

Alleluia, alleluia! / You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church / the gates of hell will not hold out against it. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

Who is Jesus? What would I want to say to him? Today's Gospel brings us to one of the most important questions posed by the evangelist to the Gospel's audience – and to us: Who is Jesus for us?

Jesus first asks the disciples about the gossip circulating concerning him and who they believe him to be. Their response reflects how the disciples understand Jesus and how they will follow him as they draw closer to Jerusalem, the city where Jesus' ministry will conclude in his death and resurrection. The disciples respond to Jesus' question as to what others say about him: He is John the Baptist, or Elijah who will return at the end of time, or one of the prophets. Then Jesus asks them, 'Who do you say I am?'

Simon Peter, speaking for the group, acknowledges Jesus as 'the Christ', the Greek for the Hebrew word 'Messiah', literally 'the anointed one'. Jesus is God's emissary anointed with the Spirit. Jesus affirms Peter's response as divinely inspired and declares that Peter – *Petros*, 'rock' – will be the foundation or 'rock-base' for the growth of the Jesus movement.

For Matthew's audience, this is an affirmation of the movement's authority through time and history. It is within this graced community that we gather today. As contemporary followers of Jesus, we are invited to give our response personally and communally as to Jesus' identity: Who do you, who do we say Jesus is? Our response will shape how we act, with whom we engage and the kind of community of Jesus' followers we will be.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

23 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;

should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.

I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 137:1-3, 6, 8. R. v. 8

R. Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, / you have heard the words of my mouth. / Before the angels I will bless you. / I will adore before your holy temple. **R.**

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love / which excel all we ever knew of you. / On the day I called, you answered; / you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**



3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly / and the haughty he knows from afar. / Your love, O Lord, is eternal, / discard not the work of your hands. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.

23 August 2026

20th 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 MASSES Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am & 5pm

WEEKDAY MASSES Mon: 9am St Bartholomew Tues: 9am Wed: 12pm
Thurs: 9am St Monica Fri: 12pm St Augustine

ENTRANCE ANTI-PHON: Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

COMMUNION ANTI-PHON: The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord;
you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

 **WELCOME TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY:** Last weekend, we welcomed Banksi & Bowie Witherdin into our Community of St Patricks. May Banksi & Bowie's family always feel the love and peace of God in our Church.

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: Les Chillingworth (27/8) Jack Sampson (09/8), Dudley Ryan (21/8), Greg Gallagher (30/8).

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.

COMING EVENTS:

28 Aug: Adoration 11am, Mass at 12pm

12 Sep: Mass for our Lady, Saturday 9am

13 Sep: First Eucharist Celebration at 9am Sunday Mass.

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**

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



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

PARISH MORNING TEA & SAFEGUARDING: Thankyou all who attended our Parish morning tea and the Safeguarding information session that followed. Hopefully it helped us to understand it more and know what to do to continue to keep our parish a safe place. Our parish Safeguarding Contact person is Sheryl Brown and she can be contacted via the parish office.

MONTHLY SATURDAY MASS FOR OUR LADY: Fr Vic will now be celebrating Mass at St Patricks on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9am. The Next Saturday morning mass will be held 12 Sep 26.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM: Our Parish is especially grateful for the continuing generosity of those giving to the financial well-being of St Patrick's Parish. Contributions can be made by requesting Giving Envelopes (supplied), Direct Debit (via ADIG), or Direct Deposit (EFT) (online transfer). Office Staff are happy to assist you with forms or details. Donations can be anonymous, if you wish. *Through the weekend collections at Mass, **1st Collection** funds go to the **Presbytery Account** which provides for Fr Vic's sustenance only, with the balance going to the Diocese for the support of Diocesan Clergy. The **2nd Collection** funds go to the **Church Acc.** (St Pats) to fund the running of the parish, including Church and presbytery building/grounds maintenance, wages, supplies and amenities. **All donations are greatly appreciated.**

PIOUS GOODS UPDATE: There are a few items on sale from the La Salette Missionaries, with proceeds to go to the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette. They are beautiful items. Please see the sacristans at the back of the church for your purchases.

SINGING AT MASS: We are so fortunate to have the many forms of music available in our parish, and we wish to acknowledge that gratitude. We also wish to have our parishioners join in the singing. With the added benefit of the visual display (or your own memory of those favorite hymns), we ask you to (as the Psalms tell us) - "**Sing to the Lord**", and participate in the praise of Our Lord in this way. To sing in church is to express worship and devotion to God or as one priest has said, *to sing in Mass is to pray twice.* . Let us all praise the Lord in song in our celebrations and have him hear all our prayers.

EUCHARIST28 UPDATE: ETERNAL LIFE IN THE EUCHARIST: The International Eucharistic Congress ('Eucharist28') is coming to Sydney in 2028! At every Mass, the celebration of the Eucharist is a moment of communion, where we are united in Christ, who's body and blood we share. In the Scriptures, Jesus tells us, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day." (John 6:54) Through the Eucharist, Christ unites us to Himself and draws us into the eternal life He promises. This invitation is for everyone, even those who have died. At each Mass, the Church offers the Eucharistic sacrifice for the faithful departed, that they may experience eternal life and unity with Christ. To help your parish and community experience this moment of Eucharistic renewal on the journey to Eucharist28. Go to eucharist28.org for more information.

ROSTER: 23/08/26

Vigil: R: M. Holland, N. Pullman
9am Sun: R: S. Brown, D. Gowing
5.00pm Sun: R: T. Mitchell
Counting Team: M. Vella, A. Bowden
Fri Cleaning: M. Vella, I. Ullman

Gifts: S. Shulze, V. Griffiths
Gifts: G & U McKay

Altar Linen: J. Hutt

ROSTER: 30/08/26

Vigil: R: C Ledwos, D Bolitho
9am Sun: R: M Holley, R. Paull
5.00pm Sun: R: S. Brown,
Counting Team: A. Bowden, S. Brown
Fri Cleaning: **No cleaning this week**

Gifts: J & P Bamford
Gifts: Michelle and Sally

Altar Linen: M. Vella