

Alleluia, alleluia! / May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, / and the fullness of his message live within you. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 2:13–25, 19–23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead'. So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

LIVING OUT ISRAEL'S HISTORY

With today's feast we return to one of Matthew's special heroes, Joseph. As we have already seen, Matthew's Joseph is like the Old Testament patriarchal figure—he is a 'dreamer' who leads God's family. In this Gospel Joseph has a dream, a privileged religious experience of divine communication. In this dream, an angel, the Gospel's representation of the presence of God, appears and again directs Joseph. This time it is to escape into Egypt; Herod is out to execute the child Jesus. Like ancient Israel through the Old Testament story of the other Joseph who goes to Egypt, Matthew's Joseph leads Mary and the child into Egypt and safety, paralleling the story of Israel.

For Matthew, Jesus is the symbolic representation of Israel's story and sums up in his being the desire of God to free the people from disaster. After Herod dies, Joseph—perhaps now an insomniac!—gets another dream to go back to Israel. Instead of returning to his hometown, which in Matthew is Bethlehem, he takes the family 'into exile' to Nazareth because of the murderous intent of Herod's son, Archelaus. In this last movement, Jesus completes the cycle of Israel's story—being called, to Egypt, to the exodus and finally, into exile. It is from this perspective that the rest of Matthew's Gospel unfolds. The evangelist, writing to Jewish followers of Jesus, is keen to show how Jesus is a true Israelite, living out Israel's history.

Two things might be reflectively helpful for the contemporary family: God always accompanies the family of Jesus in its journey, no matter where it leads; trust one's dream. God can communicate in different and, sometimes, unpredictable ways.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH / A

28 DECEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Sir 3:2–6, 12–14

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,

he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,

he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy; do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 127:1–5. R. cf. v.1

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord/ and walk in his ways!/ By the labour of your hands you shall eat./ You will be happy and prosper. **R.**

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine/ in the heart of your house;/ your children like shoots of the olive,/ around your table. **R.**

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed/ the man who fears the Lord./ May the Lord bless you from Zion/ all the days of your life! **R.**

SECOND READING

Col 3:12–21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Concerning the Christian life in the world.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere



compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

■ The word of the Lord.

28 December 2025

The Holy Family - Yr A

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org>

Email: westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au



Parish Administrator Fr Saji Kappikuzhi
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
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 (Solemnity of Mary) Fri: 12noon

CONFESSIONS

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us..

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Daphne Sweeney, Laurie Brodbeck, Barry Borham, Eric Chua.

ANNIVERSARIES: Richard Bowler (1/12), Perce McInnes (2/12), John Paul Vella (4/12), Mary Sampson (2/01), John O'Brien (3/01), Pamela Davy [nee Barry] (06/01), Rod Kelly (20/01), Lawrence Vella (23/01).

DECEASED: We pray for our loved ones now in God's care, William Grima, Paul Zammit, Hugh & Dalis O'Brien, Margaret Hudson, Barry Lane, Norma Simmonds, Vincent Pendergast, Phil Eather, John Galloway, Patrick McBrearty.

SICK: Sienna Baker, May Press, John Betts, Norma O'Brien, Elaine Murray, Shane Davidson, Sr Cecilia Pistacchio, Judy Murphy, Monica Austin, Brian Rodway, Lisa Bond, John Ryan, Yvonne Tarrant, Bill Dennis, Barry McNamara, Jeanette Whale, Carmel Koppman, Barbara Brennan, Eileen Hudson, Rose Pace, Elizabeth Coroneos.

1st January - Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you Peace.

Pope Paul VI declared New Year's Day the World Day of Peace. It is appropriate because on this day we honour Mary who brought the Prince of Peace into the world. Better than anyone else, she knew the peace that is at once her Son's gift and the fruit of a life lived in obedience to God.



COMING EVENTS:

01 Jan: New Year's Day -

02 Jan: Adoration & Benediction - 11.30am (Mass at 12noon)

11 Jan: Farewell Morning Tea for Fr Saji

COLLECTIONS: BSB: 082 105

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

1st Collection: For Armidale Diocese Clergy: 001023642 (Presbytery Account- for the Diocese)

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

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - YEAR A WELCOME TO ALL THOSE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.



In the family of Nazareth, our families, as well as the human family, can learn to allow ourselves to be guided by God's powerful hand. If it is true on the one hand that in many situations people feel like "refugees", "strangers in their own homes", or in the heart of a dear one, it is also true that every obstacle, every difficulty can be transformed into an opportunity to "depart", an opportunity for a "journey toward conversion" which alone can lead to serenity, peace, stability.

www.vaticannews.va/en

FAREWELL MORNING TEA FOR FATHER SAJI: To show our appreciation, a morning tea will be held for Fr Saji on Sunday 11th January 2026, after 9am Mass. Please bring a small plate of food to share, if possible.

ROSTER UPDATES: In the new year all rosters will be updated and if you would like to be added to any you would be warmly welcomed to these ministries, particularly readers. Please contact the parish office or talk to one of the sacristans or staff if you can help.

PARISH THANK YOU: To all those who worked tirelessly to make our church resplendent for our Christmas celebrations and throughout the year. Your gift of time and talent is greatly appreciated and does not go unnoticed. To Fr Ross, who has provided supply to St Patricks many times this year, we are most fortunate to have you. And Fr John McHugh, who will be celebrating Mass for us this week while Fr Saji is away for a short time. Our Parish is truly blessed with generous hearts!

ROSTER FOR: 28/12/25

Vigil:	R: J. Moloney, P. Bamford	Gifts:	J & P Bamford
9am Sun:	R: S Brown, A. Sartori	Gifts:	A & S Vueti
5pm Sun:	R: Volunteers	Gifts:	Volunteer
Counting:	G & M Thrift	Altar Linen:	E. Smyth
Fri Cleaning	S. Brown, V. Griffiths		

ROSTER FOR: 04/01/26

Vigil:	R: C Ledwos D Bolitho	Gifts:	K. O'Brien, M. Asbury
9am Sun:	R: J Ryan, G Clout	Gifts:	B. Schipp, C. Grima
5.00pm Sun:	R C Lavell, Volunteer	Gifts:	Volunteer
Counting Team :	P. Sheils, S. Brown	Altar Linen:	H. Reid
Fri Cleaning	M. Brown, K. O'Brien		

We acknowledge the First Nations people who have walked upon and cared 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.

