

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Open our heart, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your Son.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Lk 2:41-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men listening to them.*

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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# Breaking Open the Word

## LOST AND FOUND

We know Jesus to be truly human and truly divine. This is the heart of our faith. Sometimes, though, we make Jesus to be more divine than human. Today's Gospel offers us the balance. This passage comes towards the end of the opening chapters of Luke's Gospel that are focused on Jesus' birth. His family has come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish Feast of Passover. Mary, Joseph and Jesus are Jewish. They celebrate the feast which commemorates God's liberation of the Israelites from slavery remembered in the *Book of Exodus*. They come, too, to the Holy city which will feature at the beginning and end of Luke's Gospel, and in the opening chapters of Luke's second volume, the *Acts of the Apostles*. Jesus, the one who will be God's revealed liberator and redeemer, comes to the Holy City, to Israel's key worship centre with its religious leaders, to remind the people, even as a child, that God is acting in their midst. His parents, worried that they had lost him in their caravan journey, find him later in the temple, in the sacred place of God's holy city. He returns with them to Nazareth to grow in wisdom and learning. This bearer of God's Spirit is like any other Jewish child who needs to be nourished.

The story also reflects powerfully on family life: it's about members being lost and found, seeking holiness and liberation amidst life's struggles, and growing in wisdom.

Fr Michael Trainor



# THE SAVING WORD

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH / C

29 DECEMBER 2024

## FIRST READING

1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

*For the whole of his life, Samuel shall be lent to the Lord.*

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my Lord. As you live, my Lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

There she left him, for the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10. R. v. 5

R. How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

1. How lovely is your dwelling place, / Lord, God of hosts. / My soul is longing and yearning, / is yearning for the courts of the Lord. / My heart and my soul ring out their joy / to God, the living God. R.

2. They are happy, who dwell in your house, / for ever singing your praise. / They are happy, whose strength is in you; / they walk with ever growing strength. R.



3. O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer, / give ear, O God of Jacob. / Turn your eyes, O God, our shield, / look on the face of your anointed. R.

## SECOND READING

1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24

A reading from the first letter of St John.

*He calls you his own children, and that is what you are.*

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. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

■ The word of the Lord.

29 Dec 2024

Holy Family Yr C

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

**Website:** <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.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: 5.30 pm Sun: 9 am & 5 pm

Mon: 9 am Tues: 9 am

Wed: 12 noon New Years Day Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Thur: No Mass Fri: 11.30 am Exposition and Benediction 12 noon mass

### CONFESIONS

\* Sat: 4.30-5.00pm

\*Before every Mass

\* By appointment

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** *The Shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** *Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.*

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Madeline Hayes, Sister June Barrett rsj, Patricia Andrew, Viviene 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), Mary Sampson (2/1), John O'Brien (3/1), Pamela Davy (6/1) (nee Barry), Rod Kelly (20/1), Lawrence Vella (23/1).

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

**SICK:** Sr Cecilia Pistacchio, Kevin Frost, Marie Southwell, Cheryl Moloney, Judy Murphy, Daphne Sweeney (Sr Kathryn's mum), 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,

### A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Most Holy and Blessed Trinity, receive our humble petitions for this new year 2025. We offer our prayers for the pope and for those who shepherd Your Church. Bestow Your grace upon all the faithful. Illuminate the paths of those who have not yet found You. Touch the hearts of those who have strayed, that they might find their way back to Your loving embrace. Grant our world prosperity and let peace reign among all peoples. We ask for Your abundant blessings to be upon those dear to us – family, friends, and companions – and yes, even upon those who may stand against us. Extend Your loving hand to those suffering in poverty or illness. Remember in Your mercy the souls of our departed who left us this past year and be gentle with those who will be called to stand before You in the year to come. May Your divine inspiration guide the beginning of all our endeavours in this new year, and Your loving presence sustain them to completion, so that all we do might begin and end in You, Amen.

## Holy Family Year C

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

*"Let us love on another" (1890)*



**ROSTER UPDATES:** 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. Lists will be held at the back of the church and you are asked to please record your name and mass times for these ministries.

**DIOCESAN CATHOLIC VIEWPOINT:** for October to December 2024 is now available electronically. At this link [Catholic Viewpoint December 2024](https://catholicviewpoint.com.au/december-2024/).

### CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR A DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE

Pilgrimage to Rome is an integral part of the Universal Church's Jubilee Year to be celebrated across 2025. The Diocese of Armidale is exploring the opportunity of organising a pilgrimage and seeks expressions of interest at this time. Pilgrims worldwide journey to Rome during the Jubilee Year. The pilgrimage is a profound spiritual experience, allowing participants to reflect on their lives, seek forgiveness, and strengthen their faith. More information on the Jubilee Year 2025 can be found at [jubilaem2025.va](https://jubilaem2025.va). To express an interest in joining the pilgrimage please email Fr Damien Locke at [FrDLocke@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:FrDLocke@armidale.catholic.org.au).



### THE HOLY FAMILY: JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

The devotion to the Holy Family was born in Bethlehem, together with the Baby Jesus.

The shepherds went to adore the Child and, at the same time, they gave honour to His family.

Later, in a similar way, the three wise men came from the East to adore and give honour to the newborn King with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that would be safeguarded by His family.

We can go further to affirm that in a certain sense Christ, Himself, was the first devotee of His family. He showed His devotion to His mother and foster father by submitting Himself, with infinite humility, to the duty of filial obedience towards them. [Feast of the](#)

[Holy Family - December 29, 2024 - Liturgical Calendar | Catholic Culture](#)

### COLLECTIONS

1st. Coll'n West Tamworth Presbytery Church  
(Diocesan collection) Acc: 001023642

2nd Coll'n (Local) West Tamworth  
(St Patricks Mtce.) Acc: 001041198

### WEEK 6 ROSTER: 29/12/24

**Vigil:** R P Bamford, G Styman  
**5.00pm Sun:** R A O'Halloran T Mitchell  
**Fri Cleaning** M Vella A Jones

### WEEK 1 ROSTER: 5/1/2025

**Vigil:** R C Ledwos Sr Kathryn  
**5.00pm Sun:** R J Moloney C Lavell  
**Fri Cleaning** S Brown V Griffiths

**9am Sun:** R D Gowing, A Sartori  
**Counting Team** S Brown, A Bowden  
**Altar Linen:** E Smyth

**9am Sun:** R S Nichols A Sartori  
**Counting Team** P Sheils, A Bowden  
**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.

