

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! / No one lives on bread alone, / but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. / Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## GOSPEL

Mt 4:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.*

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone  
but on every word that comes from the  
mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,  
and they will support you on their hands  
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the  
test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these,' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,  
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT / A

22 FEBRUARY 2026

## SELF-CENTRED SEDUCTIONS

As is traditional on the First Sunday of Lent, the Gospel passage is about Jesus' temptation, an appropriate theme as we begin our own journey in Lent and begin to explore our own seductive temptations. We are all prone to these, and Matthew presents us with a Jesus similarly tested: an egoism exclusive of others especially God, the attraction to power and the seduction of wealth. These temptations are crafted in Old Testament terminology and imagery, particularly present in the Book of Deuteronomy, and ones that Israel experienced in the wilderness.

In today's story, Satan enters the scene, originally a member of the heavenly court (see Job) but, by the time of Matthew, God's adversary who tests the intention and fidelity of those who belong to God. Jesus is his target in three temptations. The first is about food and the temptation to break covenantal fidelity to God due to hunger. The second seeks to question Jesus' conviction of God's care of him. From the parapet of the temple, Jesus is told to throw himself from it, and test God's protection of him. In the third, with a vision of all the earth's kingdoms and seduction of wealth, Jesus is tempted to change his allegiance from God to Satan.

Matthew's point is quite clear writing to a Jewish audience most familiar with Israel's desert failures: Jesus is an authentic Jew who belongs to the Israelite people, knows and experiences their temptations, but resists the seduction of egoism, power and wealth in fidelity to God and his covenantal relationship. In this first week of Lent, today's Gospel invites us to reflect on those self-centred seductions that may compromise our true relationship to God.

Fr Michael Trainor

## FIRST READING

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis

*Creation of our first parents, and sin.*

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v. 3

**R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. / In your compassion blot out my offence. / O wash me more and more from my guilt / and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

2. My offences truly I know them; / my sin is always before me. / Against you, you alone



have I sinned; / what is evil in your sight I have done. **R.**

3. A pure heart create for me, O God, / put a steadfast spirit within me. / Do not cast me away from your presence, / nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**

4. Give me again the joy of your help; / with a spirit of fervour sustain me. / O Lord, open my lips / and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Rom 5:12, 17-19.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.*

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned.

If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

*Longer form 5:12-19*

22 February 2026  
1st Sunday of Lent  
Year A

**WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH**

Website: <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org>  
Email: [westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto: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**

**WEEKDAY Mon:** 9am **Tues:** 9am **Wed:** 12 noon  
**MASSES Thurs:** 9am **Fri:** 12 noon

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

**ENTRANCE** When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
**ANTIPHON:** I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

**COMMUNION** One does not live on bread alone,  
**ANTIPHON:** but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

**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 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, Yvonne Tarrant, Bill Dennis, Barry McNamara, Jeanette Whale, Carmel Koppman, Eileen Hudson, Rose Pace, Barbara Brennan, Elizabeth Coroneos, Michael Jones.

**A TIME OF PREPARATION**

The forty days spent by Jesus in the wilderness can be likened to the season of Lent.

Jesus' time in the wilderness was a time of preparation for his ministry, a time in which he confronted the temptation to choose self and not the Father.

For us, Lent is a time of preparation for the feast of Easter.

It is a time in which we are invited to examine whether the will of God is central to our lives.



**COMING EVENTS:**

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

**25 Feb:** Meeting for All Readers of the Liturgy - 5.30pm in the Church

**27 Feb:** Stations of the Cross 10.30am followed by Adoration 11am

**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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A**  
**WELCOME TO ALL THOSE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.**

**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 Fiji. Often known for its beautiful beaches, many families face a serious health crisis. With Caritas Australia's support, Manaini is learning to grow healthy food for her community to share.

**PARISH MORNING TEA & FELLOWSHIP:** Morning tea will be held this **Sunday morning**, after Mass. Just a cup of tea, a biscuit and a chat with fellow parishioners. In order to continue this weekly fellowship opportunity, we are calling for volunteers to help organise this event or it may revert to one Sunday a month. Please contact the office or speak with Fr Vic if you can help. The more, the merrier.

**OUR LADY'S ALTAR - CANDLE STAND:** You will have noticed that candles at Our Lady's Altar have changed to tealight candles. This was to address the danger of melting wax, especially during the summer months. The value of your candle donation has not changed. We are, however, concerned at the number of young children who light candles unattended. 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: 22/02/26**

|                     |                                |                     |                     |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Vigil:</b>       | <b>R:</b> N Pullman, P Bamford | <b>Gifts:</b>       | B & M Watson        |
| <b>9am Sun:</b>     | <b>R:</b> St. Joseph's Staff   | <b>Gifts:</b>       | St. Joseph's School |
| <b>5pm Sun:</b>     | <b>R:</b> A O'Halloran         | <b>Gifts:</b>       | Volunteer           |
| <b>Counting:</b>    | G & M Thrift                   | <b>Altar Linen:</b> | E.Smyth             |
| <b>Fri Cleaning</b> | S. Brown & V. Griffiths        |                     |                     |

**ROSTER FOR: 01/03/26**

|                        |                                     |                     |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Vigil:</b>          | <b>R:</b> D. Bolitho, J. Woodbridge | <b>Gifts:</b>       | S. Shulze, V. Griffiths |
| <b>9am Sun:</b>        | <b>R:</b> S Nichols, A Sartori      | <b>Gifts:</b>       | B. Schipp, C. Grima     |
| <b>5.00pm Sun:</b>     | <b>R:</b> S. Brown                  | <b>Gifts:</b>       | Volunteer               |
| <b>Counting Team :</b> | P. Sheils, S. Brown                 | <b>Altar Linen:</b> | M. Vella                |
| <b>Fri Cleaning</b>    | M. Brown, K. O'Brien                |                     |                         |