

took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 1:39-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

22 DECEMBER 2024

FRUITFULNESS AND BLESSEDNESS

With Christmas only days away, this final Advent Sunday Gospel turns its attention to the pregnant Mary, soon to give birth. She goes to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, also pregnant. While the Gospel's Greco-Roman audience is familiar with family structures and lines of patriarchal authority, our Gospel centres on these two women within the patriarchal setting of the house of Elizabeth's husband, Zechariah.

There is something subtly subversive here. Important is the relationship between these two women and the fruitful imagery that permeates the story. The pregnancies of the two mothers anticipate the births of the two central figures in the Gospel's opening chapters. We have already seen one of them, John the Baptist, in the Gospels of the previous Sundays. It is the other, Jesus, whose birth we are soon to celebrate in a few days' time.

Elizabeth attests to the blessedness of Mary and the child to whom she will give birth. It is an affirmation which even Elizabeth's child witnesses to while still in the womb. Elizabeth and the child she carries anticipate the holiness of the one whom Mary will, at the angel's earlier invitation, name 'Jesus'. For the mother to name the child, as Elizabeth will do later in naming 'John' before the speechless Zechariah, is culturally unusual. But there is nothing usual about these births. We are caught up in this story, about fruitfulness and blessedness. Perhaps these are God's much-needed words to us as we seek to be with these two female figures preparing for the birth amongst us of the one from God.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Mic 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah.

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon
them
till the time when she who is to give birth
gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come
back
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he
will extend his power to the ends of the
land.

He himself will be peace.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19. R. v. 4

R. Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, / shine forth
from your cherubim throne. / O Lord, rouse up
your might, / O Lord, come to our help. R.

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, / look
down from heaven and see. / Visit this vine
and protect it, / the vine your right hand has
planted. R.



3. May your hand be on the man you have
chosen, / the man you have given your
strength. / And we shall never forsake you
again: / give us life that we may call upon your
name. R.

SECOND READING

Heb 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.
I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the
world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or
sacrifices for sin;
then I said,

just as I was commanded in the scroll of the
book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your
will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want
what the Law lays down as the things to be
offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the
holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you

22 Dec 2024

Advent Wk 4Yr C

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.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 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 & 5pm



CONFESIONS

* Sat: 4.30-5.00pm

*Before every Mass

* By appointment

WEEKDAY MASSES Mon: 9 am Tues: 6 pm Christmas Eve

Wed: 9 am Christmas Day

Thur: 9 am Fri: 12 noon

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: *Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and His name will be called Emmanuel.*

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Christmas Carols Tuesday 5.30 pm

Christmas Eve: Tues 24 Dec - Vigil Mass 6 pm

Christmas Day: Wed 25 Dec - Christmas Mass 9 am

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), 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, Fr Bernard Flood.

COLLECTIONS

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

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

COMING EVENTS:
24 Dec Christmas Eve
25 Dec Christmas Day
1 January 2025 New Years Day Mass at 12 noon

Advent Week Four Year C



WELCOME TO ALL THOSE PEOPLE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.

"Our courage should rise with difficulties and obstacles" (1890)

ADVENT PREPARATION: If you are suddenly away over the Christmas period and unable to fulfil your volunteer commitments could you please try and ask a replacement to fill in for you or advise the parish ASAP. Thank you

THANK YOU to all those who made our church sparkle for Christmas with their efforts on Monday this week. To those who joined us for Christmas Lunch on Tuesday, thank you for celebrating Christmas in this special way with us.

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.

NATIVITY SCENE: The tradition of creating a nativity scene started in 1223 with Saint Francis of Assisi, the pope's namesake, who sought to recreate the humility and simplicity of Christ's birth.

(ncronline.org) If you own one, do you have it where you may reflect on the scene and visit the simple wonder of the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ ... **3 days till Christmas today.**

GIFT GIVING: While we are madly buying gifts for many around us, are we giving back to the greater gift we have received in Jesus Christ, and keeping our parish alive for the continued spiritual journey. Christmas is also a time to reflect on what is our priority. Christmas Giving envelopes will be on the seats in the church from this weekend.

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

PRAYER FOR ADVENT WEEK 4

Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter.

Our hearts are open to you, Jesus.

PRIEST: COME LORD JESUS
RESPONSE: COME LORD JESUS



WEEK 5 ROSTER: 22/12/24

Vigil: R C Ledwos, D Bolitho;

5.00pm Sun: R J Moloney C Lavell

Fri Cleaning J Hutt J Moran

9am Sun: R J Ryan, G Clout

Counting Team O & J Whale, A Bowden

Altar Linen: M Vella

Christmas Eve Mass 6.00 pm:

Christmas Day Mass 9am:

R1 Sr Kathryn R2 G Clout

R1 J Ryan R2 S Brown



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

9am Sun: R D Gowing, A Sartori

Counting Team S Brown, A Bowden

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.