

happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

‘Have you understood all this?’ They said, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.’

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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

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# Breaking Open the Word

## COMMUNION WITH GOD

Today we continue to hear from the central chapter in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' parable teaching about the kin-dom of God. Over the past Sundays we have been hearing parables concerned with sowed seed (15th Sunday) and the mystery of the darnel sown among the wheat (last Sunday). Today we hear that the kin-dom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, a common banking technique by peasant farmers to protect their most valuable possessions. Someone discovers this treasure; hides it again and then sells every possession to buy the field and claim the treasure. Between the discovery and the purchase, the finder goes off "happy". The overwhelming joy of the discovery leads the merchant to sell everything to buy the field. This is an image of the disciple, of us, in discovering that the true encounter with God, the experience of the kin-dom, is most precious. Nothing can substitute it.

The second parable that concludes today's Gospel is like the first. It is about a merchant's search for valuable pearls and, in finding one, sells everything to have the pearl. In the ancient world, in the time of Jesus and Matthew, the pearl represented purity, beauty, power, wealth, even divinity. The discovery of the pearl by the parable's merchant leads, as in the first parable, to the selling of everything possessed to gain the pearl.

Both parables speak into our desire for ultimate and intimate communion with the God revealed through Jesus. When we experience such communion, we realise how valuable it is; nothing can compare to it. Intimate communion with God cannot be bought nor can anything else in human existence substitute for it. This communion is deepened in every celebration of the Eucharist.

Fr Michael Trainor

# THE SAVING WORD

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

26 JULY 2026

## FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

*You have asked for wisdom.*

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this', the Lord said, 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

## ■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130. R. v. 97

**R. Lord, I love your commands.**

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, / is to obey your word. / The law from your mouth means more to me / than silver and gold. **R.**
2. Let your love be ready to console me / by your promise to your servant. / Let your love come to me and I shall live / for your law is my delight. **R.**
3. That is why I love your commands / more than finest gold. / That is why I rule my life by your precepts: / I hate false ways. **R.**
4. Your will is wonderful indeed; / therefore I obey it. / The unfolding of your word gives light / and teaches the simple. **R.**



## SECOND READING

Rom 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*He predestined us to become true images of his Son.*

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

## ■ 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 13:44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*He sells everything he owns and buys the field.*

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off

26 July 2026  
17th Sunday  
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: 5.30pm Sun: 9am & 5pm  
**MASSES**

**WEEKDAY** Mon: 9am Tues: 9am Wed: 12pm (Sts Martha, Mary & Lazarus)  
**MASSES** Thurs: 9am Fri: 12pm

**ENTRANCE ANTIPTON:** God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house;  
**ANTIPHON:** He himself gives might and strength to his people.  
**COMMUNION ANTIPTON:** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Steve Noland, Fr Jose (Joe) Adriano, Lyle Dunn, John Kenny.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Shiela McNamara (20/7), William Barry Davy (25/7), Bridget Teo (29/7), Marie Ryan (31/7), Jack Sampson (09/8), Dudley Ryan (21/8).

**DECEASED:** We pray for our loved ones now in God's care: Jeanette Whale, 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, Ruby New, Elizabeth Coroneos, Elizabeth William, Michael Jones, Veronica Frost, Mary Gallaher, Beryl Flood, Enid Wright, Doalis Fester, Michelle Asbury, Jacinta Bentley, Maureen Harrison, Joel Porter, Fr Bernie Frize and retired Diocesan Clergy.

### COMING EVENTS:

**26 July:** World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly

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

**31 July:** Adoration 11am, Mass at 12pm

**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 transfer 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**

**ADIG**



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

### WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY:

Since its creation in 2021, the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly has grown into a cherished tradition that teaches our communities to truly value the elderly, not through occasional gestures, but as a permanent, central part of our lives. This celebration helps us appreciate older generations as vital keepers of our history, witnesses to our faith, and teachers for our lives.

**The theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV for the 6th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly "I will never forget you" (Is 49:15),** reminds us that God's unwavering love is the ultimate answer to the isolation and neglect so often experienced by the elderly. It brings comfort and hope, assuring us that the Lord knows each of us personally, forgets no one, and loves us unconditionally, even through the frailties of old age.

**PARISH SAFEGUARDING:** An Information and Training Session will be held for staff, volunteers and interested parishioners after Morning Tea on Sunday 16th August. **It is imperative that you attend this training if you are a volunteer in the church, in any capacity, or staff member.** There is more information on the bulletin board at the back of the Church and can also be sourced from this link. Thank you. [Safeguarding - Catholic Diocese of Armidale](#)

Making our Church a safe place for everyone is the responsibility of all parishioners. Please notify Fr Vic or the Parish Secretary 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.

**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.

### 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: 26/07/26

**Vigil:**

**9am Sun:**

**5.00pm Sun:**

**Counting Team :**

**Fri Cleaning:**

**R:** M. Holland, Volunteer

**R:** M Donaldson, S. Brown

**R:** G O'Toole,

M. Vella, A. Bowden

K. O'Brien, M. Brown

**Gifts:**

K. O'Brien, M. Asbury

**Gifts:**

Michelle and Sally

**Altar Linen:**

M. Vella

### ROSTER: 02/08/26

**Vigil:**

**9am Sun:**

**5.00pm Sun:**

**Counting Team :**

**Fri Cleaning:**

**R:** C Ledwos, D Bolitho

**R:** J Ryan, G Clout

**R** Volunteer

A. Bowden, S. Brown

**Gifts:**

Volunteers

**Gifts:**

G & U McKay

**Altar Linen:**

J. Hutt

**No cleaning this week**