

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

LOVE THE ENEMY

We are now into the heart of Luke's Sermon on the Plain. We are also presented with the most important Gospel teaching that characterises Jesus' followers: Love and forgiveness of the enemy. But this is also dangerous teaching, for it is easy to misunderstand what Jesus is asking of his disciples. He is not addressing disciples individually, but together. The response to the 'enemy' comes from the total gathering of the Gospel household who support each other as they deal with the enemy. It is not the individual disciple who bears responsibility for enemy love. It is a collective response.

The response is also agential or active, never passive or submissive. Disciples disarm by their attitude of 'love'—a desire that the aggressor comes to know their own self-worth in their relationship to God and others. It is not about feeling affection or warmth towards the enemy, an impossible response in the face of suffering or hurt. 'Turning the other cheek' is a form of passive resistance to the aggressor, rather than responding with tit-for-tat assault, a response culturally expected. Luke's audience who are wealthy are encouraged to be generous. Jesus encourages disciples to act compassionately, like God.

Today's Gospel is challenging, especially in the context of the issues that today's believers are concerned about. Luke offers sage advice. A spirit of kindness and non-aggression towards the assailants of our world can help create a society shaped by peace rather than violence. Such a spirit ideally characterises our faith communities imbued with today's Gospel.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

23 FEBRUARY 2025

FIRST READING 1 Sam 26: 2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23
A reading from the first book of Samuel.

The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 102: 1-4, 8, 10, 12-13. R. v. 8

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, / all my being, bless his holy name. / My soul, give thanks to the Lord / and never forget all his blessings. **R.**



2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, / who heals every one of your ills, / who redeems your life from the grave, / who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

3. The Lord is compassion and love, / slow to anger and rich in mercy. / He does not treat us according to our sins / nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

4. As far as the east is from the west / so far does he remove our sins. / As a father has compassion on his sons, / the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Cor 15: 45-49

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

Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 13: 34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

23 Feb 2025
Week 7 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 67658211
Pastoral Associate 0411703608
St Josephs School 67654079

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



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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Julia Varga, Heighton Williams, Emanuel Chetcuti, Erin Hansen, Lyn McIntyre, Madeline Hayes.

ANNIVERSARIES: Margaret Hough (1/2), Dalis O'Brien (12/2), Julia Blanch (12/2), Maria Mood (16/2), Mavis Parsons (25/2), William Grima (5/3).

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: May Press, 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).

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 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

WEEK 4 ROSTER: 2/3/25

Vigil: R: C Ledwos Di Bolitho
9.00 am Sun: R: M Holley R Paul
5.00 pm Sun: R: J Parrenas J Parrenas
Counting Team: P Shiels A Bowden
Fri Cleaning M Vella N Carson

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

Love
your
Enemies

WEEK 7 OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR C WELCOME TO ALL THOSE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.

"May God be praised for all things." (1870)



PARISH HOMECOMING: Welcome home Fr Sabu! Our sincere thanks again to Fr Ross O'Brien for providing weekend and daily masses and pastoral care during Fr Sabu's leave.

LENT: As Lent is now just two 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.

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.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2025:

Sacraments to be celebrated this year at St Patrick's have been scheduled as follows:

- First Eucharist Information Meeting for Parent/s Guardians: Tuesday 20 May at 5.30 pm
- 1st reconciliation: 3rd June 5.30 pm
- 1st Eucharist Mass: 15 June at 9.00 am
- Confirmation Information Meeting for Parent/s Guardians: 27 May at 5.30 pm
- Reconciliation for Confirmation Candidates:
- Confirmation Mass: 29 June at 9 am.

If your child is not enrolled at St Josephs and you would like them to receive these sacraments, please contact the office as soon as possible.

CATHOLIC WEEKLY: Due to very limited sales and increasing costs we will be cancelling our regular order. You may be still be able to source a copy from another Parish.

COMING EVENTS:

Tues 4 Mar: Shrove Tuesday

Wed 5 Mar: Ash Wednesday School Mass 9am (all welcome), & Parish Mass 12 noon.

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.*

