

Jesus said:

‘I am the resurrection and the life.
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies
he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me
will never die.

Do you believe this?

‘Yes, Lord,’ she said ‘I believe that you are the
Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to
come into this world.’

Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that
came straight from the heart, ‘Where have you
put him?’ They said, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus
wept; and the Jews said, ‘See how much he loved
him!’ But there were some who remarked, ‘He
opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not
have prevented this man’s death?’ Still sighing,
Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a
stone to close the opening. Jesus said, ‘Take the
stone away.’ Martha said to him ‘Lord, by now
he will smell; this is the fourth day.’ Jesus replied
‘Have I not told you that if you believe you will
see the glory of God?’ So they took away the
stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

‘Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.
I knew indeed that you always hear me.

But I speak
for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent
me.’

When he had said this, he cried in a loud
voice, ‘Lazarus, here! Come out!’ The dead man
came out, his feet and hands bound with bands
of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to
them, ‘Unbind him, let him go free.’

Many of the Jews who had come to visit
Mary and had seen what he did believed in
him.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form, 11:1-45

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

22 MARCH 2026

OUR SOURCE OF LIFE

As we come to the last Sunday of Lent, we
celebrate the central meaning of Jesus’ life—
his gift of life. The story involves Lazarus
and his sisters, Martha and Mary. These are
Jesus’ friends who are from the village of
Bethany. When Jesus gets the message about
Lazarus’ dire illness, strangely, he does not go
immediately to be with them but only after
two days have passed.

The evangelist’s words at this point link to the
story from last Sunday: One ‘can walk in the
daytime without stumbling because he has the
light of this world to see by.’ It is this Light,
Jesus, that then goes to Bethany, to bring the
dead Lazarus to life. The interchange that
Jesus has with Martha before he comes to
Lazarus’ tomb summarises a theology which
John wants readers to transcend. Rather than
wait for the general resurrection at the end
time, Jesus is ‘the resurrection and the life’
now. Faith in him will bring people to life.

Space prevents a detailed examination of the
narrative dynamic at play and the depths of
the Gospel’s symbolism behind the dialogues,
Jesus’ weeping, the various reactions to Jesus,
Jesus’ command to Lazarus to come from
the tomb and the order to unbind Lazarus.
On this final Sunday in Lent our gaze is
squarely on Jesus. He is our source of life,
now and into eternity. Today’s Gospel invites
us into a deeper communion with Jesus, who
is ‘the resurrection and the life’.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Ezek 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open
your graves; I mean to raise you from your
graves, my people, and lead you back to the
soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the
Lord, when I open your graves and raise you
from your graves, my people. And I shall put
my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall
resettle you on your own soil; and you will
know that I, the Lord, have said and done this
– it is the Lord who speaks.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 129. R. v. 7

**R. With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.**

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, /
Lord, hear my voice! / O let your ears be
attentive / to the voice of my pleading. **R.**

2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, / Lord,
who would survive? / But with you is found
forgiveness: / for this we revere you. **R.**

3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, / I count
on his word. / My soul is longing for the Lord /
more than watchman for daybreak. / (Let the
watchman count on daybreak / and Israel on
the Lord.) **R.**

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy / and
fullness of redemption, / Israel indeed he will
redeem / from all its iniquity. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8:8-11

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

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead
is living in you, then he will give life to your own
mortal bodies.*

People who are interested only in unspiritual
things can never be pleasing to God. Your
interests, however, are not in the unspiritual,
but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God
has made his home in you. In fact, unless you
possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not
belong to him. Though your body may be dead
it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then
your spirit is life itself because you have been



justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised
Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he
who raised Jesus from the dead will give life
to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit
living in you.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 11:25, 26

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the
Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

GOSPEL

Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45.

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

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters sent this message to Jesus, ‘Lord, the
man you love is ill.’ On receiving the message,
Jesus said, ‘This sickness will end not in death
but in God’s glory, and through it the Son of
God will be glorified.’

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus,
yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed
where he was for two more days before saying
to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judaea.’

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had
been in the tomb for four days already. When
Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to
meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house.
Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here,
my brother would not have died, but I know
that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he
will grant you.’ ‘Your brother’ said Jesus to her
‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will
rise again at the resurrection on the last day.’

22 March 2026
5th 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:** 9am **Tues:** 9am **Wed:** 12noon (The Annunciation) **Thurs:** 9am **Fri:** 12noon

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning, rescue me, for you O God are my strength.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord. 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: Maurice Bruccoleri, Thomas Greentree

ANNIVERSARIES: Vivian Betts (16/3).

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, Julie Moran.

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

Easter Sunday 9.00 am & 5.00pm



COMING EVENTS:

24 Mar: Reconciliation Rite II for Easter - 5.30pm

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

29 Mar: Palm Sunday

01 Apr: Church cleaning bee for Easter, 9am to 11am.

03 Apr: Good Friday

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

COLLECTIONS: BSB: 082 105

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

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

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

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

LITURGY ROSTER FOR HOLY WEEK: Apologies!!! The liturgy roster for Holy Week is **now** on the bulletin board at the back of the church. Likewise, please check the Palm Sunday roster below and notify the Office if you are not available. So sorry for the confusion last weekend.

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.

WORKING/CLEANING BEE FOR EASTER: A Working/Cleaning bee will held in the church on Wednesday, 1st April starting at 9am. Please come along and help, if you can.

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.

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.**



LITURGY ROSTER - PALM SUNDAY 29 March 2026

5.30 pm: R1 P Bamford **R2** D Bolitho (**Passion Narrator**) M. Donaldson
Others D Gowing **Crowd** Congregation

9.00 am: R1 J Ryan **R2** G Clout (**Passion Narrator**) S. Brown
Others G. Clout **Crowd** Congregation

5.00 pm: R1 C. Lavell **R2** T. Mitchell (**Passion Narrator**) G. O'Toole
Others C Lavell **Crowd** Congregation

FR VIC WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH ALL READERS AT THE END EACH OF THIS WEEKEND'S MASSES, PLEASE, TO DISCUSS THE HOLY WEEK LITURGY.

ROSTER FOR: 22/03/26

Vigil: R: M. Holland, P. Bamford
9am Sun: R: S Brown, M Donaldson
5pm Sun: R: G O'Toole,
Counting: M. Vella, A. Bowden
Fri Cleaning S. Brown, V. Griffiths

Gifts: A & C Lyons
Gifts: A & S Vueti
Gifts: Volunteer
Altar Linen: E. Smyth

ROSTER FOR: 29/03/26 Palm Sunday

Vigil: **R1:** P Bamford, D Bolitho
9am Sun: **R:** J Ryan, G Clout
5.00pm Sun: **R** C Lavell, T. Mitchell
Counting Team : P. Sheils, S. Brown
Fri Cleaning M. Brown, K. O'Brien

Gifts: B & M Watson
Gifts: B. Schipp & C. Grima
Gifts: Volunteer
Altar Linen: H. Reid