

the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

■ The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Jn 10:27-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*I give my sheep eternal life.*

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;  
I know them and they follow me.  
I give them eternal life;  
they will never be lost  
and no one will ever steal them from me.  
The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,  
and no one can steal from the Father.  
The Father and I are one.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word

## CLAIMED BY THE FATHER

On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, our Gospel attention turns traditionally to John's 'parable' of the Good Shepherd. Each of the lines in today's Gospel deserves special and lingering attention. 'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice': The sheep are the members of John's Gospel household. Listening to the voice of Jesus is what links to the next line: Jesus 'knows' those who listen to him. 'Know' refers not to information about, but an intimate link with. Jesus 'knows' with a depth of intimate love.

This intimacy flows over into the experience of 'eternal life' (the next line). It also brings about a communion that leads to identity and 'being found'. If you have ever felt lost, either personally or in life direction, Jesus offers a centre, an eternal promise of identity that will never be taken away. This is the sense behind Jesus' reassurance to John's audience of never 'being stolen'. Those who follow Jesus are claimed by the Father. They will always be found, and are one with Jesus' God because, as John asserts at the Gospel's conclusion, Jesus and the Father are 'one'.

Today's Gospel is rich and powerful. We celebrate Jesus' love of us, his desire that we 'know' our communion with him and his Father. Through Jesus we are one, eternally, with the Father. He continues to shepherd us.

Fr Michael Trainor

# THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / C

11 MAY 2025

## FIRST READING

Acts 13:14,43-52

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*We are now turning to the gentiles.*

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers.

Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

■ The word of the Lord.



## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 99:1-3,5

**R.** We are his people, the sheep of his flock. (*or Alleluia!*)

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. / Come before him, singing for joy. **R.**
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God. / He made us, we belong to him, / we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **R.**
3. Indeed, how good is the Lord, / eternal his merciful love. / He is faithful from age to age. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Apoc 7:9,14-17

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse  
*The Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.*

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are

11 May 2025  
4th Sunday  
Easter - 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** Sheryl Brown, Di Bolitho  
**Sacristan** Elaine Smyth  
**School Principals** Greg O'Toole & Maree Holland

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Mon: 9.30 am - 12.30 pm  
Fri: 9.30 am - 11.30 am  
**Presbytery** 67658211  
**Pastoral Associate** 0411703608  
**St Josephs School** 67654079

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

**WEEKDAY MASSES**  
Mon: 9am Tues: 9am \* Wed: No Midday Mass  
Thurs: 9am Fri: 12noon

**ENTRANCE ANTI-PHON:** The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth:  
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, Alleluia

**COMMUNION ANTI-PHON:** The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep  
and willingly died for his flock, Alleluia.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Maureen McNeill, Kath Halloran, Kevin Frost, Kevin Bourke, Reginald Bucknall.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Fr Bruce Macpherson (08/4), Elizabeth Turner (27/4), Harry Cunningham (30/4), Peg MacRae (4/5), Hugh O'Brien (18/5), Sandy Murray (22/5).

**DECEASED:** We pray for our loved ones now in God's care, Marie Southwell, Mimi Bennett, Julia Varga, Dalis O'Brien.

**SICK:** Sienna Baker, May Press, John Betts, Norma O'Brien, Elaine Murray, Shane Davidson, Sr Cecilia Pistacchio, Cheryl Moloney, Judy Murphy, Monica Austin, Daphne Sweeney (Sr Kathryn's mum), Ellen Jackson, Robyn English

**FUNERAL MASS NOTICE:** The funeral Mass for Maureen McNeill will be held at St Patrick's on Wednesday 14th May at 10.30am. There will be no midday Mass on this day.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION INFORMATION NIGHT:** 13 May, 5.30PM, St Patrick's church

**MOTHERS DAY MORNING TEA:** We wish 'all' Mothers, both present and future a wonderful Mothers Day and hope you receive much love and care from your loved ones. We also remember those special Mothers now eternally in God's loving care. ♥

A morning Tea will be held in the Parish Centre after 9am Mass this Sunday, in recognition of all Mothers. All are welcome!

### COMING EVENTS:

**11 May** Good Shepherd Sunday  
**11 May** Mother's Day Morning Tea  
**13 May** First Reconciliation Information Night  
**20 May** First Eucharist Information Night  
**27 May** Confirmation Information Night  
**04 June** Anointing Mass - 12noon

### COLLECTIONS: BSB: 082 105

1st. Coll'n - For Diocesan Priests Acc: 001023642; 2nd Coll'n - St Patricks Church Acc: 001041198

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.



### CONFESSIONS

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

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR C GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY & WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS WELCOME TO ALL THOSE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.

### POPE LEO XIV

Our new pope has been chosen. The Conclave has elected Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost as the 267th Pope.  
We are truly blessed.



### INSTALLATION OF BISHOP MURPHY:

Our diocese witnessed the installation of Bishop Peter Murphy on the evening of 8th May. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Murphy to our Parish in the next month or so.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:** Today is a day when Christians are invited to reflect on the meaning of God's call and to pray that they may answer the call to dedicate their lives to serve the Church in a special way, i.e., to shepherd the Church communities, particularly as pastors in their parishes and as superiors in their religious orders or congregations. Therefore, "Vocations Sunday" is not just for the few selected for directly religious vocations; it is for ALL of us here. On the one hand, each one needs to reflect on what one's particular calling is and how one can respond to it for the well-being of the whole parish community. Secondly, one needs to help others, and not be an obstacle to them as they respond to the particular calling and graces that God through his Spirit is giving one.

### Prayer for Vocations

Gracious and loving God, help the men and women of our parish to hear the call to serve in the Diocese of Armidale. Our needs are great and our people thirst for your presence.

Open the hearts of many, raise up faithful servants of the Gospel, dedicated, holy priests, sisters, brothers and deacons, who will spend themselves for your people and their needs.

Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance. Grant that many will be inspired by their example and faith.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen



If you wish to know more..  
Contact Vocation Ministry

(+61) 0450 355 014  
vocations@sistersofnazareth.com  
www.sistersofnazareth.com

### WEEK 2 ROSTER: 11/05/25

**Vigil:** R: C Ledwos Sr Kathryn  
**9am Sun:** R: S Nichols A Sartori  
**5pm: Sun** R: C Lavell Volunteer  
**Counting:** M Vella & A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** M Vella & I Ullman

**Gifts:** S Shulze & V Griffiths  
**Gifts:** B Schipp C Grima  
**Gifts:** Volunteer  
**Altar Linen:** M. Vella

### WEEK 3 ROSTER: 18/05/25

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

**Gifts:** J & P Bamford  
**Gifts:** Michelle & Sally  
**Gifts:** Volunteer  
**Altar Linen:** E. Smyth

