

Alleluia, alleluia! Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart, and yield a harvest through perseverance. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Martha took up the duties in the house. Mary chose the better part.

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered: 'Martha, Martha,' he said 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

A GOOD PART

Today's story seems to affirm the contemplative life (symbolised by Mary sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to him) over the active life (represented by a preoccupied Martha). This classic interpretation sets the two women at odds with each other. However, placed in the context of Luke's missionary and ministry-concerned world, something else is going on. The scene is set in *Martha's* house. She is the leader of the house and, conceivably, the representative in Luke's household Jesus-gatherings.

The issue that concerns Mary, and Luke's audience, is not helped by our English translation. Three translation corrections are necessary. (1) Martha being 'distracted with all the serving...' is better translated as Martha being 'taken up with much *ministry* (Greek, *diakonia*)' (2) Martha's question to Jesus, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself?' is better translated, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me alone to minister (Greek, *diakonein*)?' (3) Rather than Jesus saying to Martha that Mary 'has chosen the better part...' the Greek has Jesus saying that Mary 'has chosen a *good part*'. Interpretations (1) and (2) suggest that a real concern surfacing in Luke's world is about *ministry*. Interpretation (3) indicates that there is no competition between Mary and Martha.

Both actions, Martha's *diakonial* concerns and Mary's focus on Jesus' word, are important, the second not to be devalued. It is 'a good part'. These same issues preoccupy us: a concern about future ministry while focussing on Jesus' word.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

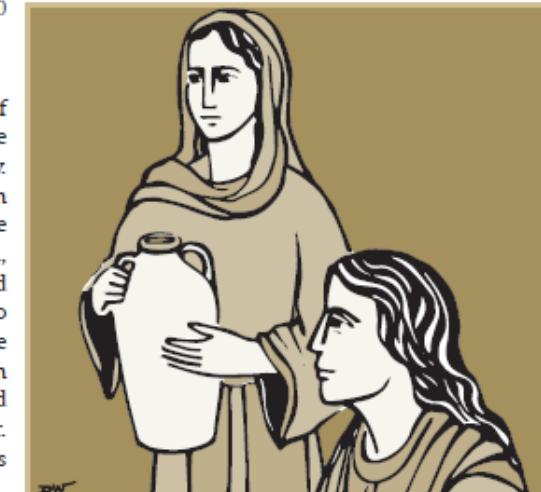
20 JULY 2025

FIRST READING

Gen 18:1-10

A reading from the book of Genesis
Lord, do not bypass your servant.

The Lord appeared to Abraham at the Oak of Mamre while he was sitting by the entrance of the tent during the hottest part of the day. He looked up, and there he saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them, and bowed to the ground. 'My Lord,' he said 'I beg you, if I find favour with you, kindly do not pass your servant by. A little water shall be brought; you shall wash your feet and lie down under the tree. Let me fetch a little bread and you shall refresh yourselves before going further. That is why you have come in your servant's direction.' They replied, 'Do as you say.'



Abraham hastened to the tent to find Sarah. 'Hurry,' he said 'knead three bushels of flour and make loaves.' Then running to the cattle Abraham took a fine and tender calf and gave it to the servant, who hurried to prepare it. Then taking cream, milk and the calf he had prepared, he laid all before them, and they ate while he remained standing near them under the tree.

'Where is your wife Sarah?' they asked him. 'She is in the tent', he replied. Then his guest said, 'I shall visit you again next year without fail and your wife will then have a son.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 14:2-5. R. v. 1

R. The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain? / He who walks without fault; / he who acts with justice / and speaks the truth from his heart; / he who does not slander with his tongue. R.
2. He who does no wrong to his brother, / who casts no slur on his neighbour, / who holds the godless in disdain, / but honours those who fear the Lord. R.

3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may; / who takes no interest on a loan / and accepts no bribes against the innocent. / Such a man will stand firm for ever. R.

SECOND READING

Col 1:24-28

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

The mystery hidden for centuries has now been revealed to his saints.

It makes me happy to suffer for you, as I am suffering now, and in my body to do what I can to make up all that has still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of his body, the Church. I became the servant of the Church when God made me responsible for delivering God's message to you, the message which was a mystery hidden for generations and centuries and has now been revealed to his saints. It was God's purpose to reveal it to them and to show all the rich glory of this mystery to pagans. The mystery is Christ among you, your hope of glory: this is the Christ we proclaim, this is the wisdom in which we thoroughly train everyone and instruct everyone, to make them all perfect in Christ.

■ The word of the Lord.

20 July 2025
16th Sunday - Yr 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

CONFESIONS

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

**WEEKDAY
MASSES** Mon: 9am Tues: 9am (St Mary Magdalen)
Wed: 12noon Thurs: 9am Fri: 12noon (St James)

**ENTRANCE
ANTIPHON:** See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

COMMUNION The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders;
ANTIPHON: He gives food to those who fear him.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Eileen Humphries, Michael Chetcuti, Nola O'Halloran, Barry Patterson, Nancy Daly, Cheryl Moloney.

ANNIVERSARIES: Tom Hudson (10/7), Sheila McNamara (20/7), William Davy (25/7) Bridget Teo (29/7).

DECEASED: We pray for our loved ones now in God's care, Paul Compton (Randwick), Ellen Jackson, Maureen McNeill, Frank & Josephine Grima, Ben Boyd

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.

Martha and Mary

The story of Mary and Martha offers a reflection on the importance of both service and contemplation in Christian life.



COMING EVENTS:

21 July: School Term 3 Begins.

01 Aug: Exposition & Benediction, 11.30am

COLLECTIONS: BSB: 082 105

Account Name: West Tamworth Catholic 'Church' Or 'Presbytery'

1st. Collection: For Diocesan Priests : 001023642 (Presbytery Account)

2nd Collection: For St. Patrick's Church : 001041198 (Church Account)

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.



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY - YEAR C

WELCOME TO ALL THOSE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.

WE THANK FR ROSS O'BRIEN for providing weekend and daily masses for us for the next few weeks. Please keep an eye on the bulletin for any changes to Mass times.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND RECENTLY DECEASED: Please keep all those who are unwell, recently deceased and caring and bereaved family and friends in your thoughts, and pray that their faith in Jesus will bring them comfort during these difficult times.

PLANNED GIVING - NEW FINANCIAL YEAR: There are still several envelope packs to be collected and they are now being held at the Parish Office. Please collect these as soon as possible. The New Planned Giving envelopes for 2025-2026 are green in colour.

Please do not use your old envelopes as the numbers may have changed.

We thank you for your co-operation and your generosity.

Your regular Planned Giving donation can also be made by electronic transfer to the account details listed opposite. You may reference your name or remain anonymous.

THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, re-awaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

ADIG ANNUAL REPORT: The ADIG 2025 Annual Report is now available online.

See: <https://adig.com.au/adig-2025-annual-report/>

ROSTER FOR: 20/07/25

Vigil:	R: C Ledwos D Bolitho	Gifts:	A and C Lyons
9am Sun:	R: J Ryan, G Clout	Gifts:	B Schipp, C Grima
5pm Sun:	R C Lavell Volunteer	Gifts:	Volunteer
Counting:	P Shiels, S Brown	Altar Linen:	H Reid
Fri Cleaning	M Brown & K O'Brien		

ROSTER FOR: 27/07/25

Vigil:	R: N Pullman, P Bamford	Gifts:	B & M Watson
9am Sun:	R: D Gowing, A Sartori	Gifts:	Gus & Usenia McKay
5pm Sun:	R: A O'Halloran, Volunteer	Gifts:	Volunteer
Counting:	M Vella A Bowden	Altar Linen:	J Hutt
Fri Cleaning	J Hutt J Moran		

