

kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables
and expound things hidden since the
foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the dandel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the dandel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the dandel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

GOOD AND EVIL

Why do bad things happen to good people? It is a question often expressed in different ways. Bad people seem to get away easily with their bad deeds. Today's Gospel teaching speaks into this perspective. Jesus' parable teaching from last Sunday with his focus on seed continues today. Grain was an important agricultural commodity in the ancient world. It was the source of food and the means of addressing stressing taxation demands. Like last Sunday, the parable is about the Kin-dom of God. In the parable, the farmer sows good seed but, unbeknown, a nighttime enemy sows dandel in the same field. Both seeds sprout and produce. The workers query the farmer about the reason for the presence of the dandel. It is the classic query of life: why is there evil in a world that is essentially good? Why dandel among the wheat when only wheat was sown?

The solution offered by the farmer recognises the presence of 'an enemy' and the need to allow both seeds to grow until the harvest when the wheat could be gathered into the barn and dandel destroyed. Jesus' wisdom in this parable is salient. We live in a world and faith communities where good and bad co-exist. The coexistence of 'dandel' and 'wheat' should not surprise us—but it is not forever. There is the harvest time when justice will be meted out. This awareness of a definitive act of divine justice at time's end, one for which we pray in every celebration of the Eucharist for the coming of Jesus at the end of time, allows us to live in this in-between time as we seek to do good but, at times, experience the presence of evil and the agency of the 'enemy'. Nevertheless, God's kin-dom will be ultimately fruitful.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

19 JULY 2026

FIRST READING

Wis 12:13, 16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom

In the place of sin, you give repentance.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, / to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. / Your justice has its source in strength, / your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. / You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned / and you expose the insolence of those who know it; / but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, / you govern us with great lenience, / for you have only to will, and your power is there. / By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people / how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, / and you have given your sons the good hope / that after sin you will grant repentance.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16. R. v. 5

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, / full of love to all who call. / Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer / and attend to the sound of my voice. **R.**
2. All the nations shall come to adore you / and glorify your name, O Lord: / for you are great and do marvellous deeds, / you who alone are God. **R.**
3. But you, God of mercy and compassion, / slow to anger, O Lord, / abounding in love and truth, / turn and take pity on me. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our



hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 11:25

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 13:24-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed dandel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the dandel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the dandel come from?" "Some enemy has done this," he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the dandel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the dandel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."'

He put another parable before them, 'The

19 July 2026
16th 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 MASSES Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am & 5pm

WEEKDAY MASSES Mon: 9am Tues: 9am Wed: 12noon (St Mary Magdalene)
Thurs: 9am Fri: 12noon

CONFESSIONS

* Sat: 4.30 - 5.00pm

* During Adoration
11.15am - 11.45am

* By appointment

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul.

I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders;

He gives food to those who fear him.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Fr Jose (Joe) Adriano, Lyle Dunn, John Kenny, Jeanette Whale.

ANNIVERSARIES: Shiela McNamara (20/7), Bridget Teo (29/7).

DECEASED: We pray for our loved ones now in God's care: Jean Wellwood, Julie Michell, Pat Jones, Paul Karam, Barry Lane.

SICK: Sienna Baker, May Press, John Betts, Norma O'Brien, Elaine Murray, Shane Davidson, Lisa Bond, Sr Cecilia Pistacchio, Judy Murphy, Monica Austin, Brian Rodway, Yvonne Tarrant, Barry McNamara, Bill Dennis, Carmel Koppman, Eileen Hudson, Julie Moran, Elizabeth Coroneos, Elizabeth William, Michael Jones, Veronica Frost, Mary Gallaher, Beryl Flood, Enid Wright, Doalis Fester, Ruby New, Michelle Asbury, Jacinta Bentley, Maureen Harrison, Joel Porter, Fr Bernie Frize and retired Diocesan Clergy.

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:

24 July: Adoration 11am, Mass at 12pm

26 July: World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly

28 July: First Eucharist Family Information Session - St Patrick's Church, 5pm

02 Aug: Special Collection for Retired Clergy & Education of Seminarians

05 Aug: Mass for the Sick, 12noon

16 Aug: Parish Morning Tea after 9am Mass (S & T Karam)

*Parish Safeguarding Information and Training Session (after Morning Tea)

COLLECTIONS: BSB: 082 105 - For electronic bank transfers (donations)

For St. Patrick's Church : (Local giving) **Ac. 001041198 West Tamworth Catholic Church**

For Armidale Diocese Clergy : (Diocese giving) **Ac. 001023642 West Tamworth Presbytery**

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

READERS ON SAT/SUNDAY NIGHTS: We still need help with this ministry. Please leave your name and contact details/phone number with the Sacristan on duty or on the Parish phone voicemail. If no reader is rostered and you are at that Mass, please emulate Saint Mary of the Cross and "never see a need without trying to do something about it." Your offer of help will be gratefully accepted.

ARMIDALE DIOCESAN INVESTMENT GROUP ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION: Thank you also to the ADIG for their generous annual distribution to St Patrick's Parish. Your support of the ADIG is what makes these parish distributions possible. The funds help in the upkeep and maintenance of at St Patricks.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM: Our Parish is especially grateful for the continuing generosity of those who currently contribute to the Planned Giving Program. Please contact the Parish Office If you would like to contribute to the financial wellbeing of our Parish, or wish to know more. Contributions can be made by either Giving Envelopes supplied by the parish, Direct Debit (through the ADIG), or Direct Deposit (at your discretion). Office Staff will be happy to assist you with forms or details. Donations can be anonymous, if you wish.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING: An Information and Training Session will be held for Staff and volunteers after Morning Tea on Sunday 16th August. It is important if you are a volunteer or staff member that you attend. More details will be provided in the coming weeks. There is information on the bulletin board in the back of the Church and same can also be sourced from the link here: Thank you.

Safeguarding - Catholic Diocese of Armidale As part of our own audit and to ensure the safety of all who use our church. **Please ensure children are supervised by a parent or guardian, at all times**, inside and outside the Church and other Parish buildings including the amenities/grounds. Making our Church a safe place for all is the responsibility of all parishioners. Please notify Fr Vic or the Parish Secretary (S.Brown) if you see, or know of, anything that might compromise that safety.

PIOUS GOODS UPDATE: Brown Scapulars, blessed by Mons. Figueiredo, are now in stock. \$8 each. St Michael medals have now been re-stocked and have also been blessed by Mons Figueiredo.

CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER: We are urgently seeking an additional volunteer to join our church cleaning roster. The church will now be cleaned once a fortnight, rather than every week. However, the carpet and pews will still be cleaned every week by James. This change to fortnightly will perhaps enable someone to come forward who could spare an hour or two once every 8 weeks, rather than more frequently. If you wish to join our friendly team, please contact Sheryl Brown (0427 117 337).

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL: Thank you for your generous donation to the SVDP Winter Appeal last weekend, which raised \$1,218 for local people in need. An outstanding response.

WHEAT AMONG THE WEEDS.

The world in which we live is a mixture of wheat and weeds.

Wonderful acts of heroism and self-sacrifice occur alongside shocking acts of violence and abuse of power.

In the midst of a world tainted by sin, we are called to live the values of the kingdom of God. This can be difficult but the Spirit will help us in our weakness and God, the just and merciful judge, will reward us.



ROSTER: 19/07/26

Vigil:

9am Sun:

5.00pm Sun:

Counting Team :

Fri Cleaning:

ROSTER: 26/07/26

Vigil:

9am Sun:

5.00pm Sun:

Counting Team :

Fri Cleaning:

R: C Ledwos, D Bolitho

R: M Holley, R. Paull

R: S. Brown,

A. Bowden, S. Brown

No cleaning this week

R: M. Holland, Volunteer

R: M Donaldson, S. Brown

R: G O'Toole,

M. Vella, A. Bowden

K. O'Brien, M. Brown

Gifts:

S. Shulze, V. Griffiths

Gifts:

B. Schipp, C. Grima

Altar Linen:

H. Reid

Gifts:

K. O'Brien, M. Asbury

Gifts:

Michelle and Sally

Altar Linen:

M. Vella