

Alleluia, alleluia!  
God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;  
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Lk 18:9-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*The publican returned to his home justified; the Pharisee did not.*

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else. 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word

## PONDERING OUR ATTITUDES

Today's Gospel presents us with a mirror to help us reflect on the way we regard others. It is especially pertinent when we feel assured that our religious attitude and approach to our Faith and God is correct. It is even possible that out of this attitude we can regard others, especially those from other faith traditions, as uninformed or perhaps targets of divine condemnation.

Jesus offers Luke's audience an opportunity to reflect on similar attitudes. It takes the form of a parable focused on two people: a person of religious scrupulosity and a public sinner. The first is called a 'Pharisee', an identification that requires nuanced historical understanding. For Luke writing in the mid-80s of the first century in the period after the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, Pharisees enabled Judaism to survive and grow. They represented its leadership. To followers of Jesus at that same period they represented those who were critical of the Jesus-movement and didn't join in. In the time of Jesus, in the 30s, the situation was very different. They were very attuned to Jesus' mission and, like him, concerned about authentic Jewish faith and Torah practice.

In the story in Luke's Gospel, Jesus compares a 'Pharisee' (in this later historical understanding) to a tax-collector judged a sinner, collaborating in Rome's oppressive taxation system. This 'sinner' recognises his need for God's mercy; the Lukan Pharisee, self-assured about his religious credentials, arrogant and without any need for God, is self-focused. These parable characters invite us to ponder our attitude to God and others.

Fr Michael Trainor



# THE SAVING WORD

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

26 OCTOBER 2025

## FIRST READING

Sir 35:12-14, 16-19

A reading from the book of Sirach

*The prayer of the humble will penetrate the heavens.*

The Lord is a judge  
who is no respecter of personages.  
He shows no respect of personages to the  
detriment of a poor man,  
he listens to the plea of the injured party.  
He does not ignore the orphan's supplication,  
nor the widow's as she pours out her story.  
The man who with his whole heart serves God  
will be accepted,

his petitions will carry to the clouds.  
The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds,  
until it arrives he is inconsolable,  
nor will he desist until the Most High takes  
notice of him,  
acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement.  
And the Lord will not be slow,  
nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

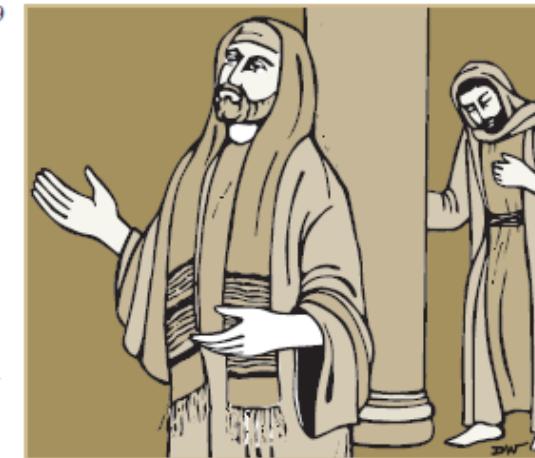
Ps 32:2-3, 17-19, 23. R. v. 7

R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, / his praise always on my lips; / in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. / The humble shall hear and be glad. R.

2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked / to destroy their remembrance from the earth. / The just call and the Lord hears / and rescues them in all their distress. R.

3. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; / those whose spirit is crushed he will save. / The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. / Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. R.



## SECOND READING

2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

*All that remains is the crown of righteousness reserved for me.*

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The first time I had to present my defence, there was not a single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted me – may they not be held accountable for it. But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.

26 October 2025  
30th Sunday - Yr 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 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 6765 8211  
St Josephs School 67654079

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

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

**WEEKDAY MASSES** Mon: 9am Tues: 9am **Sts Simon & Jude**  
Wed: 12noon Thurs: 9am Fri: 12noon

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;  
Turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.  
**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** We will ring out our joy at your saving help  
and exalt in the name of our God.



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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Margaret Hudson, Norma Simmonds, Barry Lane, Vincent Pendergast, Phil Eather, John Galloway, Patrick McBrearty.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Warren Doherty (6/10), Daphne Davis (12/10), Bill Teo (29/10), Mary McInnes (6/11).

**DECEASED:** We pray for our loved ones now in God's care, Terry Mooney, Pat Wall.

**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, Jeanette Whale, Carmel Koppman.

### The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

In today's Gospel, it is a sinner who prays to God for mercy and, wonderfully,

God hears the sinner's humble prayer .

The only prayer to which God cannot respond is that of the self-righteous..  
who effectively says to God:  
"I do not need you".



### COMING EVENTS:

1 Nov: All Saints Day (celebrated at Saturday Vigil Mass)  
2 Nov: All Souls Day  
2 Nov: St Joseph's School Family Mass - 9am Mass  
7 Nov: Adoration and Benediction - Friday, 11.30am

### COLLECTIONS: BSB: 082 105

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

1st. Collection: For Armidale Diocese Clergy: 001023642 (Presbytery Account)

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

## THIRTIETH SUNDAY - YEAR C WELCOME TO ALL THOSE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.

**MISSION SUNDAY APPEAL:** Last weekend the Mission Sunday Appeal was held. Thank you to all those who gave generously to this appeal. If you were not prepared last weekend and would still like to contribute, and return your envelopes, it's not too late. Envelopes are at the back of the church this weekend and can be given in the collections during Mass.



**OCTOBER - MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY:** As the end of October is almost upon us, we are reminded that devotion of the Rosary is a powerful way to pray and reflect on the life of Jesus Christ. The Holy Father urged Catholics around the world to unite in daily prayer. Please join with other parishioners to pray the Rosary at St Patrick's Church before each Mass, starting 30 minutes prior to the Mass time.

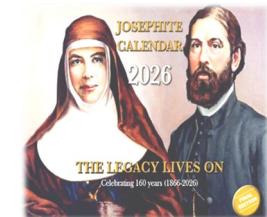
*"I invite everyone, each day of the coming month, to pray the Rosary for peace - personally, in the family, and in community,"* Pope Leo (per Vatican News).

**MASS FOR ALL SAINTS DAY:** This year, the Vigil Mass on Saturday, 1st November will be celebrated for ALL SAINTS DAY. Attendance will also fulfil your Sunday obligation. There will be no other Mass at St Patrick's for this Solemnity.

**MASSES FOR ALL SOULS DAY:** Sunday masses next weekend will be devoted to the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed. Please bring a candle, if you wish, or use one of those provided to offer prayers for your own loved ones you wish to be remembered.

**NOVEMBER MASSES:** There will be envelopes available at the back of the church to make requests for November Masses to be said for deceased members of your family and/or friends. Please write **very clearly** as names will be printed and displayed at the front of the church, next to Our Lady's Altar.

**JOSEPHITE CALENDARS 2026:** Orders are being taken for next year's calendars. This is the final year that these beautiful calendars will be available. They are marked "Final Edition" and numbers are limited. There will be a form at the back of the church for names and numbers required. Calendars are \$10 each, payment is due on delivery. If you have any queries, please speak with Cheryl Lavell.



### ROSTER FOR: 26/10/25

Vigil:	R: C Ledwos, Sr Kathryn	Gifts:	K. O'Brien, M. Asbury
9am Sun:	R: S Nichols A Sartori	Gifts:	Michelle & Sally
5pm Sun:	R: C Lavell Volunteer	Gifts:	Volunteer
Counting:	A. Bowden, S. Brown	Altar Linen:	M. Vella
Fri Cleaning	M. Vella, I. Ullman		

### ROSTER FOR: 02/11/25

Vigil:	R: Sr Kathryn N Pullman	Gifts:	A & C Lyons
9am Sun:	R: St Joseph's School	Gifts:	St Joseph's School
5.00pm Sun:	R: A O'Halloran T Mitchell	Gifts:	Volunteer
Counting Team :	G & M Thrift	Altar Linen:	E. Smyth
Fri Cleaning	S. Brown, V. Griffiths		

*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.*

