

ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

### WELCOME AND THANK YOU

Today we welcome Fr Michael Trainor as our reflection writer. Fr Michael is senior lecturer in biblical studies with the Australian Catholic University and parish priest of Lockleys in the Archdiocese of Adelaide. His area of specialisation is the study of the New Testament and its relevance for our contemporary world, ecology and pastoral life.

We are very grateful and thank Dr Rosemary Canavan for her insightful reflections on the readings during the past liturgical year.

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

1 DECEMBER 2024

### STAY AWAKE!

On this First Sunday of Advent we come into a new liturgical year with the Gospel of Luke, penned for urban Greco-Roman followers of Jesus, possibly living in Rome in the late first century of the Christian Era, around 85CE.

Today's Gospel proclamation comes from a particular literary style, called 'apocalypticism'. It is a style not to be taken literally. It is more like theological poetry intending its listener to recognise images that come from the writings and prophets of the First ('Old') Testament. Its fundamental insight is a reminder that, despite all the calamity and upheaval present in the world, God is present and liberating. Rather than being overwhelmed by global tragedies and disasters, Luke's audience is encouraged to 'stand erect ... with heads held high' and recognise that freedom and release are near. Jesus followers are to be confident in God's presence and care of them, themes that Luke will repeat throughout the year.

Sometimes we can be overwhelmed by global events. At the beginning of this new liturgical year, today's Gospel proclamation is timely. It is a reminder that a different, divine power is at work. Hence, Luke's injunction, 'Stay awake'. We need this reminder. We can forget or be lulled into a form of spiritual forgetfulness by the unimportant or ephemeral. Advent becomes this precious moment to allow ourselves to view the world with faith and confidence in the continual care of God.

Fr Michael Trainor

# THE SAVING WORD

### FIRST READING

Jer 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah  
*I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.*  
See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time,  
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for  
David,  
who shall practise honesty and integrity in  
the land.  
In those days Judah shall be saved  
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.  
And this is the name the city will be called:  
The Lord-our-integrity.'

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

### RESP PSALM

Ps 24:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14. R. v. 1

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways. / Lord,  
teach me your paths. / Make me walk in your  
truth, and teach me: / for you are God my  
saviour. R.

2. The Lord is good and upright. / He shows  
the path to those who stray; / he guides the  
humble in the right path; / he teaches his way  
to the poor. R.

3. His ways are faithfulness and love / for  
those who keep his covenant and will. / The  
Lord's friendship is for those who revere him; /  
to them he reveals his covenant. R.

### SECOND READING

1 Thess 3:12-4:2

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to  
the Thessalonians

*When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts  
in holiness.*

May the Lord be generous in increasing your  
love and make you love one another and the



whole human race as much as we love you. And  
may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that  
you may be blameless in the sight of our God  
and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes  
with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to  
you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more  
progress in the kind of life that you are meant  
to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt  
from us, and as you are already living it. You  
have not forgotten the instructions we gave you  
on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Luke.

*Your redemption is near at hand.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in  
the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations  
in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the

1 Dec 2024

Advent Wk 1 Yr C

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

**Website:** <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.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 HOURS:**

Tues & Wed 9.30-11.30

Thurs 10.00 am—12.00 noon

**Presbytery**

Pastoral Associate

St Josephs School

**67658211**

0411703608

67654079

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



### CONFESIONS

\* Sat: 4.30-5.00pm

\*Before Mass

\* By appointment

**WEEKDAY MASSES** **Mon:** 9 am **Tues:** 9 am **Wed:** 12 pm

**Thur:** 9 am **Fri:** 12 pm

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** \*To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** \*The Lord will bestow His bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Madeline Hayes, Sister June Barrett rsj, Patricia Andrew, Viviane Pullman, Hannah Press, Col Hassett, Rocco Cavallaro, John Petch, Maree Petch, Jack Smyth.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Gerry Griffiths (17/11), Ian MacPherson (30/11) Richard Bowler (1/12), Perce McInnes (1/12), John Paul Vella (4/12), Rod Kelly (20/1), Lawrence Vella (23/1).

**DECEASED:** We pray for our loved ones now in God's care, Joy O'Shea, Deacon Peter Harrison, Sheila Tilse, George Hurn, Eva, Joe and Bill McLean, Mel and Harry Hutchens.

**SICK:** Marie Southwell, Cheryl Moloney, Daphne Sweeney (Sr Kathryn's mum), 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, Fr Bernard Flood.

### ADVENT. A TIME TO PREPARE

Those who attended Fr Sabu's reflection certainly received extra preparation for the coming of Our Lord Jesus. He explained how the devil's students are tested before being sent among us. One of the students received great praise from the teacher when he offered his solution to making sure the devil received billions of souls. The student's advice:

I will tell them they have plenty of time!

Now is the time to prepare for the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus at Christmas, each new day and for His second coming on the day of Judgement.



PREPARE THE WAY  
FOR THE LORD

### CHURCH COLLECTIONS: (BSB 082 105)

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

### COMING EVENTS:

17 Dec Christmas Lunch - please register

18 Dec Anointing Mass

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

19 Dec Reconciliation

## Advent Week One Year C

### WELCOME TO ALL THOSE PEOPLE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.

"All is in the hands of God." (1881)



**NOVEMBER 28 IS PROCLAMATION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY IN TIMOR LESTE** to remember the country's freedom from Portuguese rule in 1975. On the eve to Independence Day, many attend masses at cathedrals and churches. Our local Timor Leste members will celebrate this tradition by singing all hymns at our 5.30 pm Saturday night mass this weekend. Thank you to this group for sharing their culture and worship with us.

**ADVENT PREPARATION:** At the end of a year there is always much to do. If you are away over the Christmas period and unable to fulfil your volunteer commitments could you please notify the parish of your dates of unavailability so rosters may be prepared accordingly. Thank you.

**OFFERTORY PROCESSION:** If you would like to be more involved in the mass perhaps you would like to join a roster for this procession. There is a list at the back of the church. In the new year all rosters will be updated and if you would like to be added to any you would be warmly welcomed to these ministries.

**THANKS TO FR ROSS O'BRIEN:** We offer our thanks to Fr Ross for providing for our spiritual care during Fr Sabu's brief absence. Fr Ross will celebrate week day and weekend masses as listed.

**ADORATION AND BENEDICTION:** Will be celebrated on Friday 6 December at 11.30 am prior to 12 noon mass.

**CLAIM THE DATES:** Anointing Mass to be held on Wednesday 18 December at 12 noon and Reconciliation Thursday 19 December at 5.30 pm. \* 24 days till Christmas this Sunday.

**ALSTON CHAPEL MEMORIAL SERVICE:** The Christmas Service commemorating those who have gone before us will be held at Alston Chapel on Saturday 7 December at 5 pm. The service will be conducted by Rev Chris Wright and will be followed by a sausage sizzle. Please call 6765 3999 for more details.

### PRAYER FOR WEEK 1 ADVENT

Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us to slow down, listen to your voice, focus on what's really important.

We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen



### RESPONSE: COME LORD JESUS

#### WEEK 2 ROSTER: 1/12/24

**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

#### WEEK 3 ROSTER: 8/12/24

**Vigil:** R C Ledwos Di Bolitho  
**9am Sun:** R M Holley R Paull  
**5.00pm Sun:** R J Parrenas J Parrenas  
**Counting Team:** P Shiels A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning:** S Brown V Griffiths  
**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.

