

about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mk 9:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 3:13–17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus was baptised, the heavens were opened and the Spirit of God came upon him.

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

THE BELOVED

Today's feast that celebrates the baptism of Jesus with the story of his baptism from Matthew's Gospel. The story, written in the mid-80s, is slightly different to what our ears would usually hear. It begins with John the Baptist's humble unwillingness to baptise Jesus. 'It is I who need baptism from you... and yet you come to me!' (3:14) While John's conviction is appropriate, Jesus encourages John to baptise him.

Perhaps Matthew's story reflects a historical memory of some who might have believed that perhaps John was the Messiah. This lingering memory is addressed in the dialogue between John and Jesus. Matthew's version, nevertheless, accentuates Jesus' humility in undergoing the baptismal ritual, very familiar to the Gospel's audience of Jewish followers of Jesus. Ritual bathing was part of a Jewish purification process before they entered places of holiness. Every Jewish house had its own *mikveh*, the ritual purification bath.

In today's Gospel, Jesus becomes that place of holiness in his baptism, in the *mikveh* of the Jordan River. God's Spirit descends upon him and God's voice attests, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him' (3:17). These words about Jesus' belovedness will be heard again as he is transfigured on the mountain (17:5) *en route* to Jerusalem where death awaits. God's attestation of Jesus, of God's delight in him, despite everything that will unfold in the remaining chapters of the Gospel, never leaves him. This divine conviction about Jesus and God's words are also God's conviction and words that the evangelist wants the Gospel audience, including us, to hear. All people, female and male, are God's beloved ones. God's delight and favour rests upon us. It is a Gospel conviction that we need to remember especially when life's struggles come our way.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

BAPTISM OF THE LORD (FEAST) / A

11 JANUARY 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 42:1–4, 6–7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause
of right;

I have taken you by the hand and
formed you;

I have appointed you as covenant of the
people and light of the nations,

to open the eyes of the blind,

to free captives from prison,

and those who live in darkness from the
dungeon.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 28:1–4, 9–10. R.v.11

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

1. O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. **R.**



2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **R.**
3. The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. **R.**

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34–38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household:

'The truth I have now come to realise' he said
'is that God does not have favourites, but that
anybody of any nationality who fears God and
does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of
Israel, and it was to them that the good news of
peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus
Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard

11 January 2026
Baptism of the Lord
Year 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: No Mass Tues: 9am Wed: 12noon
Thurs: 9am Fri: 12noon

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold the One of whom John said:

I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Michael Markham, Daphne Sweeney, Laurie Brodbeck

ANNIVERSARIES: Mary Sampson (2/01), John O'Brien (3/01), Pamela Davy [Barry] (06/01), Naomi Harrison (8/01), 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.

THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED.

Just before he confronts the tempter in the desert, Jesus is baptised in the Jordan. He is revealed as the beloved Son of God. His baptism marks the beginning of his public ministry; of the time when the role of John the Baptist will decrease and Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God, by word and deed, will increase.

COMING EVENTS:

11 Jan: Farewell Morning Tea for Fr Saji

12 Jan: Fr Vic Ignacio arrives in St Patrick's Parish

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



BAPTISM OF THE LORD (FEAST) - YEAR A WELCOME TO ALL THOSE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.



The Baptism of the Lord commemorates the event when Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist in the Jordan River.

This event is significant as it marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and is a moment of divine revelation, where God declares Jesus as His beloved Son.

The feast emphasises themes of humility, service, and the importance of Baptism in the Christian faith.

REMINDER - FAREWELL MORNING TEA THIS SUNDAY FOR FR SAJI: Please join us for morning tea after 9am Mass this Sunday, 11th January. We thank Fr Saji for his kind, gentle and devoted ministrations to the needs of our Parish. We wish him every success in his appointment as Parish Priest to St Francis Xavier's Parish, Moree.

ROSTER UPDATES: All rosters are being updated. 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.

HOLIDAY ROSTER DISRUPTION: As many people holiday during January, including our generous parishioners who serve as readers, collectors, offertory bearers, etc, there will be times when a volunteer is required. Please offer your help if possible. It will be appreciated.

ROSTER FOR: 11/01/26

Vigil:

R: N Pullman, P Bamford

Gifts:

A & C Lyons

9am Sun:

R: D Gowing, A Sartori

Gifts:

G & U McKay

5pm Sun:

R: A O'Halloran

Gifts:

Volunteer

Counting:

M Vella, S Brown

Altar Linen:

J Hutt

Fri Cleaning

J Hutt, J Moran

ROSTER FOR: 18/01/26

Vigil:

R: C Ledwos, M Donaldson

Gifts:

B & M Watson

9am Sun:

R: S Nichols A Sartori

Gifts:

Michelle & Sally

5.00pm Sun:

R: S Brown

Gifts:

Volunteer

Counting Team :

A Bowden, S Brown

Altar Linen:

M Vella

Fri Cleaning

M Vella, I Ullman

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.

