

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*Happy are the poor. Woe to the rich!*

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

'How happy are you who are poor; yours is the kingdom of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.

Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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# Breaking Open the Word

## 'BLESSED' ARE YOU ...

Like Matthew's Sermon on the Mount, Luke has Jesus teach his disciples. It occurs on a plain with the teacher surrounded by a great crowd of his disciples and others. We learn that his audience comes from around Judea, even from ancient Syria (Tyre and Sidon, in present-day Lebanon). In Luke, Jesus teaches about the primary qualities of discipleship and warns of the subtle attractions or seductions that compromise that discipleship.

Wealthy and poorer Greco-Romans make up Luke's late first-century Gospel audience, and Luke directs Jesus' words deliberately at them. The first half of his teaching is to those who are economically poor, hungry and grieving. Those are the members of Luke's world who do not have the power or status to respond to their social, economic or personal situation. They are utterly powerless and live, perhaps, on the margins of Luke's Gospel household. God will reverse their status. Luke reminds them that they are 'blessed' by God.

The translation, 'happy are you...' doesn't capture the powerful sense of Jesus' teaching. To be happy is a personal emotive response to good fortune. To be 'blessed' comes from above. This is God's act, God's gift, independent of one's emotional state. Blessedness places one in the realm of the holy. The second half of Jesus' teaching is addressed to those in the Lukan household who are wealthy, have all they need and are dismissively laughing, perhaps at others' misfortune. Their situation will also be reversed. Jesus' words are insightful and sobering. They invite us, contemporary disciples, to identify what we struggle with and what seduces us.

Fr Michael Trainor

# THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

16 FEBRUARY 2025

## FIRST READING

Jer 17: 5-8

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

*A curse on those who trust in humanity; a blessing on those who trust in the Lord.*

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,  
who relies on things of flesh,  
whose heart turns from the Lord.

He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:  
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,  
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,  
a salt land, uninhabited.

'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord,  
with the Lord for his hope.

He is like a tree by the waterside  
that thrusts its roots to the stream:  
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,  
its foliage stays green;  
it has no worries in a year of drought,  
and never ceases to bear fruit.'

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

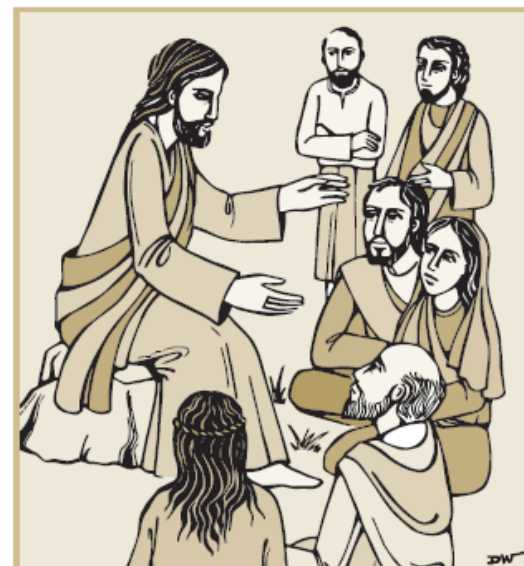
Ps 1: 1-4. R. Ps 39: 5

**R.** Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

1. Happy indeed is the man / who follows  
not the counsel of the wicked; / nor lingers in  
the way of sinners / nor sits in the company  
of scorners, / but whose delight is the law of  
the Lord / and who ponders his law day and  
night. **R.**

2. He is like a tree that is planted / beside the  
flowing waters, / that yields its fruit in due  
season / and whose leaves shall never fade; /  
and all that he does shall prosper. **R.**

3. Not so are the wicked, not so! / For they  
like winnowed chaff / shall be driven away by  
the wind. / For the Lord guards the way of  
the just / but the way of the wicked leads to  
doom. **R.**



## SECOND READING

1 Cor 15: 12, 16-20

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

*If Christ is not raised from the dead, your faith is in vain.*

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 6: 23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad;  
your reward will be great in heaven.  
Alleluia!

16 Feb 2025  
Week 6 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** 67658211  
**Pastoral Associate** 0411703608  
**St Josephs School** 67654079

**WEEKEND** Sat: 5.30 pm Sun: 9 am & 5pm  
**MASSES**  
**WEEKDAY** Mon: 9am Tues: 9am Wed: 12pm  
**MASSES** Thur: 9am Fri: 12pm St Peter Damian



### CONFESSIONS

\* Sat: 4.30-5.00pm  
\* Before every Mass  
\* By appointment

**ENTRANCE** O come let us worship God  
**ANTIPHON:** and bow low before the God who made us, for He is the Lord our God.

**COMMUNION** Let them thank the Lord for His mercy, His wonders for the children of men,  
**ANTIPHON:** for He satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Emanuel Chetcuti, Erin Hansen, Lyn McIntyre, Madeline Hayes.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Margaret Hough (1/2), Dalis O'Brien (12/2), Julia Blanch (12/2), John Paul Vella(4/12), Maria Mood (16/2), Mavis Parsons (25/2), 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, Deacon Peter Harrison, Hugh O'Brien, Noeline Turner, Vivienne Pullman, Hannah Press, Col Hassett, Rocco Cavallaro, John Petch, Maree Petch, Jack Smyth.

**SICK:** Kath Halloran, John Betts, Norma O'Brien, Elaine Murray, Shane Davidson, Sr Cecilia Pistacchio, Kevin Frost, Marie Southwell, Cheryl Moloney, Judy Murphy, Monica Austin, Daphne Sweeney (Sr Kathryn's mum).

### WEEK 2 ROSTER: 16/2/25

**Vigil:** R: C Ledwos Sr Kathryn  
**9.00 am Sun:** R: S Nichols A Sartori  
**5.00 pm Sun:** R: J Moloney C Lavell  
**Counting Team:** P Shiels A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** M Vell N Carson

**Gifts:** J and P Bamford  
**Gifts:** C Grima B Schipp  
**Gifts:** Heljo and Nijo  
**Altar Linen:** M Vella

### WEEK 3 ROSTER: 23/2/25

**Vigil:** R: Sr Kathryn N Pullman  
**9.00 am Sun:** R: S Brown J Woodbridge  
**5.00 pm Sun:** R: A O'Halloran T Mitchell  
**Counting Team:** G & M Thrift A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** S Brown V Griffiths

**Gifts:** K O'Brien M Asbury  
**Gifts:** M and S Yee  
**Gifts:** Elizabeth and Joshua Nijo  
**Altar Linen:** E Smyth

### 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

Blessed are  
the poor in Spirit

## WEEK 6 OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR C WELCOME TO ALL THOSE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.



*"Have patience with yourselves when you see that you have failed  
and patience with others when they seem to have done so." (1874)*

**PARISH ARRANGEMENTS DURING FR SABU'S LEAVE:** We sincerely thank Fr Ross O'Brien for providing weekend and daily masses and pastoral care for us during Fr Sabu's leave. During the week we will welcome Fr Sabu home. We pray for his safe return to us. Please keep both priests in your prayers that God will bless them abundantly.

**MISSIONARY RELIGIOUS ORDERS SPECIAL COLLECTION:** The Annual Missionary Orders Special Appeal was held at Masses last weekend. A few people have indicated that they wanted to contribute but were not prepared on the day. If you would like to contribute can you please place a marked envelope, on the second collection or leave the envelope in the nominated container at the back of the church? Many thanks for your generous support of this appeal for the Rogationists in India and La Salette in the Philippines.

**INVITATION TO PARISHIONERS:** The parish of Our Lady of Victories Catholic Parish, Bowen Hills, Brisbane, invites all from across our diocese, **to the Centenary Mass of their church at 11am, Saturday 26 April 2025.** The church was built and dedicated to the glory of God, as the **premier memorial for all Queensland Catholic soldiers and sailors who died in WWI** (including northern NSW soldiers who enlisted via Queensland). Please contact Anne in the office if you would like more information.

**BECOMING A CATECHIST:** You may know that Pope Francis has recently put a great deal of emphasis on being a Catechist. He says that *"being a catechist means that you are a catechist, not that you work as a catechist"*. If you would like to share your love of God with our little ones please call to discuss the possibilities with Anne in the office.

**LENT:** As Lent is now just three weeks away, it is time to give some thought to your Lenten journey for 2025. A Lenten program has been ordered for the parish and anyone interested in joining a group for reflection and learning please give your name to the office or add it to the sheet at the back of the Church.

**COMING EVENTS:** Tues 4 Mar: Shrove Tuesday Wed 5 Mar: Ash Wednesday.

### 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.*

