

Alleluia, alleluia! / My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; / I know them, and they follow me. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 21:28-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go", but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word

CHANGE OF ATTITUDE

Remaining in the agricultural world from last Sunday and the hiring practice of a landowner, we are now inside the landowner's family and its two sons. The landowner requests both sons to go to work in the vineyard. Such a request would have been unnecessary, given that there would have been hired labourers in the vineyard – information learnt from last Sunday's Gospel.

A deeper intent lies behind the owner's request: Are the sons' committed to the family's enterprise? Perhaps, too, this reflects what is occurring with the Gospel household, the inner relationship and ethical practice of its members. The main issue concerns integrity of word and openness of heart. The first son is asked to work in the vineyard but refuses the request. Later, he thinks about it, changes his mind and goes. The second promises to go the vineyard but doesn't. There is no further comment about the request or change of heart. Jesus asks the religious leaders, 'Which of the two did the father's will?' They respond, 'The first.' This son, at first resistant, changes his mind and responds to the father's request.

The parable is obviously directed to Jesus' audience and religious leaders, to recognise their need to change attitudes that exclude certain types of people. Surprisingly, those judged as social reprobates, the 'tax collectors and prostitutes', are given preferential acceptance into God's Kingdom. The parable overturns conventional expectations in Matthew's day and in ours!

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

27 SEPTEMBER 2026

FIRST READING

Ezek 18:25-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 24:4-9. R. v. 6

R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways. / Lord, teach me your paths. / Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: / for you are God my saviour. R.
2. Remember your mercy, Lord, / and the love you have shown from of old. / Do not remember the sins of my youth. / In your love remember me, / because of your goodness, O Lord. R.
3. The Lord is good and upright / He shows the path to those who stray, / he guides the humble in the right path / he teaches his way to the poor. R.

SECOND READING

Phil 2:1-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one



thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.

But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the
underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

■ The word of the Lord.

27 Sep 2026
26th Sunday Yr 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
Tues: 9am Sts Michael, Gabriel & Raphael Archangels
Wed: 12pm St Jerome Thurs: 9am St Therese
Fri: 12pm The Holy Guardian Angels

CONFESSIONS
* Sat: 4.30-5.00pm
Before weekly Mass
* By appointment

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me and sent me to preach the good news to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON ALL THOSE ASKED TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Fr Bernard Frize, Nev Michell.

ANNIVERSARIES: Matthew Moloney (9/9) Chris Morris (12/9), Clara Urner (12/9), Hugh O'Brien, Val Chillingworth (14/9), Deacon Peter Harrison (21/9), Barry Lane (25/9), Warren Doherty (6/10) Bill Teo (29/10).

DECEASED: We pray for our loved ones now in God's care: Fr Michael Mullane, William Smith, Jeanette Whale, Jean Wellwood, Julie Michell, Pat Jones, Paul Karam.

SICK: Hunter Lee Walther, John Bamford, 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 and retired Diocesan Clergy.

WELCOME TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY: Last weekend, we welcomed three children into the Community of St Patricks – Piper, Marley and Leias. May they and their families always feel the love and peace of God in our Church. Please keep them in your prayers.

COMING EVENTS:

2 Oct: Adoration 11am followed by Exposition & Benediction

11 Oct: Parish Morning Tea **18 October** Mission Sunday



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.

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

PARISH SAFEGUARDING: Our Parish is committed to the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse. This is everyone's responsibility. If you have any concerns or feedback, please contact the Parish Priest/ Safeguarding Contact Person and our Diocesan Safeguarding and Professional Standards Office on (02) 6771 8700 or at safeguarding@armidale.catholic.org.au

CHILD SAFETY: With reference to our Safeguarding Policy, we kindly ask parents and carers to supervise their children at all times while attending Mass and visiting the church. We love welcoming children and families to our parish community. However, as our church contains many beautiful features that can attract inquisitive young minds, they can also prove to be hazardous and so close supervision is essential to ensure their safety. Thank you for helping us provide a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

READERS NEEDED: Help Please -We are in great need of more readers. If you can help by joining this team, please do not hold back and speak to Father or contact the office.

PIOUS GOODS: If paying online for Pious Goods please use the *Church Account* details as per the page opposite to pay and *check your details before sending. Thank you.

EUCCHARIST28 UPDATE: Eternal Life in the Eucharist: The International Eucharistic Congress ('Eucharist28') is coming to Sydney in 2028! Go to eucharist28.org

SURVEY OF CATHOLIC COUPLES OVER SEPTEMBER: The Australian Catholic Bishops are funding a survey over the month of September into the experience of Catholics in their first 10 years of marriage. The information gathered will inform the development of pastoral responses and resources for this vital stage of married life. Any couple married in the last 10 years, where at least one spouse is Catholic, can contribute their valuable insights via this link <https://thepmrc.org/survey> Anonymous and confidential.

DONATION ENVELOPES: Some envelopes will be made available at the back of the Church should you wish to utilise them for your donations to St Patricks (Church Account).

COLLECTIONS: BSB: 082 105 (For electronic bank transfer donations)

West Tamworth Presbytery: (To Armidale Diocese - **1st Coll'n**) BSB: 082 105 Acct. 001023642

West Tamworth Catholic Church: (To St Patricks - **2nd Coll'n**) BSB: 082 105 Acct. 001041198

Turn against sinfulness...



WEEK 2 ROSTER: 27/09/26

Vigil:	R: J. Woodbridge, D. Bolitho	Gifts:	S. Shulze, V Griffiths
9am Sun:	R: S Nichols, A Sartori	Gifts:	Volunteers
5.00pm Sun:	R: Volunteer	Gifts:	Volunteers
Counting Team :	A. Bowden, S. Brown	Altar Linen:	M. Vella
Fri Cleaning	No cleaning this week		

WEEK 3 ROSTER: 4/10/2026

Vigil:	R: M. Holland, N. Pullman	Gifts:	S. Shulze, V. Griffiths
9am Sun:	R: G. Clout, S. Brown	Gifts:	G & U McKay
5.00pm Sun:	R: T. Mitchell	Gifts:	Volunteers
Counting Team :	M. Vella, A. Bowden	Altar Linen:	J. Hutt
Fri Cleaning	M. Vella, I. Ullman		