

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because by your cross you have redeemed
the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 3: 13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.

The Son of Man must be lifted up.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'No one has gone up to heaven
except the one who came down from heaven;
the Son of Man who is in heaven;
and the Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have
eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may
not be lost

but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be
saved.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

LIFTED UP

Today's Feast moves us away from our usual
journey through Luke's Gospel. Instead,
our focus is with John's Gospel. We are
in a different world. John 3 concerns the
engagement which Jesus has with Nicodemus,
a Jewish leader and, as we learn at the
Gospel's end, a potential disciple. In this
chapter, the evangelist seeks to reflect upon
Jesus' origins. John affirms that Jesus, God's
Word and source of Wisdom, is from God.
He 'came down from Heaven'. Jesus is God's
exalted heavenly and human presence. He will
be 'lifted up', that is, in John's story of Jesus'
passion and death, he will be 'lifted up' on the
cross and will be 'lifted up' in exaltation by
the Father in resurrection. Jesus' death is also
his exaltation.

In today's Gospel, the evangelist draws on the
imagery of the fashioned bronze serpent that
Moses 'lifts up', that we hear today in the first
reading from the *Book of Numbers*. The serpent
figure rescues the suffering Israelites. For
John, this, too, is Jesus' quest: to rescue and
bring eternal life to suffering humanity. John's
passage exudes hope and divine communion
with humanity and creation. God loves the
'cosmos' so much that God's very being and
expression in the Word, Jesus, suffers for it.
This word, 'cosmos', comprises the whole of
creation, including humanity.

Palpable optimism permeates this Gospel
passage. For John, God wants nothing or
anyone to be 'lost'. All are found in the Word
enfleshed in Jesus. God's community with
creation and humanity is sealed and eternal.
This is such a rich Gospel for today's Feast.
Every line deserves meditation.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS / C

14 SEPTEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Num 21: 4-9

A reading from the book of Numbers.

*When those that were afflicted looked upon it, they
were healed.*

On the way through the wilderness, the
Israelites lost patience. They spoke against
God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring
us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For
there is neither bread nor water here: we are
sick of this unsatisfying food.'

At this God sent fiery serpents among the
people; their bite brought death to many in
Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We
have sinned by speaking against the Lord and
against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to
save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded
for the people, and the Lord answered him,
'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard.
If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall
live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent
which he put on a standard, and if anyone was
bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze
serpent and lived.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 77: 1-2, 34-38. R. v. 7
R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!

1. Give heed, my people, to my teaching; /
turn your ear to the words of my mouth /
I will open my mouth in a parable / and reveal
hidden lessons of the past. **R.**

2. When he slew them then they would seek
him, / return and seek him in earnest. / They
would remember that God was their rock, /
God the Most High their redeemer. **R.**

3. But the words they spoke were mere
flattery; / they lied to him with their lips. / For
their hearts were not truly with him; / they
were not faithful to his covenant. **R.**

4. Yet he who is full of compassion / forgave
their sin and spared them. / So often he held
back his anger / when he might have stirred up
his rage. **R.**



SECOND READING

Phil 2: 6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians.

He humbled himself, therefore God has exalted him.

The state of Jesus Christ was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the
underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

■ The word of the Lord.

14 September 2025

Exaltation of the
Holy Cross - Yr C

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org>

Email: westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au



Parish Administrator Fr Saji Kappikuzhi
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 & Fri: 9.30 am - 1.30pm

Presbytery 67658211
Pastoral Associate 0411703608
St Josephs School 67654079

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

WEEKDAY Mon: 9am Our Lady of Sorrows
MASSES Tues: 9am Saints Cornelius & Cyprian
Wed: 12noon Thurs: 9am Fri: 12noon

ENTRANCE We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
ANTIPHON: in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection,
through whom we are saved and delivered.

COMMUNION When I am lifted up from the earth,
ANTIPHON: I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.

CONFESSIONS

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



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Allan Jacobson, Pat Wall, Terry Mooney, Terry Dean.

ANNIVERSARIES: Chris Morris (12/9), Val Chillingworth (13/9), Deacon Peter Harrison (21/9).

DECEASED: We pray for our loved ones now in God's care, Hugh O'Brien, Robyn English, Eileen Humphries, Bob McKinnon, John Hegarty, Noeline Turner, Nancy Daly.

SICK: Sienna Baker, May Press, John Betts, Norma O'Brien, Elaine Murray, Shane Davidson, Sr Cecilia Pistacchio, Judy Murphy, Monica Austin, Daphne Sweeney, Brian Rodway, Lisa Bond, John Ryan, Yvonne Tarrant, Bill Dennis, Barry McNamara.

Exaltation Of The Holy Cross:

The universal symbol of the Christian faith, the cross represents Christ's victory over death. The feast celebrates the redemptive transformation of a barbaric instrument of torture into a divine "tree of life" that brings hope to humankind.

COMING EVENTS:

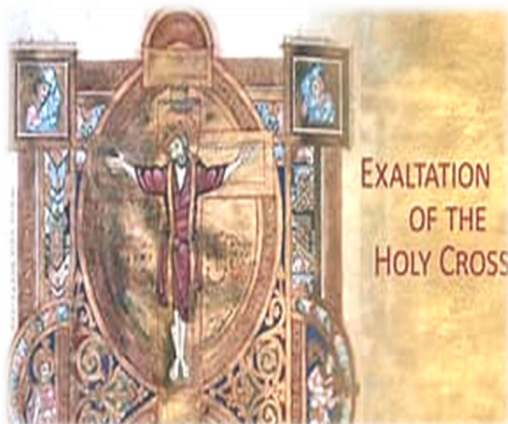
14 Sep: Safeguarding Sunday
28 Sep: Migrants and Refugees Sunday
5 Oct: Daylight Saving Begins.

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)



EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS - YEAR C WELCOME TO ALL THOSE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.

Safeguarding Sunday

Today we are gathered on Safeguarding Sunday, a day when we pause to focus on our responsibility to protect and care for those who are vulnerable. In the Bible, we find a clear and strong message about justice, compassion, and speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are called to be a safe, welcoming and hope-filled church. In our everyday lives, let's be mindful of those around us who are vulnerable or marginalised. Who are the "silent" ones in our society, the ones without a voice?

Today, God may be calling you to stand up for them. Whether it's through prayer, support, or direct action, we are invited to participate in God's work of justice.

ROSTERS AND VOLUNTEERS: If you have ever thought you would like to offer you assistance with readings, offertory procession, counting, cleaning or any other ministries you see happening in the Church, please speak to any of the staff or Father Saji or Sr Kathryn. You may prefer to have a "try before you buy" if considering a roster position or simply offer your help as a back up when needed. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who has had these thoughts and happy to assist making them a reality and help out in your Church.

Pope Leo (to the Volunteers Jubilee - Rome Mar 25) (penned by Pope Francis). "I thank you very much, dear friends, because following the example of Jesus you serve your neighbour without using your neighbour. On the streets and in people's houses, with the sick, the suffering, those in prison, with the young and the elderly, your dedication instils hope in all of society. In the deserts of poverty and loneliness, little gestures of freely-given service make the shoots of a new humanity flourish - that garden that God dreamed of and continues to dream of for all of us"

ROSTER FOR: 14/09/25

Vigil: R: C Ledwos, Sr Kathryn
9am Sun: R: S Nichols A Sartori
5pm Sun: R: C Lavell, Volunteer
Counting: P. Sheils, S. Brown
Fri Cleaning M. Brown, K. O'Brien

Gifts: Volunteer
Gifts: B. Schipp, C. Grima
Gifts: Volunteer
Altar Linen: H. Reid

ROSTER FOR: 21/09/25

Vigil: R: Sr Kathryn N Pullman
9am Sun: R: S Brown J Woodbridge
5pm Sun: R: A O'Halloran Volunteer
Counting: M. Vella, A. Bowden
Fri Cleaning J. Hutt, J. Moran

Gifts: K. O'Brien, M. Asbury
Gifts: G & U McKay
Gifts: Volunteer
Altar Linen: J. Hutt

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.



SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY • 14 SEP 2025

WE ARE A
SAFE, HOPE-FILLED
AND WELCOMING
CHURCH

