lord there is mercy; in Him is plentiful redemption.*

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Mary Camden, Tommy Hudson.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Margaret Parker (4/8), Jack Sampson (9/8), Barry Schipp (18/8), Greg Gallagher (30/8).

**DECEASED:** Noeline Turner, Bishop Peter William Ingham, John Nash, Peter Newley, Gary Donaldson, Colin MacPherson.

**SICK:** 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.

HE WHO EATS MY FLESH  
AND DRINKS MY BLOOD  
ABIDES IN ME,  
AND I IN HIM.  
JOHN 6:56

Jesus said to the crowds, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

Until we find this hidden treasure within, we will never be satisfied. There will always be something missing in our lives. Remember when Jesus said that the kingdom of God is within us? This is what he was talking about. Jesus Christ is the living bread that we receive in communion each week, in a personal way, consuming his flesh which is joined with our own flesh, in the centre of our being. Perhaps you have felt this deep, inner need for Jesus be satisfied, after you receive him in communion at mass? A deep down feeling of peace and healing that nothing else in this world can satisfy? Jesus is who we instinctively hunger and thirst for, and he knew this.

**COMING EVENTS:** 22 Aug The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin May  
25 Aug Social Justice 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

## Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time Year B

*"Have patience with your own defects: God has patience with them." (1870)*



**FATHER JOHN CURRAN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE OF PRIESTHOOD:** A general invitation is extended to the friends of Father John Curran to celebrate a Mass with him at Saint Michael's Catholic Church Manilla Sat 24<sup>th</sup> August at 11am for his Golden Jubilee of Priesthood. Followed by lunch at Manilla Services Club (25 Court St). RSVP required for lunch by 9<sup>th</sup> August to Marie Flett on 0427 851 120.

**IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP:** Pilgrimage to be held 14-26 October 2024. More information will be provided later. 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/>

**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" to dlscarmidale@yahoo.com. Limited seating. More information Pete Stanley, Ph. 0401745406.

### 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 5 ROSTER: 18/8/24

**Vigil:** R C Ledwos, D Bolitho  
**9am Sun:** R J Ryan, G Clout  
**5.00pm Sun:** R J Parrenas J Parrenas  
**Counting Team** P Shiels A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** S Brown V Griffiths  
**Altar Linen:** H Reid

### WEEK 6 ROSTER: 25/8/24

**Vigil:** R N Pullman, G Styman  
**9am Sun:** R D Gowing, A Sartori  
**5.00pm Sun:** R A O'Halloran C Lavell  
**Counting Team** P Shiels, A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** K O'Brien M Brown  
**Altar Linen:** J Hutt

50 years  
Celebrating 50 years in 2024

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*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.*

