

you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All people shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Iturea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation
of God.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD

Today's Gospel places us squarely within history and competing political leadership. Luke introduces us to the ascetic and enigmatic figure of John the Baptist. There are four elements to Luke's presentation of John. He comes into Luke's Gospel within the context of imperial power, local politics and religious leadership; he proclaims a baptism 'of repentance'; his ministry reflects the liberating words of the ancient prophet, Isaiah, to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Significantly, God's word comes to John in the wilderness. This is the symbolic place of nothingness and struggle. It's a marginal and liminal space and links to Israel's encounter with God in their forty years' wanderings.

These four aspects about John speak to us: We seek to live our contemporary discipleship with authenticity and fidelity within a world of power politics and church struggles; we, too, find ourselves at times in life's 'wilderness'—that symbol of struggle and nothingness; at the same time, we seek to honour our baptismal commitment as we desire to orient our lives towards God; we prepare ourselves, in the spirit of Isaiah, for the coming of our Messiah, Jesus.

This Sunday might become a time to invite John the Baptist to be our companion in preparing our hearts for the birth of Jesus. In the words of Isaiah, we are invited this Sunday to 'Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight'. We ready our hearts for God's coming to us in the anticipated birth of Jesus.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

8 DECEMBER 2024

FIRST READING

Bar 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch.

Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,

put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:

since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,

since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.'

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east:

see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory.

For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level

so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade

for Israel at the command of God;

for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory

with his mercy and integrity for escort.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 125. R. v. 3

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, / it seemed like a dream. / Then was our mouth filled with laughter, / on our lips there were songs. **R.**



2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels / the Lord worked for them!' / What marvels the Lord worked for us! / Indeed we were glad. **R.**

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage / as streams in dry land. / Those who are sowing in tears / will sing when they reap. **R.**

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears / carrying seed for the sowing: / they come back, they come back, full of song, / carrying their sheaves. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 1:3-6, 8-11

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

Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when

8 Dec 2024
Advent Wk 2 Yr 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 67658211
Pastoral Associate 0411703608
St Josephs School 67654079

WEEKEND MASSES
Sat: 5.30 pm **Sun:** 9 am & 5 pm
WEEKDAY MASSES
Mon: 9 am **Tues:** No Mass
Wed: 12 noon **Thur:** No Mass
Fri: 9 am St Josephs Graduation Mass



CONFESSIONS
* Sat: 4.30-5.00pm
* Before Mass
* By appointment

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of His voice heard in the joy of your heart.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: *Jerusalem arise and stand upon the heights, and behold to joy which comes to you from God.*

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Joseph, Sister June Barrett rsj, Patricia Andrew, Vivienne 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.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Paul Hickey

ADVENT, A TIME TO PREPARE

Our Lord tied the forgiveness of sins to faith and Baptism: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved." Baptism is the first and chief sacrament of forgiveness of sins because it unites us with Christ, who died for our sins and rose for our justification, so that we too might walk in newness of life.

Penance has rightly been called by the holy Fathers "a laborious kind of baptism."

This sacrament of Penance is necessary for salvation for those who have fallen after Baptism, just as Baptism is necessary for salvation for those who have not yet been reborn.

<https://www.vatican.va/content/catechism/>

Please avail yourself of the Second Rite of Reconciliation to be held at St Patrick's on 19 December at 5.30 pm with a number of priests present.

COMING EVENTS:

17 Dec Christmas Lunch (those registered).
18 Dec Anointing Mass
19 Dec Reconciliation

Advent Week One Year B

WELCOME TO ALL THOSE PEOPLE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.

"Love charity more than ever." (1899)



PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO MASS TIMES THIS WEEK. No mass on Tuesday and Thursday. You are welcome to attend St Josephs Graduation Mass on Friday at 9 am.

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 all weekend masses next weekend.

NEW PA SYSTEM: Please feel free to continue giving feedback on how it is working for you as the sound on the altar is not the sound in the pews. Should anyone still wish to donate towards the project your offers will be very gratefully accepted as will your feedback on the system.

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: Would you be willing to join a roster for this procession or another volunteer role? 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.

CLAIM THE DATES: Anointing Mass to be held on Wednesday 18 December at 12 noon and Reconciliation Thursday 19 December at 5.30 pm. 17 days till Christmas this Sunday.

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS: Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24 December at 6 pm. Christmas Day, Wednesday 25 December 9 am. Please note no evening mass in Tamworth on Christmas Day.

IMMACULATA MISSION SCHOOL JANUARY 2025: What is it? A wonderful opportunity to go deeper in faith through fantastic Catholic speakers, daily Mass, Adoration and times of prayer, share groups, fun activities, friendship and lots more. The theme is "Mercy" - join us and go deeper in God's love! **When is it?** 1-10 Jan for youth and young adults (14 years and up); 8-10 Jan for married couples (including children's ministry) **Where is it?** Armidale, NSW **Registrations close 15th Dec, early bird price finishes 30th Nov.** www.immaculata.org.au/ims

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

PRAYER FOR ADVENT WEEK 2

Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas
as the Prince of Peace.

This Advent, as we strive to become the best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those most in need.

PRIEST: COME LORD JESUS

RESPONSE: COME LORD JESUS



WEEK 3 ROSTER: 8/12/24

Vigil: R C Ledwos D 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

WEEK 4 ROSTER: 15/12/24

Vigil: R P Bamford Sr Kathryn
9am Sun: R S Brown, M Donaldson
5.00pm Sun: R G O'Toole C Lavell
Counting Team G & M Thrift, A Bowden
Fri Cleaning M Brown K O'Brien
Altar Linen: J Hutt

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.

