

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

They all ate and were filled.

Jesus made the crowds welcome and talked to them about the kingdom of God; and he cured those who were in need of healing. It was late afternoon when the Twelve came to him and said, 'Send the people away, and they can go to the villages and farms round about to find lodging and food; for we are in a lonely place here.' He replied, 'Give them something to eat yourselves.' But they said, 'We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we are to go ourselves and buy food for all these people.' For there were about five thousand men. But he said to his disciples, 'Get them to sit down in parties of about fifty.' They did so and made them all sit down. Then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven, and said the blessing over them; then he broke them and handed them to his disciples to distribute among the crowd. They all ate as much as they wanted, and when the scraps remaining were collected they filled twelve baskets.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

'GIVE THEM YOURSELVES TO EAT!'

For today's Feast we return to the Gospel of Luke. It is about food. The evangelist frequently presents Jesus eating and feasting. In fact, one scholar (Robert Karris) has said that Jesus got himself killed by the way he ate! This is not about the quantity of food or the menu, but the kind of people with whom Jesus ate. The scurrilous and social pariahs were his meal guests, frowned upon by the religious officials.

Today's Gospel is about food, so appropriate for our Feast. While space prevents a full exposé of the story, the disciples see a pastoral problem: they have a hungry crowd before them and want Jesus to deal with it. Jesus responds, 'Give them something to eat yourselves.' This could also be translated 'You give them *yourselves* to eat!'

The disciples lament that they are incapable and have only five loaves and two fish—the average daily size of a meal for a family—for such a large crowd. And how many? 5000 males. Each male representing the head of a household in the Greco-Roman world which would (according to some scholars) have around 50 members. Luke is imagining 250,000 people present, the size of an ancient city!

Jesus gets the disciples to form the crowd into household groups and then, after a eucharistic act of blessing, has the food distributed. It satisfies. This symbolically loaded story affirms the power of the Eucharist for a household-gathering of those seeking nourishment, including ourselves.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST / C

22 JUNE 2025

FIRST READING

Gen 14:18-20

A reading from the book of Genesis

Melchizedek brought bread and wine.

Melchizedek king of Salem brought bread and wine; he was a priest of God Most High. He pronounced this blessing: 'Blessed be Abraham by God Most High, creator of heaven and earth, and blessed be God Most High for handing over your enemies to you.'

And Abraham gave him a tithe of everything.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 109:1-4. R. v. 4

R. You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

1. The Lord's revelation to my Master: / 'Sit on my right: / I will put your foes beneath your feet.' **R.**

2. The Lord will send from Zion / your sceptre of power: / rule in the midst of all your foes. **R.**

3. A prince from the day of your birth / on the holy mountains; / from the womb before the daybreak I begot you. **R.**

4. The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change. / 'You are a priest for ever, / a priest like Melchizedek of old.' **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 11:23-26

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

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the death of the Lord.

This is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you: that on the same night that he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it, and he said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this as a memorial of me.' In the same way he took the cup after supper, and said, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me.' Until the



Lord comes, therefore, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming his death.

■ The word of the Lord.

SEQUENCE

Behold the bread of angels, sent
For pilgrims in their banishment,
The bread for God's true children meant,
That may not unto dogs be given:
Oft in the olden types foreshadowed;
In Isaac on the altar bowed,
And in the ancient paschal food,
And in the manna sent from heaven.

Come then, good shepherd, bread divine,
Still show to us thy mercy sign;
Oh, feed us still, still keep us thine;
So may we see thy glories shine

In fields of immortality;
O thou, the wisest, mightiest, best,
Our present food, our future rest,
Come, make us each thy chosen guest,
Co-heirs of thine, and comrades blest
With saints whose dwelling is with thee.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 6:51-52

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!

22 June 2025
The Most Holy
Body and Blood
of Christ - 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 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: 12noon
Thurs: 9am Fri: 12noon

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood, remains in me and I in him, says the Lord

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Nancy Daly, Cheryl Moloney, Angelito Llave, Noelene Freestone, John Haggart, Barry Condon, Ben Boyd, Sr. Rosalie O'Neill RSJ.

ANNIVERSARIES: Kevin McNamara (21/5), Sandy Murray (22/5), Pat Smyth (7/6), Grant D'Elboux (21/6).

DECEASED: We pray for our loved ones now in God's care, Ellen Jackson, Maureen McNeill, Frank Grima.

SICK: Sienna Baker, May Press, John Betts, Norma O'Brien, Elaine Murray, Shane Davidson, Sr Cecilia Pistacchio, Judy Murphy, Monica Austin, Robyn English, Daphne Sweeney (Sr Kathryn's mum), Brian Rodway, Lisa Bond, John Ryan, Yvonne Tarrant.

COMING EVENTS:

24 June The Nativity of St John The Baptist - Solemnity - 9am Mass
27 June The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus - Solemnity - 12noon Mass
28 June Confirmation - Saturday, 5.30pm Mass
29 June Sts Peter and Paul, apostles - Solemnity - 9am Mass
06 July National Aboriginal & TSI Sunday

COLLECTIONS:

Account Name: West Tamworth Catholic Church **BSB: 082 105**

1st. Collection: For Diocesan Priests Presbytery Acc: 001023642
2nd Collection: For St. Patrick's Church 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.



THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST - YEAR C WELCOME TO ALL THOSE JOINING US AT ST PATRICK'S.

The Holy Body and Blood of Christ
The Body and Blood of Christ (the Eucharist),
the actual presence of Jesus Christ,
body and blood, soul and divinity,
under the appearances of bread and wine.
Our Catholic faith believes that
through the consecration during Mass,
the bread and wine are transformed
into the body and blood of Christ.



Do you really witness the miracle that happens each time the eucharist is celebrated in the Mass. It has been recorded that just one-third of U.S. Catholics (31%) say they believe that "during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus." The interesting aspect of this is that it was predicted way back 119 years ago in 1902 by Pope Leo XIII. Source: catholic365.com Each time this happens during Mass, try and be present in that moment, take note of the time, the words, and really experience the miracle that occurs and feel the presence of Jesus at that point.

PARISH CONFIRMATION 28 JUNE: Please keep in your prayers ALL Candidates who are preparing for Confirmation next Saturday evening. We are blessed to have 36 Candidates this year and our first official visit from Bishop Murphy.

CALL FOR ROSTER VOLUNTEERS: We are in great need of more volunteers for our Reader and Gifts rosters for Sunday evenings. If you can help in this way, please speak with Fr Sabu or contact the Parish Office. Should you be a current reader of any Mass time, and ever unable to keep your commitment, please endeavour to ask someone to replace you and if unable to find a suitable replacement please let the office know. Thank you

COLLECTIONS: Please know that as society becomes more and more 'cashless' that giving your regular collection donations is possible via electronic transfer to the account details listed opposite. You may reference your name or remain anonymous. The Church Account (2nd coll'n) is what runs and maintains St Patricks Church, while the Presbytery account (1st Coll'n) goes to the diocese for the upkeep of the diocesan priests.

ROSTER FOR: 22/06/25

Vigil: R: C Ledwos D Bolitho
9am Sun: R: R Paull A Sartori
5pm: Sun R: C Lavell Volunteer
Counting: P Shiels S Brown
Fri Cleaning M Brown K O'Brien

Gifts: S. Shulze V Griffiths
Gifts: B Schipp C Grima
Gifts: Volunteers
Altar Linen: H Reid

ROSTER FOR: 29/06/25 (Confirmation)

Vigil: R: St Joseph's School
9am Sun: R: S Brown J Woodbridge
5.00pm Sun: R: A O'Halloran Volunteer
Counting: M Vella A Bowden
Fri Cleaning J Hutt J Moran

Gifts: St Joseph's School
Gifts: G & U McKay
Gifts: Volunteers
Altar Linen: J Hutt

