

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Command me to come to you over the water.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a headwind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered, 'Lord', he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

TOWARDS UNKNOWN SHORES

There are times when we struggle, as though we are personally battling against a strong headwind and can't move out of our physical or spiritual slump. Today's Gospel reflects something of this experience. Jesus makes his disciples get into a boat (a symbol of Matthew's Gospel household) to sail to the 'other side'. This 'side' is unfamiliar and frightening. Jesus spends time on the land praying while the boat, in the meantime, is battling heavy seas and a strong headwind.

All this is a powerful image of the community of Jesus' disciples and, at times, like us or our experience of Church: battling, trying to move forward as we feel alone. At this point in the story, Matthew draws on imagery used of God from the First Testament to describe Jesus walking on the water, coming towards a boat filled with terrified disciples. When they see Jesus, their terror heightens thinking he is a ghost. Jesus reassures them.

Peter, the leader and spokesperson, then asks to come out to be with Jesus on the water. While Peter's focus is on Jesus all is safe as he steps from the boat on to the water. But when he becomes distracted by the wind and waves and takes his gaze off Jesus, he begins to sink. Jesus responds immediately to his plea for rescue and the scene concludes with the disciples worshipping Jesus as God's saving agent. This story speaks forcefully to our community of struggling believers. Jesus seeks to be with us in this 'boat' called 'Church' as we sail together, in that synodal spirit, towards unknown and frightening shores while subject to fearful and unsettling conditions.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

9 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84:9-14. R. v. 8

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, / a voice that speaks of peace. / His help is near for those who fear him / and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; / justice and peace have embraced. / Faithfulness shall spring from the earth / and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

3. The Lord will make us prosper / and our earth shall yield its fruit. / Justice shall march before him / and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 129:5

Alleluia, alleluia! / I hope in the Lord, / I trust in his word. / Alleluia!

09 August 2026

19th 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
MASSES

WEEKDAY Mon: 9am St Lawrence Tues: 9am St Clare Wed: 12pm
MASSES Thurs: 9am Fri: 12pm St Maximilian Mary Kolbe

CONFESSIONS
* Sat: 4.30 - 5.00pm
* During Adoration 11.15am - 11.45am
* By appointment

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.
Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

WELCOME TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY: Last weekend, we welcomed three children into our Community of St Patricks - Eva, Hunter Lee and Hailee. May they and their families 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: 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:

14 Aug: Adoration 11am, Mass at 12pm

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

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

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

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

THANK YOU SHERYL BROWN: A massive thank you Sheryl for your hard work, dedication and faithful service During your time as Parish Secretary .Your commitment has been truly appreciated and we wish you every blessing in this next chapter.

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.

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.

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 (parish supplied), Direct Debit (via ADIG), or Direct Deposit (EFT) (at your discretion). 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 West Tamworth Presbytery Account which provides for Fr Vic's sustenance only with the balance going to the Diocese for the support of Retired Clergy. The **2nd** Collection funds go to West Tamworth Catholic Church Acc. (St Pats) to fund the running of the parish, including Church and presbytery building/grounds maintenance, wages, supplies and amenities. **Donations are greatly appreciated.**

EUCARIST28 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, head to [eucharist28.org](#) for more.

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		

ROSTER: 16/08/26

Vigil:	R: J. Woodbridge, C Ledwos	Gifts:	B & M Watson
9am Sun:	R: S Nichols, A Sartori	Gifts:	B. Schipp, C. Grima
5.00pm Sun:	R: Volunteer		
Counting Team :	P. Sheils, S. Brown	Altar Linen:	H. Reid
Fri Cleaning:	No cleaning this week		

