

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Happy are the poor in spirit.*

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:

they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:

they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:

they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:

they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:

they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:

they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

1 FEBRUARY 2026

## TRUE BLESSEDNESS

What is discipleship about? This becomes the focus of Matthew's Gospel over the next few Sundays as we turn to Jesus' first major moment of teaching, what we know as the 'Sermon on the Mount'. Jesus, like Moses in the Old Testament, gathers with his disciples on a mountain. They surround him and listen to his teaching. He teaches them about blessedness in eight 'Beatitudes'. Each Beatitude begins with 'Blessed are those...' and then names those who are blessed by God.

Some translations unhelpfully have 'Happy are those...' There is a theological distinction between being 'blessed' and 'happy'. Being happy relies on one's self-referential internal disposition. The focus of 'blessedness' is different. It is God. The Greek (*makrios*) is about God's action to those who are without status ('poor in spirit'), know their own humble status ('gentle'), seek comfort amidst life's sadness ('mourn'), are passionate for justice ('hunger and thirst for what is right'), show compassion to others ('merciful'), are thoughtfully genuine and authentic ('pure of heart'), seek to bring about peace where there is division ('peacemakers') and who suffer for their conviction to act justly with integrity ('persecuted in the cause of right').

Those named as blessed have an ultimate openness to God in all life's experiences. God will respond to them, will bless them and will allow the Kingdom (rather 'Kin-dom') to be revealed in them. The Beatitudes are framed with the promise, 'the kin-dom of God is theirs'. A final Beatitude is tacked on to the original eight. It acknowledges the suffering and persecution now experienced by Matthew's community. A lingering contemplation of any of these Beatitudes can remind us how much we are blessed by God now.

Fr Michael Trainor

## FIRST READING

Zeph 2: 3; 3: 12-13

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

*In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.*

Seek the Lord

all you, the humble of the earth,  
who obey his commands.

Seek integrity, seek humility:

you may perhaps find shelter  
on the day of the anger of the Lord.

In your midst I will leave  
a humble and lowly people,

and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge  
in the name of the Lord.

They will do no wrong,

will tell no lies;

and the perjured tongue will no longer  
be found in their mouths.

But they will be able to graze and rest  
with no one to disturb them.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

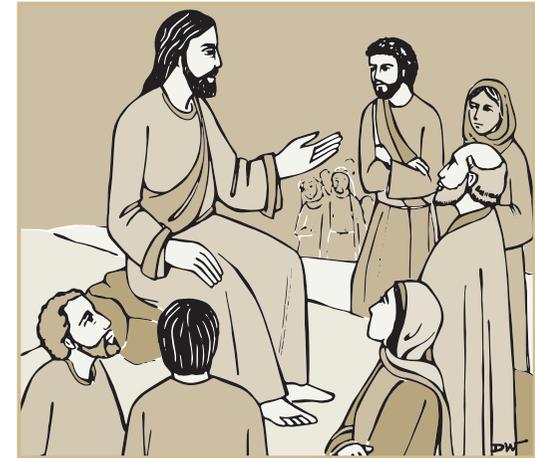
Ps 145: 7-10

**R. Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! (or Alleluia!)**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, / who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, / who raises up those who are bowed down, / the Lord, who protects the stranger / and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

3. It is the Lord who loves the just / but thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord will reign for ever, / Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**



## SECOND READING

1 Cor 1: 26-31

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

*God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.*

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 5: 12

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad:  
your reward will be great in heaven.  
Alleluia!

01 February 2026  
4th Sunday - Year A

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org>  
Email: [westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au)



**Parish Priest** Fr Vic Ignacio M.S.  
**Office Admin** 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: 6pm** (The Presentation of the Lord)

**Tues: 9am** **Wed: 12 noon** (Anointing Mass)

**Thurs: 9am** (St Agatha) **Fri: 12 noon** (St Paul Miki)

### CONFESSIONS

\* **Sat: 4.30-5.00pm**

\* **Before weekly Mass**

\* **By appointment**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Daphne Sweeney, Laurie Brodbeck.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Mary Sampson (2/1), John O'Brien (3/1), Pamela Davy [Barry] (06/1), Naomi Harrison (8/1), Lyn McIntyre (19/1), Rod Kelly (20/1), Lawrence Vella (23/1), Emanuel Checuti (29/1), Dalis O'Brien (12/2).

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

**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.

## BLESSED ARE YOU.

The Beatitudes are among the best known verses of the Gospel of Matthew. They offer an assurance of God's care for those who mourn or suffer persecution. They contain promises that God will bless the merciful, the pure of heart, the peacemakers and those who work for justice. Ultimately, all who put their trust in God and do what is right will rejoice in God's kingdom.



### COMING EVENTS:

**02 Feb:** Diaconate Ordinations Armidale 10.30am

**17 Feb:** Shrove Tuesday

**04 Feb:** Anointing Mass 12noon

**18 Feb:** Ash Wednesday

**06 Feb:** Exposition & Adoration 11am

**22 Feb:** St Joseph's Family Mass

### COLLECTIONS: BSB: 082 105

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

**1st Collection:** Goes to Armidale Diocese Clergy : 001023642 (Presbytery Acc.) Armidale

**2nd Collection:** Goes to St. Patrick's Church : 001041198 (Church Acc.) Tamworth

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A WELCOME TO ALL THOSE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.

**CHANGE TO SPECIAL MASSES:** As of February, there will be an Anointing Mass at 12 noon on the first Wednesday of every month and Exposition every Friday at 11am.

**DIACONATE ORDINATION INVITATION:** Parishioners are warmly invited to attend the diaconate ordination of Mr Allem Alba and Br Maximilian Streher at the Cathedral, 10.30am on Mon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Light refreshments will follow the ceremony in the Torreggiani Courtyard.

**LENTEN PROGRAMME:** With January rushing by already, we are looking to planning for the Lenten Season beginning on Ash Wednesday 18 February. We ask if you are interested in joining a Lenten Group this year, please add your name and contact detail to the sheet at the back of the Church and also nominate your preferred time. We will use this information to order resources and prepare the program and groups this year. Thank you.

**PARISH SAFEGUARDING PROGRAM:** The Catholic Diocese of Armidale and its agencies are wholly committed to the safety, care and wellbeing of children and adults at risk in our community. Over the coming months we will commence updating and addressing our responsibilities regarding this important parish function by conducting some information sessions led by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. Further information to come.

**CATHOLIC WEEKLY:** Some of the stories in this week's edition are:

- Catholics honoured in the Australia Day Awards
- Thousands gather for Eucharistic procession in Punchbowl
- Remembering Dame Marie Bashir
- Veteran Catholic journalist John Allen loses cancer battle
- Week-long Theology of the Body course inspires
- Comment: The limits of hate speech laws

**PARISH VOLUNTEERING:** If you see a need that you feel you can capably and safely assist with around our parish, please contact the office and talk to us. We are always welcoming for those skilled in cleaning, gardening, handy man jobs and several other tasks where we are reaching out to others for help, along with our existing volunteer roles as shown on the rosters, (readers, collectors, sacristans, gifts, counters etc). We welcome newcomers always and appreciate all those who already volunteer their time and 'do as Jesus asks us to do'.

### ROSTER FOR: 01/02/26

**Vigil:** R: C Ledwos D Bolitho

**Gifts:** J & P Bamford

**9am Sun:** R: M Holley R Paull

**Gifts:** B. Schipp C. Grima

**5pm Sun:** R: S. Brown

**Gifts:** Volunteer

**Counting:** P. Sheils S. Brown

**Altar Linen:** H. Reid

**Fri Cleaning** M. Brown K. O'Brien

### ROSTER FOR: 08/02/26

**Vigil:** R: M. Holland, P. Bamford

**Gifts:** K. O'Brien, M. Asbury

**9am Sun:** R: S Brown, M Donaldson

**Gifts:** G & U McKay

**5.00pm Sun:** R: G O'Toole,

**Gifts:** Volunteer

**Counting Team :** M. Vella, A. Bowden

**Altar Linen:** J. Hutt

**Fri Cleaning** J. Hutt, J. Moran

