

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

They all ate and were satisfied.

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2026. No 2154. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word

JESUS NURTURES US

Have you ever experienced a time when you needed to rest, restore yourself and, perhaps, even reflect on the direction in which your life is moving? Today's Gospel can speak to this experience. Jesus, accompanied by his disciples, steps ashore from a boat and discovers a troubled crowd in need of healing. It is evening, a *lonely* (literally, 'a desert') place and the crowd needs to eat. Figuratively, this crowd represents how we might feel at times, in need of care, comfort, healing and sustenance.

The disciples have the solution. They want *him* to send the people off to purchase food from the local villages. But Jesus surprises the disciples with another solution: *they* are to find the food that is necessary. The Greek text can also be interpreted, 'You give them *yourselves* to eat!' This gets to the heart of the issue. The disciples retort that they don't have what is needed (either physically or personally?) to satisfy the hungry crowd, only five loaves and two fish, representative of the average food allowance for one household in the ancient world.

Jesus gets the crowd to sit down (literally, 'recline'—the dining posture in the Greco-Roman world) on the 'grass' (but isn't this a desert?) takes the meagre offering of the disciples, prays a eucharistic blessing over the loaves and fish, then gets the disciples to distribute to the crowd. They eat, are satisfied, and there remains enough leftovers, twelve baskets full, for the future. Our deepest need for spiritual restoration and nurture is met in today's celebration of Word and Eucharist. Jesus nurtures us.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

2 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 55:1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Hasten and eat.

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me and you will have good
things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me;

listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 144:8-9, 15-18. R. v. 16

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us,
he answers all our needs.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, /
slow to anger, abounding in love. / How good
is the Lord to all, / compassionate to all his
creatures. **R.**

2. The eyes of all creatures look to you / and
you give them their food in due time. / You
open wide your hand, / grant the desires of all
who live. **R.**

3. The Lord is just in all his ways / and loving
in all his deeds. / He is close to all who call
him, / call on him from their hearts. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 8:35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*No creature can separate us from the love of God,
which is in Christ.*

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia! / No one lives on bread alone, / but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. / Alleluia!

02 August 2026

18th 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 Kaytie Walther, 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
MASSSES

WEEKDAY Mon: 9am **St Dominic** Tues: 9am **St John Vianney**
MASSSES Wed: 12pm Thurs: NO MASS

Fri: 12pm Sat: 10am **Mary of the Cross**

ENTRANCE Oh God, come to my assistance; O Lord make haste to help me!
ANTIPHON: You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

COMMUNION You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights
ANTIPHON: and sweetness in every taste.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Fr Michael Mullane, William Smith, Steve Noland, Fr Jose (Joe) Adriano.

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, John Kenny, Lyle Dunn.

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, Rose Pace, 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:

05 Aug: Mass for the Sick, 12noon

07 Aug: Adoration 11am, Mass at 12pm

08 Aug: **St Mary of the Cross—Solemnity Mass at 9am**

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)

West Tamworth Catholic Church: (Church/Local giving) **BSB: 082 105 Acct. 001041198**

West Tamworth Presbytery: (Clergy/Diocese giving) **BSB: 082 105 Acct. 001023642**



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

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR RETIRED CLERGY & THE EDUCATION OF SEMINARIANS: Envelopes are available at the back of the church and donations are tax deductible.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FR MICHAEL MULLANE: Funeral Mass for Fr Mullane will be held in Tenterfield on Thursday 6th of August at 11am. If you wish to attend and need transportation please contact John Moloney **0409 654 352** by Tuesday afternoon 4th of August.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING: *Please Read *

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 or staff member in any of the following roles;**

Sacristan, Parish Secretary, Parish Safeguarding Coordinator, Parish Finance Council member, Choir Director, Sacramental Coordinator, Extraordinary Eucharist Ministers distributing at homes or nursing homes, Parish Prayer Group leader, leader or helper in any child related ministry.

Volunteers such as readers, extraordinary Eucharistic ministers during Mass only, choir members, cleaners, projectionists, ushers, Piety Store and collectors are **not** required to attend but welcome.

More information is on the bulletin board at the back of the Church and can also be sourced from this link. [Safeguarding - Catholic Diocese of Armidale](#) Thank you.

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. There are a small number of brochures available on the table at the entrance to the Church.

WELCOME: Please also welcome Kaytie Walther to the admin team at St Patricks who will be taking on the Parish Secretary role that Sheryl Brown has managed over the past year. Please note until further notice office hours will remain the same. **Mon & Fri - 9.30am to 1.30pm.**

MONTHLY SATURDAY MASS FOR OUR LADY: Fr Vic will begin celebrating Mass on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10am, starting on 8th August. This month the date is also the Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross. Please join us for Mass.

PIOUS GOODS UPDATE: Brown Scapulars are now in stock. \$8 each. St Michael medals have now been re-stocked and have been blessed by Mons Figueiredo. There is also a large range of gifts for children celebrating their First Eucharist on 13th September at 9am Mass.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM: Our Parish is especially grateful for the continuing generosity of those who currently contribute to the financial well-being of St Patrick's Parish. Contributions can be made by requesting 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. *Through the weekend collections at Mass, donations to the **1st** Collection go to the West Tamworth Presbytery Account which provides for Fr Vic's sustenance with the balance going to the Diocese for the support of Retired Clergy. The **2nd** Collection goes to West Tamworth Catholic Church Account providing for all costs for the upkeep and activities of the parish, including Church and presbytery building/grounds maintenance. **All donations are greatly appreciated.**



ROSTER: 02/08/26

Vigil:

R: C Ledwos, D Bolitho

Gifts:

Volunteers

9am Sun:

R: J Ryan, G Clout

Gifts:

G & U McKay

5.00pm Sun:

R Volunteer

Counting Team :

A. Bowden, S. Brown

Altar Linen:

J. Hutt

Fri Cleaning:

No cleaning this week

ROSTER: 09/08/26

Vigil:

R: N Pullman, Volunteer

Gifts:

A & C Lyons

9am Sun:

R: St Joseph's School

Gifts:

St Joseph's School

5.00pm Sun:

R: Volunteer

Counting Team :

G & M Thrift

Altar Linen:

E. Smyth

Fri Cleaning:

V. Griffiths, S. Brown