

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Lk 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia! John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD / C

12 JANUARY 2025

BELOVED OF GOD

Luke remembers the story of Jesus' baptism and shapes its theological power to speak to the Gospel's late first century Greco-Roman audience. They have been baptised in their induction into the life of their discipleship household. This story is a reminder that through their baptism they are intimately bonded to Jesus and, through him, to God.

There are three important features which Luke highlights. The first is about John the Baptist whose focus is on Jesus. He witnesses to the future coming of one "more powerful" than he. A second feature is the moment of Jesus' baptism. This occurs, unlike in the other Gospels, without the presence of John. (He is already in prison—a part of the story omitted from today's reading). In other words, Jesus' baptism is God's act. It occurs while Jesus prays. His prayer opens the sacred realm of God's abode, the heavens. The Spirit of God descends on him. Jesus continues throughout the rest of the Gospel to be God's Spirit-filled agent.

Third, as Jesus is anointed with the Spirit, we hear God's voice and declaration of Jesus: "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you". Jesus is declared beloved of God, the one in whom God delights. Luke's theology of baptism is for the Gospel's audience, for us: We are baptised, God's Spirit acts within us, our prayer opens the Heavens for us; we are God's beloved daughters and sons in whom God eternally delights. This Sunday becomes a moment to celebrate the gift of our baptism and God's high estimation of us.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

Isa 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.

'Console my people, console them' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.'

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30. R. v. 1

R. Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

1. Lord God, how great you are, / clothed in majesty and glory, / wrapped in light as in a robe! / You stretch out the heavens like a tent. R.



2. Above the rains you build your dwelling, / You make the clouds your chariot, / you walk on the wings of the wind, / you make the winds your messengers / and flashing fire your servants. R.

3. How many are your works, O Lord! / In wisdom you have made them all. / The earth is full of your riches. / There is the sea, vast and wide, / with its moving swarms past counting, / living things great and small. R.

4. All of these look to you / to give them their food in due season. / You give it, they gather it up: / you open your hand, they have their fill. R.

5. You take back your spirit, they die, / returning to the dust from which they came. / You send forth your spirit, they are created; / and you renew the face of the earth. R.

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus. *He saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit.*

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

12 Jan 2025

Week 1 Year C

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.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

WEEKDAY MASSES Mon: 9 am Tues: 9 am Wed: 12 noon

* Before every Mass

Thur: 9 am Fri: 12 noon St Anthony

* By appointment

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon Him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Madeline Hayes, Sister June Barrett rsj, Patricia Andrew.

ANNIVERSARIES: John Paul Vella (4/12), Mary Sampson (2/1), John O'Brien (3/1), Pamela Davy (nee Barry) (6/1), Rod Kelly (20/1), Lawrence Vella (23/1).

DECEASED: We pray for our loved ones now in God's care, Viviene Pullman, Hannah Press, Col Hassett, Rocco Cavallaro, John Petch, Maree Petch, Jack Smyth, William Grima, Noeline Turner.

SICK: Emanuel Chetcuti, 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.



PRAYER ON OUR LORD'S BAPTISM

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You came to me in my baptism and united me in my fallenness with You in Your divinity.

I pray that I will continuously be aware of all that divides us and will never grow weary of repenting of my sin.

I do repent once again, dear Lord. I beg for Your mercy and forgiveness and open myself more fully to You, Your Father, and the Holy Spirit. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I trust in You.

<https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/baptism-of-the-lord-feast/>

COLLECTIONS

BSB: 082 105

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

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

WEEK 1: THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD - YEAR C

"Do not be afraid, love one another, bear with one another, and let charity guide you in all your life." (1909)



WELCOME TO ALL THOSE PEOPLE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.

PARISH ARRANGEMENTS DURING FR SABU'S LEAVE: We wish Fr Sabu safe and happy travels for his forthcoming annual leave for a month. May his time with his family be blessed. We thank Fr Ross O'Brien for providing weekend and daily masses for us during this period. Please keep an eye on the bulletin for any changes to mass times.

ROSTER UPDATES: In this 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. Please note Gifts Procession Roster is now included on the bulletin

2025 JUBILEE YEAR: MESSAGE FROM OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS: 1. *SPES NON CONFUNDIT.* "Hope does not disappoint" (Rom 5:5). In the spirit of hope, the Apostle Paul addressed these words of encouragement to the Christian community of Rome. Hope is also the central message of the coming Jubilee that, in accordance with an ancient tradition, the Pope proclaims every twenty-five years. My thoughts turn to all those *pilgrims of hope* who will travel to Rome in order to experience the Holy Year and to all those others who, though unable to visit the City of the Apostles Peter and Paul, will celebrate it in their local Churches. For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the "door" (cf. Jn 10:7,9) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as "our hope" (1 Tim 1:1). See [Bill of Indiction](#)

PRAYER FOR A 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 2 ROSTER: 12/1/25

Vigil: R: Sr Kathryn N Pullman
5.00pm Sun: R: A O'Halloran T Mitchell
Fri Cleaning: M Brown K O'Brien

9 am Sun: R: S Brown J Woodbridge
Counting Team: S Brown A Bowden
Altar Linen: J Hutt

WEEK 3 ROSTER: 19/1/25

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: J Hutt J Moran

Gifts: J & P Bamford
Gifts: B Schipp
Gifts: A Pinkstone
Altar Linen: M Vella

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.

