

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,
I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come
are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.
I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:
he will go freely in and out
and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy.
I have come

so that they may have life
and have it to the full.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

26 APRIL 2026

THE BEAUTIFUL SHEPHERD

The Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally from John 10, about the 'Good (or, literally, 'beautiful') shepherd'. Today's selection focuses on the image of the *gate* of the sheepfold. In our culture, gates and doors are important. They provide us with security and access to what is inside—a house, a building, a room. And through entering the door or gate, we come to be with others, with whom we (usually) identify or know, perhaps family members and friends. In the Gospel, the one who enters this gate is the shepherd of the flock—an image familiar to John's Mediterranean audience and in a world where shepherds were male and female. The shepherd is a protecting and loving figure who is familiar with each sheep—calling each one by name. The shepherd leads the sheep who follow because 'they know his voice'. This image of the sheep 'knowing' the voice of the shepherd accentuates the deep and abiding intimate relationship between the sheep and shepherd.

In the final part of the Gospel, Jesus reaffirms his mission of protection and his intent to bring freedom to those who listen to his voice. Perhaps, by the time of the Gospel's writing, the community was already experiencing division, difficulty and others presuming to speak in ways that claimed authority but were in fact 'thieves and brigands'. The Gospel concludes: Jesus has come 'so that they may have life and have it to the full.' This desire for the fullness of life echoes in each of our hearts as we allow the voice of the 'Beautiful Shepherd' to guide, protect and nurture us.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14, 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22:1-6. R. v. 1

**R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want. (or Alleluia!)**

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

1 Pet 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you are called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

■ The word of the Lord.

26 April 2026
4th Sunday Easter
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: 5.30pm Sun: 9 am & 5 pm

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

ENTRANCE ANTI PHON: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, Alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTI PHON: The good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, Alleluia.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Beverly Heazlett, Shirley Hill, Bob Silver, Robert Green, Sr Arcadius Guthrie.

ANNIVERSARIES: Rev Fr Bruce Macpherson (08/4), Harry Cunningham (30/4).

DECEASED: We pray for our loved ones now in God's care: Maurice Bruccoleri, Dean York, Thomas Greentree, Daphne Sweeney, Laurie Brodbeck, Ron McGrane, Paul Karam, Paul Hayes

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.

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.**

COMING EVENTS:

May: Fr Vic will be away in May and Fr John Curran will be kindly providing supply for us.

01 May: Adoration 11am, followed by Mass at 12noon

03 May: St Joseph's School Parish Family Mass (Kindergarten)

06 May: Mass for the Sick - 12noon

10 May: Parish Morning Tea & Mother's Day (Setup - S. Brown & R. Paull)

COLLECTIONS: BSB: 082 105

Account: West Tamworth Catholic - 'Presbytery' 1st Coll'n OR 'Church'-2nd Coll'n

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

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A - GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY WELCOME TO ALL THOSE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.

RCIA PROGRAM: Candidates welcomed into the Catholic faith will be presented with their Certificates at this weekend's Masses. Please continue to pray for them, their families and sponsors. The RCIA program is available all year. If you're considering becoming a Catholic or would like to know more, please speak with Fr Vic.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY & WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS APPEAL: There will be envelopes available on the pews and at the back of the Church, for this appeal. If you were not prepared for this weekend, please take an envelope home with you and return it next weekend. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

PIOUS GOODS TABLE: Are you looking for a special, one-of-a-kind gift for Mum this year? Please take a moment to visit the Pious Goods table at the back of the Church, where you will find many beautiful hand-made gifts, thanks to our generous and talented crafters.

GROTTO WORKING BEE: We are looking for helpers for a tidy up of Our Lady's Grotto to bring the spotlight back to her presence. Any who are able to help please contact the office and a suitable time will be advised. Mainly clearing/cleaning of the statue area and garden.

MACKILLOP ROOM: In honour of St Mary Mackillop, the area at the back of the Church is proposed to be reconfigured to create a Mackillop Room. A smaller reflection space that will also serve as an area where our little ones can move a little more freely during Mass. No current seating arrangements or other usable area is to be lost, and it is hoped it will create an additional area for all to utilise and to pray.

ROSTER UPDATES: If you responded to our call for additional volunteers for helping with our monthly Morning Tea, thank you so much. Morning tea volunteers will see their name listed beside the date in Coming Events section. Due to the wonderful response, you may be called upon only twice a year and you will always have someone assisting you.

IGNITE CONFERENCE 2026: You are invited to 4 days of unforgettable Catholic speakers, music, dance, sacraments, workshops and worship. The Ignite Conference will be held in Sydney this year (Broken Bay host) at St Leo's College Waitara from Thursday 9th July through to Sunday Lunch 12 July 2026. A national Catholic conference for everyone, particularly the young, - the Church alive - God's people united with one heart. Early bird fees up to 27 March 2026. Under 18 Ignite Youth requires an adult to complete any registration. Tickets are \$135 - Kids; \$335 - Adults. Late fees apply after 27 June.

St Patricks would like to assist youth participants in some way should any be interested. Please speak with Fr Vic. To register visit www.igniteconference.com.au/sydney

ROSTER: 26/04/26

Vigil: R: C Ledwos, D Bolitho
9am Sun: R: M Holley, R. Paull
5.00pm Sun: R: S. Brown
Counting Team: P. Sheils, S Brown
Fri Cleaning M. Brown, K. O'Brien

Gifts: A & C Lyons
Gifts: B. Schipp, C. Grima
Gifts: Volunteer
Altar Linen: H. Reid

ROSTER: 03/05/26

Vigil: R: M. Holland, P Bamford
9am Sun: R: St Joseph's School
5.00pm Sun: R: G O'Toole,
Counting Team: M. Vella, A. Bowden
Fri Cleaning J. Hutt & J. Moran

Gifts: B & M Watson
Gifts: St Joseph's School
Gifts: Volunteer
Altar Linen: J. Hutt

