

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven
and earth;

you have revealed to little ones the
mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5:20-22, 27-28, 33-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Such was said to your ancestors; but I say to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your
virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes
and Pharisees, you will never get into the
kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our
ancestors; You must not kill; and if anyone does
kill he must answer for it before the court. But
I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his
brother will answer for it before the court;

'You have learnt how it was said: You must
not commit adultery. But I say to you: if a
man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already
committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our
ancestors: You must not break your oath, but
must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say
to you: do not swear at all. All you need say
is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no;
anything more than this comes from the evil
one.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form 5:17-37

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

15 FEBRUARY 2026

HONOURING THE TORAH

As we continue to hear Jesus' teaching in
Matthew's 'Sermon on the Mount', we now
move into a very Jewish-oriented section.
Matthew's audience were Jewish followers of
Jesus. They were very familiar with the
teachings of the Old Testament, from the
Torah (the 'Law') and the Prophets. Jesus now
reflects on these teachings stressing that he has
come, not to abolish them, but to 'complete
them'. In other words, Matthew is not
rejecting the Jewish teaching heritage of the
audience but deepening it. This preservation
and honouring of the Torah is central in Jesus'
teaching.

In fact, the one who keeps and teaches others
the injunctions of the Torah will be regarded as
'great' in God's Kingdom. Matthew moves to
explicate some of the key moral injunctions of
the Torah. Each begins with the same formula:
'You have learnt how it was said to our
ancestors...' Then follows Jesus' interpretation
of the Torah for Matthew's Jewish listeners.
It is important to note how this teaching is
presented. The usual translation has '...But I
say to you...' This is not what the Greek text
has. There is no contrast, no 'but', between
what the ancients said and what Jesus teaches.
There is no contrast between the old (the
Torah) and the new (Jesus' teaching), and no
rejection of Judaism or its ancient wisdom
summed up on the Torah.

Jesus deepens the meaning behind these
different aspects of Jewish law concerning
murder, adultery and oath-breaking, getting
to the heart of each. Undergirding each is
the invitation to integrity of relationships.
This, too, is the invitation to us, to live with
a wholeness of being to others, God and the
world.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Sirach

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
Man has life and death before him;
whichever a man likes better will be given him.
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is almighty and all-seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him,
he notes every action of man.
He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34. R. v. 1

R. Happy are they who follow the law of
the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, /
who follow God's law! / They are happy those
who do his will, / seeking him with all their
hearts. **R.**
2. You have laid down your precepts / to be
obeyed with care. / May my footsteps be firm /
to obey your statutes. **R.**
3. Bless your servant and I shall live / and
obey your word. / Open my eyes that I may
consider / the wonders of your law. **R.**
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes /
and I will keep them to the end. / Train me
to observe your law, / to keep it with my
heart. **R.**

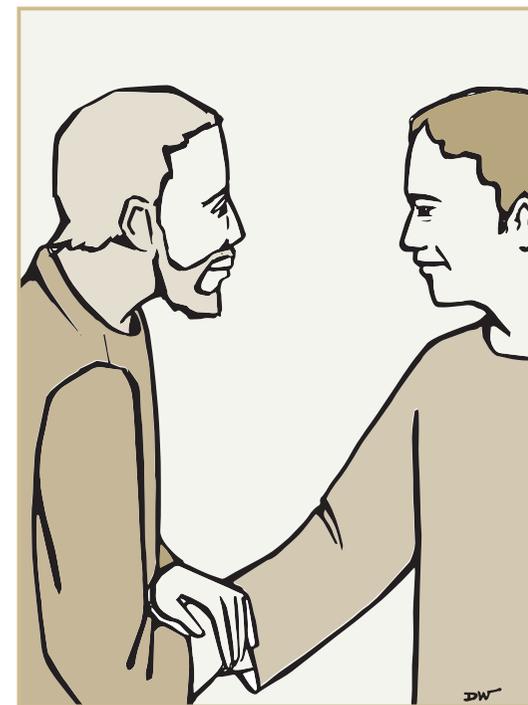
SECOND READING

1 Cor 2:6-10

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

*God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the
ages began.*

We have a wisdom to offer those who have
reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age,



it is true, still less of the masters of our age,
which are coming to their end. The hidden
wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries
is the wisdom that God predestined to be for
our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom
that none of the masters of this age have ever
known, or they would not have crucified the
Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls:
the things that no eye has seen and no ear has
heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that
God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has
revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit
reaches the depths of everything, even the
depths of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

15 February 2026
6th 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 Sat: 5.30 pm Sun: 9 am & 5 pm
MASSES Mon: 9am Tues: 9am
WEEKDAY Wed: 12 noon (Ash Wednesday)
MASSES Thurs: 9am Fri: 12 noon



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

ENTRANCE Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are
ANTIPHON: my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

COMMUNION They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them;
ANTIPHON: They were not disappointed in what they craved.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Dean York, Daphne Sweeney, Laurie Brodbeck.

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: Ron McGraine, 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, John Ryan, Yvonne Tarrant, Bill Dennis, Barry McNamara, Jeanette Whale, Carmel Koppman, Barbara Brennan, Eileen Hudson, Rose Pace, Elizabeth Coroneos, Michael Jones.

FOLLOW GOD'S LAW

The vast wisdom of God is revealed in the law God has given us, a law designed to lead us to the fullness of life and happiness. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that the law is not only about external behaviour. Our inner attitudes are also important. It is from within, from the attitudes of our hearts, that good or evil actions flow.



COMING EVENTS:

17 Feb: Shrove Tuesday

18 Feb: Ash Wednesday

22 Feb: St Joseph's Family Mass & Morning Tea

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

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

LENT: Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday 18 Feb.

Bishop Murphy has supplied his pastoral letter for Lent 2026. A copy is on the notice boards. Please read as a part of your 2026 Lenten Reflections journey.

LENTEN PROGRAM: The Evening Group will commence Tuesday, 17th and meet in the Parish Centre from 6pm - 8pm. The Day Group will commence on Wednesday, 18th and meet in the Presbytery meeting room at 10.30am. There is still room to join either group.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR MISSIONARY RELIGIOUS ORDERS THIS WEEKEND: For a number of years, the diocese has taken up a special collection in support of the work the Missionary Orders, who have priests ministering in the Diocese of Armidale, undertake in their own country. The funds will help support marginalised people in areas where the La Salette's (Philippines), Rogationists of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (India) and Oblates of Saint Joseph (Philippines) minister. Collection will be taken as you leave, after Mass.

PARISH MORNING TEA & FELLOWSHIP: Morning tea will be on **Sunday mornings**, after Mass. Just a cup of tea, a biscuit and a chat with fellow parishioners. And a wonderful opportunity to meet with Fr Vic to find out what is happening in our Parish.

PARISH VOLUNTEERING: In the coming weeks, once the weather cools off, we will be reaching out for volunteers to participate in working bees around the church and grounds. We gladly welcome those skilled in cleaning, gardening, handy-man activities and other tasks that are identified as areas in need of some TLC. If you feel capable of safely assisting us around our parish, please join us in our endeavours to make our Parish shine. We gladly welcome newcomers and truly appreciate all those who already volunteer their time and talents and **'do as Jesus asks us to do'**.

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: 15/02/26

Vigil:	R: C Ledwos, D Bolitho	Gifts:	A & C Lyons
9am Sun:	R: J Ryan, G Clout	Gifts:	Michelle & Sally
5pm Sun:	R: C Lavell,	Gifts:	Volunteer
Counting:	A. Bowden S. Brown	Altar Linen:	M. Vella
Fri Cleaning	M. Vella, I. Ullman		

ROSTER FOR: 22/02/26

Vigil:	R: N Pullman, P Bamford	Gifts:	B & M Watson
9am Sun:	R: St. Joseph's Staff	Gifts:	St. Joseph's School
5.00pm Sun:	R: A O'Halloran	Gifts:	Volunteer
Counting Team :	G & M Thrift	Altar Linen:	E. Smyth
Fri Cleaning	S. Brown & V. Griffiths		