

He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him'. The man himself said, 'I am the man'.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see'. Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you'. The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

*Longer form, 9:1-41*

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

15 MARCH 2026

**'WE ARE NOT BLIND!'**

The rich theological symbolism evident from last Sunday's Gospel of John continues in today's drama between light and darkness. Jesus meets a man born blind and tells him to wash in the sanctified pool of Siloam south of the temple. The blind man returns able to see. Over several scenes in one of the most dramatic and engaging stories in all the Gospels, the man who now has vision is consistently interrogated by the religious authorities who, though they are supposed 'to see', move into spiritual blindness.

The dynamic evident in the story is that each time the man is interrogated, he goes back to his experience of being healed by Jesus. Each reflection moves him to a deeper realisation of what has happened and who Jesus is: at first he calls Jesus simply 'a man', then later, that Jesus is 'from God', until finally, the man worships him. This movement of faith into light is accompanied by a similar movement into darkness by the religious leaders. They fail to see that they have become blind to Jesus and his deeds of healing (which John calls 'signs'). 'We are not blind, surely?' they retort.

This drama is acted out in our day. Jesus' final words to his antagonists and John's audience are forever relevant. 'Blind?' questions Jesus, 'If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.' This clarity of understanding and insight is important in a world where truth is camouflaged as falsehood and lies proclaimed as truth. We need to journey with the man born blind, to reflect on our experiences, to be with Jesus and 'see'.

**Fr Michael Trainor**

**FIRST READING**

1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

**A reading from the first book of Samuel**

*In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.*

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 22. R. v. 1

**R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

1. The Lord is my shepherd; / there is nothing I shall want. / Fresh and green are the pastures / where he gives me repose. / Near restful waters he leads me, / to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**
2. He guides me along the right path; / he is true to his name. / If I should walk in the valley of darkness / no evil would I fear. / You are there with your crook and your staff; / with these you give me comfort. **R.**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me / in the sight of my foes. / My head you have anointed with oil; / my cup is overflowing. **R.**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me / all the days of my life. / In the Lord's own house shall I dwell / for ever and ever. **R.**



**SECOND READING**

Eph 5:8-14

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**

*Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.*

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Jn 8:12

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.**

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**GOSPEL**

Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.**

*The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.*

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth.

15 March 2026  
4th 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 (St Patrick) **Wed:** 12 noon  
**MASSES Thurs:** 9am (St Joseph) **Fri:** 12 noon

**ENTRANCE ANTIPTHON:** Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exalt and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**COMMUNION ANTIPTHON:** The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Thomas Greentree

**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: Dean York, Daphne Sweeney, 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, Elizabeth William.

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**Holy Thursday 6.00pm - Adoration till 8.00 pm**

**Good Friday Stations of the Cross 9.00 am**

**The Lord's Passion 3.00 pm**

**Holy Saturday Easter Vigil 5.30 pm**



### COMING EVENTS:

**17 Mar:** St Patrick's Day Lunch - Calala Inn, 12 noon.

**20 Mar:** Stations of the Cross 10.30am followed by Adoration 11am

**24 Mar:** Reconciliation Rite II for Easter - 5.30pm

**29 Mar:** Palm Sunday

**03 Apr:** Good Friday

**12 Apr:** Parish Morning Tea - after 9am Mass. All welcome!

**COLLECTIONS: BSB: 082 105**

**Account Name:** West Tamworth Catholic - 'Presbytery' 1st Collection OR 'Church'-2nd Collection

**1st. Collection:** For Armidale Diocese Clergy: 001023642 (Presbytery Acc.) Armidale

**2nd Collection:** For St. Patrick's Church: 001041198 (Church Acc.) Tamworth

Happy St Patrick's Day 2026



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

**LITURGY ROSTER FOR HOLY WEEK:** The liturgy roster for Holy Week celebrations are posted on the bulletin board at the back of the church. Please notify the Office if you not available.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Project Compassion boxes are at the back of the Church. This year's theme is "Unite Against Poverty". Life was hard for Manaini and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she has learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.

**ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION:** St Patrick's Day Lunch on Tuesday 17th March, at the Calala Inn, commencing 12noon. May the Luck of the Irish be with you!!



**VOLUNTEERS:** If you would like to help with the cleaning of the church, please put your name and contact details on the sheet at the back of the Church. Our current roster is a 4 week cycle so additional hands will lighten the load. It takes approx. 1 hour/week (once a month), with dusting and tidying the main tasks. \*Similarly if you feel you can lay out the supplies for our monthly morning tea and help clean up afterwards, please add your name on the relevant list in the Church. The Centre can be unlocked/locked automatically, making it a simpler process, and again many hands make less work.

**SECOND RITE RECONCILIATION:** This important sacrament will be held at St Patrick's on Tuesday 24th March at 5.30pm. There will be several priests in attendance.

**URGENT ATTENTION - SAFETY ISSUE:** A serious safety issue has been identified regarding the public accessing the front of the Presbytery and cars reversing out of the presbytery driveway. This relates **especially to the risk to small children**. It is of grave concern and we ask all are observant of this issue to avoid any unforeseen accidents or injury.

### 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: 15/03/26

**Vigil:**

**R:** C Ledwos D Bolitho

**Gifts:**

K. O'Brien & M. Asbury

**9am Sun:**

**R:** M Holley, R Paull

**Gifts:**

Michelle and 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: 22/03/26

**Vigil:**

**R:** M. Holland, P. Bamford

**Gifts:**

A & C Lyons

**9am Sun:**

**R:** S Brown, M Donaldson

**Gifts:**

A & K Vueti

**5.00pm Sun:**

**R:** G O'Toole,

**Gifts:**

Volunteer

**Counting Team :**

M. Vella, A. Bowden

**Altar Linen:**

E. Smyth

**Fri Cleaning**

S. Brown, V. Griffiths