

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel  
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Jn 2:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*The first of the signs given by Jesus was at Cana in Galilee.*

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews; each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now' he told them 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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# Breaking Open the Word



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

# THE SAVING WORD

19 JANUARY 2025

## THE FIRST "SIGN"

This Sunday we move from Luke's Gospel, the primary Gospel of our year, to John's Gospel and a scene at the commencement of Jesus' ministry. It is full of rich symbolism. The setting is a wedding feast to which Jesus, his mother and disciples have been invited. The feast is reminiscent of God's covenantal marriage with the Israelites on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19-24). This relationship is like a marriage in which the imagery of redolent, juicy wines celebrates its delightful intimacy (Isaiah 25:6-9). For John, Jesus is the living reminder of God's desire for humanity expressed initially in the Old ('first') Testament.

But there is a problem, as Jesus' Jewish mother points out: "They have no wine!" At her invitation the absence is addressed. She directs the servants to respond to whatever Jesus tells them. This dynamic, of responding to Jesus' word, lays at the heart of faithful discipleship. He directs them to fill with water the six stone water jars intended for ceremonial ablutions. Together, the jars hold around 90 to 100 litres of water that later becomes wine of the best quality, and in a great quantity, by today's metric system, 12 dozen bottles. A connoisseur's delight!

To interpret the story solely as a miracle is to miss the point. John calls it the first of Jesus' "signs" in the Gospel. A "sign" points to something deeper. This sign symbolically underscores God's joy with humanity revealed through Jesus and symbolised in a wedding feast with an extraordinary quantity of exquisite wine.

## FIRST READING

Isa 62:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

*As the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.*

About Zion I will not be silent,  
about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,  
until her integrity shines out like the dawn  
and her salvation flames like a torch.

The nations then will see your integrity,  
all the kings your glory,  
and you will be called by a new name,  
one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.  
You are to be a crown of splendour in the  
hand of the Lord,

a princely diadem in the hand of your God;  
no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',  
nor your land 'Abandoned',  
but you shall be called 'My Delight'  
and your land 'The Wedded'  
for the Lord takes delight in you  
and your land will have its wedding.  
Like a young man marrying a virgin,  
so will the one who built you wed you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,  
so will your God rejoice in you.

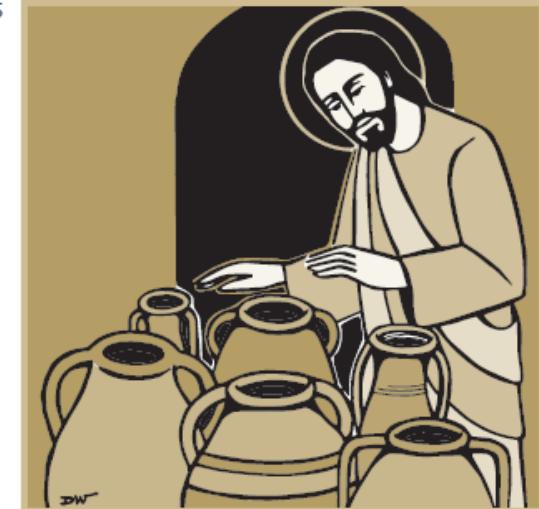
■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 95:1-3, 7-10. R. v. 3

R. Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all  
the nations.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / O sing to the Lord, bless his name. R.
2. Proclaim his help day by day, / tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. R.
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, / give the Lord glory and power, / give the Lord the glory of his name. R.
4. Worship the Lord in his temple. / O earth, tremble before him. / Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' / He will judge the peoples in fairness. R.



## SECOND READING

1 Cor 12:4-11

A reading from the first letter of St Paul  
to the Corinthians.*One and the same Spirit distributes different gifts  
as he chooses.*

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

■ The word of the Lord.

Fr Michael Trainor

19 Jan 2025

Week 2 Year 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: 5.30 pm Sun: 9 am & 5pm

**CONFESIONS**

\* Sat: 4.30-5.00pm

\*Before every Mass

\* By appointment

**WEEKDAY MASSES** Mon: 9 am Tues: 9 am St Agnes Wed: 12 noon

Thur: 9 am Fri: 12 noon St Francis De Sales

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** *All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** *You have prepared a table for me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.*

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Erin Hansen, 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, Vivienne 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.

**WEEK 3 ROSTER: 19/1/25**

**Vigil:** R: C Ledwos D Bolitho

**Gifts:** J & P Bamford

**9am Sun:** R: M Holley R Paull

**Gifts:** B Schipp

**5.00pm Sun:** R: J Parrenas J Parrenas

**Gifts:** A Pinkstone

**Counting Team :** P Shiels A Bowden

**Altar Linen:** M Vella

**Fri Cleaning**

M Vella N Carson

**WEEK 4 ROSTER: 26/1/25**

**Vigil:** R: P Bamford D Bolitho

**Gifts:** K O'Brien M Asbury

**9am Sun:** R: S Brown, M Donaldson

**Gifts:** Michelle and Sally

**5.00pm Sun:** R: G O'Toole C Lavell

**Gifts:** Heljo and Nijo

**Counting Team :** G & M Thrift A Bowden

**Altar Linen:** E Smyth

**Fri Cleaning**

S Brown V Griffiths

**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 2 OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

*"Divine Spirit of Wisdom and Goodness, enlighten my mind, penetrate its blindness.*



*Make me in all things what I ought to be." (1877)*  
**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.

**COUNTRY MUSIC WEEK:** We welcome all visitors to our city for Country Music. May your stay be enjoyable and safe. God bless each one of you.

**ROSTER UPDATES:** Updates will be made this week. Please be sure to record your name on the sheets at the back of the church or email the office, if you wish to partake in any of the ministries.

**COMING EVENTS:** Benediction and Adoration will be held at 11.30 am, prior to 12 noon mass on Friday 7th February 2025.

### 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.

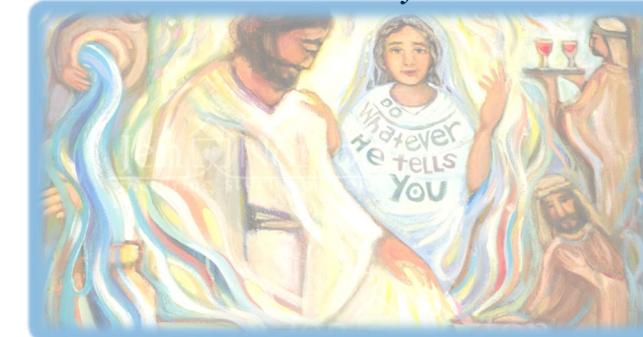
We entrust our prayers to our Patroness,  
Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Amen

*Grant us the grace to recognize your presence in our midst,  
even when you show up in ways that are unexpected.*

*May we, like the servants at the wedding of Cana,  
say "yes" to you, to your invitation.*

*May we be people, among those to whom it is said,  
"Do whatever he tells you."*



*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.*

