

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joel 2: 12-13

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
With all your heart turn to me,  
for I am tender and compassionate.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## GOSPEL

Jn 8: 1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

# Breaking Open the Word

## JESUS' LIBERATING GAZE

Today's Gospel from John might seem out of place in a year where the liturgical focus is on Luke. However, some scholars suggest that the story of a woman caught in an adulterous act belongs more in Luke's Gospel and became misplaced in time. Whatever of the story's history, it is the teaching that unfolds that is so important as we come to our final week in our Lenten journey.

In the story, the woman becomes a pawn in a dispute over Torah teaching and as an object to trap Jesus in his apparent moral liberality and rejection of Mosaic teaching. Never addressed is the way the knowledge of the woman's adulterous act is derived. How would her accusers know of her conduct if they had not set themselves in a position to spy upon her? They, too, are incriminated by their very witness. Jesus does not buy into their legal dispute nor their accusation of the woman.

As her accusers depart from the scene without condemning the woman, Jesus gazes upon her without judgement. His gaze frees her. The story leaves contemporary listeners with at least two insights. It affirms Jesus' forgiveness and his desire for our spiritual release. It also provides an opportunity to reflect on the way women are treated today in many contexts as objects of sexual desire, domestic violence, male abuse and pornographic depiction.

Fr Michael Trainor

# THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / C

6 APRIL 2025

## FIRST READING

Isa 43: 16-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.*

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 125. R. v. 3

**R.** The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, / it seemed like a dream. / Then was our mouth filled with laughter, / on our lips there were songs. **R.**
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' / What marvels the Lord worked for us! / Indeed we were glad. **R.**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage / as streams in dry land. / Those who are sowing in tears / will sing when they reap. **R.**
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, / carrying seed for the sowing; / they come back, they come back, full of song, / carrying their sheaves. **R.**



## SECOND READING

Phil 3: 8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.*

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

■ The word of the Lord.

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06 Apr 2025  
Week 5 Lent  
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, Sheryl Brown  
**Sacristan** Elaine Smyth  
**School Principals** Greg O'Toole & Maree Holland

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Mon: 9.30 am—12.30 pm  
Fri: 8.30 am-11.00 am  
**Presbytery** 67658211  
**Pastoral Associate** 0411703608  
**St Josephs School** 67654079

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

**WEEKDAY MASSES**  
**Mon:** 9 am **Tues:** 9 am **Wed:** 12 noon  
**Thurs:** 9 am **Fri:** 12 noon

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



**HOLY WEEK TIMES**  
**Holy Thursday 6.00pm - Adoration till 8.00 pm**  
**Good Friday Stations of the Cross 9.00 am**  
**The Lord's Passion 3.00 pm**  
**Holy Saturday Easter Vigil 5.30 pm**  
**Easter Sunday 9.00 am**

**ENTRANCE ANTI-PHON:** Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.  
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

**COMMUNION ANTI-PHON:** Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord.

**ANTIPHON:** Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Kevin Frost, Kevin Bourke, Reginald Bucknall, Marie Southwell, Mimi Bennett, Julia Varga, David Fisher, Heighton Williams,

**ANNIVERSARIES:** William Grima (5/3), Patrick McNamara (5/3), Vivian Betts (15/3), Harry Cunningham (30/4).

**DECEASED:** We pray for our loved ones now in God's care, Paul d Deus, Rosa Martius, Emanuel Chetcuti, Erin Hansen, Lyn McIntyre, Madeline Hayes.

**SICK:** Sienna Baker, May Press, Kath Halloran, John Betts, Norma O'Brien, Elaine Murray, Shane Davidson, Sr Cecilia Pistacchio, 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

### COMING EVENTS:

**09 April** Anointing Mass 12 noon  
**10 April** Second Rite of Reconciliation  
**18 April** Good Friday (Holy Land Special Collection)  
**20 April** Easter Sunday  
**08 May** Ordination of Bishop Elect Peter Murphy



## WEEK 5 OF LENT YEAR C

WELCOME TO ALL THOSE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.



### PRAYER FOR OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS :

We thank our Father for the improvement in health of Pope Francis and pray for his continued healing and return of strength.

**ANointing MASS:** The Anointing Mass will be held this Wednesday 9 April at 12 noon.

**SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION:** Fr Sabu and visiting priests will hold Reconciliation in the Second Rite at 5.30 pm this coming Thursday 10 April.

**EASTER ROSTERS AND VOLUNTEERS:** If you are able to participate in the Washing of the Feet, you may let the office or Father know again so this is a smooth process on Holy Thursday.

**PARISH MORNING TEA:** You are all invited to attend morning tea after 9am Mass, Sunday 13th April., in the Parish Centre.

## EASTER CELEBRATIONS 2025

**HOLY THURSDAY:** 17 April 6.00pm - R1. Sr Kathryn R2. C. Lavell

**GOOD FRIDAY:** 18 April 3.00pm - R1. S. Brown R2. R. Paull

**EASTER VIGIL** 19 April 5.30pm - R1. G. Clout R2. S. Brown R3. Sr Kathryn

Epistle Reader: M. Donaldson

Prayers of Intercession: N. Pullman

**EASTER SUNDAY:** 20 April 9.00am - R1. A. Sartori R2. J. Ryan

### LENT:

In a world filled with distractions, Lent is a countercultural call to return to what matters: prayer, penance, and charity. It is the Church's way of inviting us into the mystery of the Cross,—not to remain there, but to walk through it into the joy of the Resurrection.

When Does Lent Start in 2025? Meaning, Traditions, and How to Prepare – Guadalupe Gifts

### WEEK 5 ROSTER: 06/4/25

**Vigil:** R: Sr Kathryn N Pullman  
**9am Sun:** R: S Brown J Woodbridge  
**5.00pm Sun:** R: A O'Halloran Volunteer  
**Counting Team :** O&J Whale S Brown  
**Fri Cleaning** J Hutt J Moran

**Gifts:** S Shulze V Griffiths  
**Gifts:** C Grima Volunteer  
**Gifts:** Elizabeth & Joshua Nijo  
**Altar Linen:** H Reid

### WEEK 5 ROSTER: 13/4/25

**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 G & M Thrift  
**Fri Cleaning** M Vella & I Ullman

**Gifts:** Bob & Maree Watson  
**Gifts:** B Schipp  
**Gifts:** Volunteer  
**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.*

