

Alleluia, alleluia! / Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom / and healed all who were sick. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 15:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply. 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

16 AUGUST 2026

BEYOND THE EXPECTED

In today's Gospel Jesus travels beyond his usual and familiar abode. He is in today's southern Lebanon, areas around Tyre and Sidon. This is foreign or pagan territory, unfamiliar to Jews. Here Jesus encounters a woman from the region who pleads for him to exorcise her demonically possessed daughter. Jesus' disciples want him to deal with her quickly so that they won't be bothered by her. Then comes the clear missionary statement of Jesus for Matthew's Jewish audience, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel', and, later, 'It is not fair to take children's food and throw it to house-dogs'. The focus of his ministry and healing is clearly on the Israelite people, the 'children', rather than on gentiles ('house-dogs!'). Jesus' derogatory comment to the woman is met by her witty repartee, 'Yes, sir, but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from the master's table'.

Her clever verbal joust meets his respectful acknowledgement. He affirms the woman's great faith in engaging him in a manner that respects the priority of his mission to the Jewish people (and Matthew's Gospel audience) while acknowledging that non-Jews can also be recipients of his ministry. This results in the Canaanite woman's request being granted. Her daughter is healed.

From this episode, it seems as though even Jesus had to learn and to extend his healing reach beyond the expected. That same insight is an invitation to us and our faith communities as we too are invited to offer hospitality and a welcome to the foreign and unexpected that we come across.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Isa 56:1, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 66:2-3, 5-6, 8. R. v. 8

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us / and let your face shed its light upon us. / So will your ways be known upon earth / and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**
2. Let the nations be glad and exult / for you rule the world with justice. / With fairness you rule the peoples, / you guide the nations on earth. **R.**
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; / let all the peoples praise you. / May God still give us his blessing / till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 11:13-15, 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

■ The word of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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16 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 Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am & 5pm
MASSES

WEEKDAY Mon: 9am Tues: 9am Wed: 12pm
MASSES Thurs: 9am St Bernard Fri: 12pm St Pius

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

ENTRANCE Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one;
ANTIPHON: one day within your counts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

COMMUNION With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption
ANTIPHON:



WELCOME TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY: Last weekend, we welcomed Audrey Lindquist into our Community of St Patricks, May Audrey and her 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:

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

Parish Safeguarding Information & Training Session (after Morning Tea)

21 Aug: Adoration 11am, Mass at 12pm

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**

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



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

PARISH MORNING TEA & SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION: *This Sunday - all required/interested*

An Information and Training Session will be held for staff, volunteers and interested parishioners after Morning Tea this **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 advised to attend but non mandatory. 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 now be celebrating Mass on the **2nd** Saturday of each month at 9am. The Next Saturday morning mass will be held on September 12th. 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.**

PIOUS GOODS UPDATE: Please see the sacristans at the back of the church for your purchases.

EUCCHARIST28 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.

You have great faith...

ROSTER: 16/08/26

Vigil:

R: C Ledwos, J. Woodbridge

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

ROSTER: 23/08/26

Vigil:

R: M. Holland, N. Pullman

Gifts: S. Shulze, V. Griffiths

9am Sun:

R: S. Brown, D. Gowing/ G. Clout

Gifts: G & U McKay

5.00pm Sun:

R: T. Mitchell

Counting Team :

M. Vella, A. Bowden

Altar Linen: J. Hutt

Fri Cleaning:

M. Vella, I. Ullman