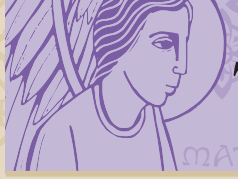
Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / A — 1 MARCH 2026

GOSPEL

Mt 17:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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GOD'S BELOVED

On the Second Sunday of Lent the focus is on Jesus' transfiguration. This speaks into the experience in Matthew's audience of suffering and even death. With Jerusalem and Jesus' imminent suffering looming, he takes Peter, James and John on to a 'high' mountain, the place of divine encounter. The reference to 'high' celebrates the mountains' divine closeness. Here, alone, they are in the presence of God who comforts Jesus before what will shortly unfold in the Sacred City.

Two Old Testament figures appear, Moses (the traditional author of the Torah—the first five books of the Bible) and Elijah (the first recognised prophet of the Old Testament). Their appearance confirms that what is about to take place for Jesus will reveal God's protective presence. That presence is confirmed by the 'cloud [that] covered them with shadow' and the heavenly voice that attests that Jesus will always be God's Beloved and delightful One. The disciples' response to this experience is palpable. They are overcome with 'fear' – a deep sense of reverential awe in what they have just witnessed and experienced with Jesus, even though Peter earlier wanted to capture it by building three tents.

The scene is not a literal 'twitter-feed' of what actually or historically happened to Jesus. It is a story of theology and religious meaning for disciples aligned with Jesus who know the experience of suffering and death in their own day. At those times, we, too, must go up on to our 'high' mountain, accompanied by faithful friends, and allow God's presence and word to accompany us. We, too, need to hear that we are God's Beloved and delightful Ones.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Gen 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22. R. v. 22

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful / and all his works to be trusted. / The Lord loves justice and right / and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him, / on those who hope in his love, / to rescue their souls from death, / to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. / The Lord is our help and our shield. / May your love be upon us, O Lord, / as we place all our hope in you. **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Tim 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

God has saved us, and called us to be holy.

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

01 March 2026
2nd Sunday of Lent
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:** **No Mass** **Tues:** **No Mass** **Wed:** **No Mass**
Thurs: 9am **Fri:** 12 noon

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Thomas Greentree, Dean York, Daphne Sweeney.

ANNIVERSARIES: Lawrence Vella (23/1), Emanuel Checuti (29/1), Dalis O' Brien (12/2), Julia Blanch (12/2), Bill Blanch (12/2), Maria Mood (16/2).

DECEASED: We pray for our loved ones now in God's care: Laurie Brodbeck, Ron McGrane, Paul Karam, Trish Thornberry, William Grima, Paul Zammit, 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, Yvonne Tarrant, Bill Dennis, Barry McNamara, Jeanette Whale, Carmel Koppman, Eileen Hudson, Rose Pace, Barbara Brennan, Elizabeth Coroneos, Michael Jones.

THE TRANSFIGURATION

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John, his brother,
and led them up a high mountain by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun
and his clothes became white as light.
And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them,
conversing with him.

COMING EVENTS:

02 - 04 Mar: ***No Mass** on Mon 2/3, Tues 3/3, Wed 4/3
(Masses in Tamworth - Mon: St Nicholas 7am, Tues & Wed: St Mary's 9am)
06 Mar: Adoration 11am (with quiet time for personal "Way of the Cross" contemplation)
08 Mar: Parish Morning Tea - after 9am Mass
11 Mar: **Anointing Mass 12noon**
17 Mar: St Patrick's Day Lunch - Further details next week.
29 Mar: Palm Sunday

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 OF LENT - YEAR A

WELCOME TO ALL THOSE JOINING US AT ST PATRCKS.

POPE LEO ON LENT: *"Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language," he said, "so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others."*

LENTEN PROGRAM HAS COMMENCED: The Evening Group meets Tuesdays, in the Parish Centre, from 6pm - 8pm. The Day Group meets on Wednesday, in the meeting room at the Presbytery from 10.30am-11.30am. There is still room to join either group.

LITURGY ROSTER FOR HOLY WEEK: To all our wonderful Liturgy volunteers, preparations have begun for our Holy Week celebrations. Please notify the Office if you will be away over Easter so we can commence preparing rosters, etc.

PROJECT COMPASSION: Project Compassion boxes are at the back of the Church. This year's theme is "Unite Against Poverty". Please help support the people of Tanzania. Sisilia lives in a remote part of northern Tanzania. Life is hard for her and her family. She must walk to fetch water three times a day. With the support Caritas Australia, she and her community, now have a reliable supply of safe water and Sisilia has time to return to school.

PARISH MORNING TEA & FELLOWSHIP: Morning tea will now be held once a month, on the **second Sunday morning,** after Mass. Just a cup of tea and a chat with fellow parishioners. Please bring a small plate to share, if you wish.

CLEANING VOLUNTEERS: Please contact the office if you would like to help with the cleaning of the church. Once a week (and a partner to work with you) will help share the load.

OUR LADY'S ALTAR - CANDLE STAND: You will have noticed that candles at Our Lady's Altar have changed to tealight candles. The value of your candle donation has not changed.
Please accompany your children when they are lighting candles, to ensure their safety.

MEMORARE

Remember, Our Lady of La Salette, true Mother of Sorrows,
the tears you shed for me on Calvary. Remember, also, the care you have
always taken to keep me faithful to Christ your son. After having done so
much for your child, you will not now abandon me.
Inspired by this consoling thought, I come to cast myself at your feet
in spite of my infidelities and ingratitude. Do not reject my prayer,
O merciful Virgin, but intercede for my conversion, obtain for me the
grace to love Jesus above all things, and to console you by a holy life,
that I may one day see you in Heaven. Amen

Our Lady of La Salette, Reconciler of sinners,
Pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to Thee.

ROSTER FOR: 01/03/26

Vigil:	**R:** D. Bolitho, J. Woodbridge	**Gifts:**	S. Shulze, V. Griffiths
9am Sun:	**R:** S Nichols, A Sartori	**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: 08/03/26

Vigil:	**R:** D. Gowing, N Pullman	**Gifts:**	J &P Bamford
9am Sun:	**R:** S Brown , G. Clout	**Gifts:**	G & U McKay
5.00pm Sun:	**R:** T. Mitchell	**Gifts:**	Volunteer
Counting Team :	M. Vella, A. Bowden	**Altar Linen:**	J. Hutt
Fri Cleaning	J. Hutt, J. Moran		