

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! / Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, / Galilee of the nations! / The people that lived in darkness / has seen a great light; / on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death / a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Shorter form: 4: 12-17

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

25 JANUARY 2026

REPENT

Last Sunday's Gospel from John, though critically important for our spiritual reflection, seemed unusual in this year of Matthew. So, today, we return to Matthew. In the past two Sundays, John the Baptist has been central in the Gospel selections. Today he is no longer with us, having been arrested. Our focus is squarely now on Jesus. He moves from his hometown of Nazareth to Capernaum. Both towns are on the fringe. The first, Nazareth, is the symbolic place of exile in Matthew. When Mary, Joseph and Jesus returned from Egypt they could not go back to their hometown of Bethlehem because of the vengeful ruling presence of Herod's son Archelaus. They go to live in Galilee, to Nazareth. They, like the Israelites several centuries earlier, are in exile. It is from here that the rest of Matthew unfolds.

Jesus next moves to Capernaum located geographically close to pagan and Gentile territories. It is a fishing village and a taxation collection centre at the crossroads of two major E-W and N-S highways. It is here that Jesus proclaims the great clarion cry in the Gospel: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand' (4:17). This cry 'to repent' (Greek *metanoia*) is an urge to have an openness of heart. It comes with a conviction that God is already present and active in the world ('the kingdom of heaven is close at hand').

Finally, after Jesus calls four fishermen to be his first disciples, our Gospel proclamation ends with a note about Jesus' teaching and healing ministry. The first-called disciples will model for Matthew's audience how to be repentant and live out the conviction of God's presence in their lives and world.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Isa 8:23–9:3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing
the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

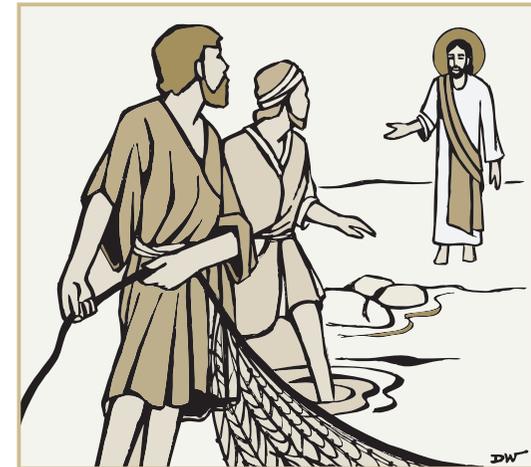
Ps 26:1, 4,13–14. R.v.1

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation; /
whom shall I fear? / The Lord is the
stronghold of my life; / before whom shall I
shrink? **R.**

2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord, /
for this I long, / to live in the house of the
Lord, / all the days of my life, / to savour
the sweetness of the Lord, / to behold his
temple. **R.**

3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness /
in the land of the living. / Hope in him, hold
firm and take heart. / Hope in the Lord! **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 1:10–13,17

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

I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia! / Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom, / and healed all who were sick. / Alleluia!

25 January 2026
3rd Sunday - Year A

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.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 (Australia Day)

Tues: 9am **Wed:** 12 noon (St Thomas Aquinus)

Thurs: 9am **Fri:** 12 noon

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Michael Markham, Daphne Sweeney, Laurie Brodbeck

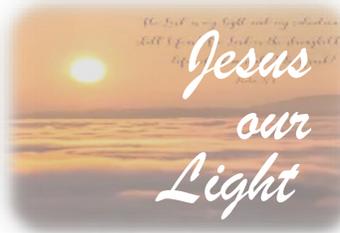
ANNIVERSARIES: Mary Sampson (2/1), John O'Brien (3/1), Pamela Davy [Barry] (06/1), Naomi Harrison (8/1), Lyn McIntyre (19/1), Rod Kelly (20/1), Lawrence Vella (23/1), Emanuel Checuti (29/1).

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.

JESUS, OUR LIGHT

At times we can find ourselves 'walking in darkness'.
We get caught up in difficulties and cannot see a way out.
Today's liturgy reminds us that Jesus is our light and salvation and he calls us to follow him. In him we have the Good News that brings light into the dark moments of our lives.



COMING EVENTS:

29 Jan: St Joseph's School resumes for Term 1
02 Feb: 'Presentation of the Lord'
04 Feb: Anointing Mass 12noon
06 Feb: Exposition 11am
17 Feb: Shrove Tuesday
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

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

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.

LENTEN PROGRAME: 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.

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

- Governor-General affirms faith communities' role after Bondi attack
- Christopher West challenges Catholics to rethink Christianity
- Jan Ruff-O'Herne, our Australian saint of forgiveness?
- Almost 400 million Christians face 'high levels' of persecution.
- New book on the dangers of AI



3 Weeks Till Lent

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.

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
5pm Sun:	R: Volunteer	Gifts:	Volunteer
Counting:	G & M Thrift	Altar Linen:	E. Smyth
Fri Cleaning	S. Brown V. Griffiths		

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
5.00pm Sun:	R: S. Brown	Gifts:	Volunteer
Counting Team :	P. Sheils S. Brown	Altar Linen:	H. Reid
Fri Cleaning	M. Brown K. O'Brien		