

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eye-witnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to
the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives
and to the blind new sight,
to set the downtrodden free,
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

GOD'S SPIRIT-FILLED AGENT

This Sunday we read the opening four verses of Luke's Gospel (1:1-4), skip over Jesus' birth narrative (chapters 1 and 2), Luke's introduction of John the Baptist (3:1-20), Jesus' baptism (3:21-22), a genealogy (3:23-38) and Jesus' temptation (4:1-13)—stories which will emerge at various times during this year—and move to a defining moment set in Jesus' hometown synagogue in Nazareth (4:14-21).

This event lays out the full meaning of Jesus' future ministry in the Gospel. Luke presents Jesus, the faithful Jew, at his local synagogue for the Sabbath Scripture, choosing to read from the prophet Isaiah. Luke brings together two parts of Isaiah, edits them and rearranges them to have Jesus pronounce the two key messages the evangelist wants the Gospel audience to hear: that Jesus is God's Spirit-filled agent (confirming his status from earlier scenes) whose sole intent is to lead God's people, especially the poor, oppressed and spiritually blind, to freedom; and that the God of Jesus is not a God just for the Jews, but for all people irrespective of social or ethnic status.

It is this last point that attracts ire from his co-religionists and introduces a theme of opposition that will emerge as the Gospel unfolds. Evident in the Nazareth-event is Luke's freedom, clear from the opening verses of today's passage, to reshape the biblical tradition (Isaiah) and the story of Jesus to speak freshly to the Gospel's Greco-Roman audience. Luke thus provides a pattern for contemporary theological reflection and church teaching.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

26 JANUARY 2025

FIRST READING

Neh 8:2-6, 8-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

They read from the book of the Law and they understood what was read.

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, 'Amen! Amen!'; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.' For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 18:8-10, 15. R. Jn 6:63

R. Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, / it revives the soul. / The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, / it gives wisdom to the simple. R.



2. The precepts of the Lord are right, / they gladden the heart. / The command of the Lord is clear, / it gives light to the eyes. R.

3. The fear of the Lord is holy, / abiding for ever. / The decrees of the Lord are truth / and all of them just. R.

4. May the spoken words of my mouth, / the thoughts of my heart, / win favour in your sight, O Lord, / my rescuer, my rock! R.

SECOND READING

1 Cor 12:12-14, 27

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Together you are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts.

Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

■ The word of the Lord.

Longer form, 1 Cor 12:12-30.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

26 Jan 2025

Week 3 Year C
Australia Day

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 67658211
Pastoral Associate 0411703608
St Josephs School 67654079

WEEKEND **Sat:** 5.30 pm **Sun:** 9 am & 5pm

MASSES

Mon: 9 am **Tues:** 9 am St Thomas Aquinas

WEEKDAY **Wed:** 12 noon **Thur:** No Mass

MASSES **Fri:** 12 noon St John Bosco

CONFESSIONS

* Sat: 4.30-5.00pm

* Before every Mass

* By appointment

ENTRANCE *O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In His presence are*
ANTIPHON: *majesty and splendour, strength and honour in His holy place.*

COMMUNION *Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.*
ANTIPHON:

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Lyn McIntyre (Brisbane), 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 4 ROSTER: 26/1/25

Vigil: R: P Bamford D Bolitho
9am Sun: R: S Brown, M Donaldson
5.00pm Sun: R: G O'Toole T Mitchell
Counting Team: G & M Thrift A Bowden
Fri Cleaning S Brown V Griffiths

Gifts: K O'Brien M Asbury
Gifts: Michelle and Sally
Gifts: Heljo and Nijo
Altar Linen: E Smyth

WEEK 5 ROSTER: 2/2/25

Vigil: R C Ledwos, Sr Kathryn
9am Sun: R J Ryan, G Clout
5.00pm Sun: R J Moloney C Lavell
Counting Team: O and J Whale A Bowden
Fri Cleaning M Brown K O'Brien

Gifts: A and C Lyons
Gifts: C Grima and B Schipp
Gifts: Elizabeth and Joshua
Altar Linen: H Reid

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 3 OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

"With fondest love and praying God to bless you all and grant you a happy new year." (1882)



WELCOME TO ALL THOSE PEOPLE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.

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

AUSTRALIA DAY: Australia Day is a special day of prayer for Australian Catholics. May this Australia Day be a day of true community with all those around us who live in this lucky country, where we are fortunate to enjoy freedom both in our everyday lives and in our faith. We pray that the wider world may hold the hope and faith that wars will end and peace will return to their shores and homes. **MORNING TEA** will be held after 9 am mass this Sunday in the Parish Centre to help us all celebrate this important day. Please bring a plate if you are able.

BLESSING OF CANDLES: Next Sunday we celebrate the Presentation of our Lord in the temple. It is also known as Candlemass Sunday when candles are blessed for use this coming year. You are invited to bring along your own candle and hold it up during the prayer for the blessing if you wish.

COUNTRY MUSIC WEEK: We welcome all visitors to our city for the Country Music Festival and Australia Day weekend. May your stay be both enjoyable and safe. God bless you all.

BECOMING A CATECHIST: If you would like to share your love of God with our little ones and see the joy in their faces as they learn of God's love for them you might like to view the resources on the Diocesan website at <https://armidale.catholic.org.au/confraternity-of-christian-doctrine/> to find out more, or contact Anne in the office.

SICK LIST: The Sick list will be cleared at the end of January. Please advise the office if you would like anyone kept on the list to receive our prayers in their illness.

COMING EVENTS:

Jan 30, 31 and Feb 3: St Josephs Staff Development Days

Feb 4: Children return to school at St Josephs West Tamworth.

Feb 7: Benediction & Adoration 11.30 am, prior to 12 noon mass



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

*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.*

