

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.

He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 1: 29-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

18 JANUARY 2026

THE LAMB OF GOD

The historical memory between John the Baptist and Jesus identified in last Sunday's Gospel from Matthew continues in today's Gospel from John. Themes from last week continue: John the Baptist declares Jesus' pre-existence (1:30), a central theological motif in the Gospel, as God's chosen one, and as the bearer of God's Spirit (1:33). The Baptist also publicly attests to Jesus' holiness using Jewish expressions drawn out of the Passover and Exodus story. Jesus is called 'the lamb of God' (1:29). This evokes the memory of the Passover lamb. This was the lamb sacrificed in the Exodus event (Exodus 12:1-13) whose blood daubed the lintels of the doors identifying its Jewish residents as God's protected ones as the Angel of Death passed over them.

In John's Gospel, Jesus' blood will also become the life-giving and liberating agent that creates the new community formed around the Mother of Jesus and the Beloved Disciple at Jesus' death (19:26-35). At the beginning of this Gospel and in today's reading, John the Baptist becomes the Gospel's witness to the holy and elevated status of Jesus as God's representative who can 'take away the sin of the world' (1:29). In other words and again drawing on a Jewish atonement ritual performed on one of the holiest days in the Jewish Calendar, *Yom Kippur* (literally, 'the Day of Atonement'), Jesus becomes the scapegoat for people's sins to release them from the burdens they carry and bring them to life and freedom—another theme of John's Gospel. All these insights associated with today's Gospel are key for us: we look to one who can represent us before God, release us of sins that weigh us down, and offer us life and spiritual agency.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Isa 49: 3, 5-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant,

Israel,

in whom I shall be glorified';

I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord,

my God was my strength.

And now the Lord has spoken,

he who formed me in the womb to be his

servant,

to bring Jacob back to him,

to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant,

to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel;

I will make you the light of the nations

so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 39: 2, 4, 7-10. R. vv. 8, 9

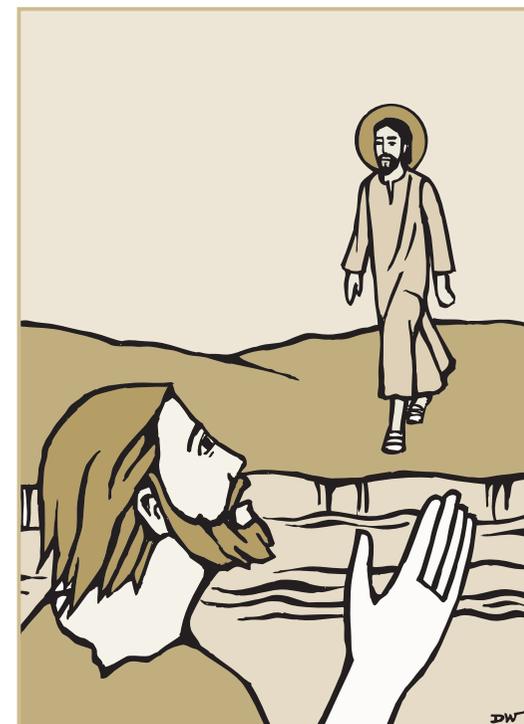
R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord / and he stooped down to me; / he heard my cry. / He put a new song into my mouth, / praise of our God. **R.**

2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, / but an open ear. / You do not ask for holocaust and victim. / Instead, here am I. **R.**

3. In the scroll of the book it stands written / that I should do your will. / My God, I delight in your law / in the depth of my heart. **R.**

4. Your justice I have proclaimed / in the great assembly. / My lips I have not sealed; / you know it, O Lord. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 1: 1-3

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

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

■ The word of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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18 January 2026
2nd Sunday - Year A

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org>
Email: 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:** 9am **Tues:** 9am **Wed:** 12noon (St Agnes)
Thurs: 9am **Fri:** 12noon

CONFESSIONS

* **Sat: 4.30-5.00pm**

* **Before weekly Mass**

* **By appointment**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.



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, Paul Karam, Trish Thornberry, 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.

THE LAMB OF GOD

Jesus is the servant of God

Who brings salvation to the ends of the earth.

He is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

He reveals the compassion of God who stoops down to hear the cries of those in distress.



COMING EVENTS:

16 - 25 Jan: Tamworth Country Music Festival

29 Jan: St Joseph's School resumes for Term 1

17 Feb: Shrove Tuesday

26 Jan: Australia Day, Mass at 9am

2 Feb: 'Presentation of the Lord'

18 Feb: Ash Wednesday

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

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

WELCOME FATHER VIC IGNACIO: We extend our warmest welcome to Fr Vic who has now taken up his position as Parish Priest for St Patrick's West Tamworth. We pray you will feel at home in our Parish in no time. Our parishioners are generous with both time and gifts and we look forward to sharing them together in our spiritual journey.

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.

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 very appreciated.

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.

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

- ◆ Press pause on NSW hate speech laws, says Archdiocese of Sydney
- ◆ Final Bondi terror victim farewelled at St Mary's Cathedral
- ◆ Milestone for Carmelite "powerhouse of prayer" in rural NSW
- ◆ Marking 50 years of 'no-fault' divorce
- ◆ Feature: Brown Nurses continue Eileen O'Connor's legacy

"let us also give God glory through prayer, holiness of life, and by becoming mirrors of his goodness for one another". Pope Leo

ROSTER FOR: 18/01/26

Vigil:

R: C Ledwos, Di Bolitho

Gifts:

B & M Watson

9am Sun:

R: S Nichols A Sartori

Gifts:

Michelle & Sally

5pm Sun:

R: S Brown

Gifts:

Volunteer

Counting:

A Bowden, S Brown

Altar Linen:

M Vella

Fri Cleaning

M Vella, I Ullman

ROSTER FOR: 25/01/26

Vigil:

R: D. Gowing, N Pullman

Gifts:

S. Shulze, S. Brown

9am Sun:

R: S Brown J Woodbridge

Gifts:

A & S Vueti

5.00pm Sun:

R: Volunteer

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 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.

