GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Phil 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia! / Shine on the world like bright stars; / you are offering it the word of life. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

WHO IS OUR GOD?

Homilists today may be tempted to use this Gospel as an encouragement to honour taxation: every citizen contributes to the common good, and perhaps parishioners might even be urged to contribute a little more to the parish coffers. After all, Jesus does say, 'Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar!' While we certainly have a responsibility to support those social structures that advance the common good, and to assist those who struggle, something more troubling is at work in this Gospel.

The setting is the Temple Mount, where Matthew presents Jesus undergoing a theological trial before religious leaders and guardians of orthodoxy. It is a scene repeated in every generation of Jesus' followers: the attempt by theological rigorists to indict those whom they regard as out of step with orthodox teaching. Jesus refuses the premise of their question. Instead, he asks them to produce the coin used to pay the tax and to identify the figure and inscription upon it. 'Caesar's,' they reply.

Here lies the real issue. These religious leaders publicly champion the Torah's fundamental confession that there is only one God. Yet, in Israel's most sacred place, the Temple, they carry an image of the god-king Caesar. Their actions contradict the faith they claim to defend. Thus, today's Gospel is not primarily about the lawfulness of taxation. It is about fidelity to the Divine One. Beneath the question of what belongs to Caesar lies the more searching question: Who is our God, the One to whom our ultimate love, allegiance and obedience belong?

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A — 18 OCTOBER 2026

FIRST READING Isa 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

■ The word of the Lord.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 95:1, 3-5, 7-10. R. v. 7

R. Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / Tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. R.

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise, / to be feared above all gods; / the gods of the heathens are naught. / It was the Lord who made the heavens. R.

3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, / give the Lord glory and power, / give the Lord the glory of his name. / Bring an offering and enter his courts. R.

4. Worship the Lord in his temple. / O earth, tremble before him. / Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' / He will judge the peoples in fairness. R.

SECOND READING 1 Thess 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

■ The word of the Lord.

18 Oct 2026
29th Sunday Yr A

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH



Website: https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org
Email: westtamworthpaish@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 **Wed:** 12pm **Thurs:** 9am **Fri:** 12pm

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.



COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The son of Man has come to give his life as a ransom for many.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Victoria Cassar, Peter Maloney, William O'Connor.

ANNIVERSARIES: Warren Doherty (6/10) , Bill Teo (29/10).

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

SICK: Gerard White, 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, Maureen Harrison, Joel Porter, Rose Pace and retired Diocesan Clergy.

COLLECTIONS: BSB: 082-105 (For electronic bank transfer) [Pious Goods pay to Church Acc)
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. 0010411

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.

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TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

WELCOME TO ALL THOSE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.



ONE IN CHRIST UNITED IN Mission
109 YEARS OF WORLD MISSION SUNDAY
catholic mission
Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/united

MISSION SUNDAY: Today is Mission Sunday. This week, you are invited to partner with Catholic Mission in Malawi as we support families rebuilding after devastating floods and help children access education close to home. Through projects like St Peter's Nyamikuta Primary School, the Church is creating a place where children can learn, be nourished, and grow with dignity, regardless of their background or beliefs. As we celebrate 100 years of World Mission Day we are reminded by Pope Leo XIV that we are 'One in Christ, United in Mission'. Join with us in celebration and action by supporting this work with a compassionate gift. Use the provided appeal envelope provided, scan the QR code, or visit catholicmission.org.au/united to make a difference today.

THANK YOU: We thank Fr Curran for his generosity in providing his pastoral care for us while Fr Vic is unavailable. We are truly grateful and pray God grants you many blessings.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The St Vincent de Paul Society is seeking caring volunteers to visit elderly people and hospital patients, offering friendship, companionship and support to those who may be lonely or in need of a friendly face. If you would like to make a meaningful difference in someone's life, **please contact Paul Crayn on 0400 301 593** to find out more.

HELP NEEDED: We are needing more readers for the Saturday and Sunday evening Masses. If you can assist at all please see father, the sacristans or contact the office. We are forever grateful to those who already give of their time and commitment to make our Mass celebrations as fulfilling as they can be and we thank you.

CENTACARE CHRISTMAS HAMPER'S: Centacare NENW is collecting non-perishable food items to create Christmas hampers for local families who are experiencing hardship and whom Centacare NENW staff encounter through their work each week. We will have a basket at the back of the Church each weekend from 1 November to 29 November to collect donations. Centacare NENW staff will collect the donations, make up the hampers and distribute them during Advent.

ORDINATIONOF REV DEACON ALLEM JAMES DALISAY ALBA: Deacon Allem has kindly shared his invitation to his Ordination, First Mass, and Thanksgiving Mass, taking place on the 12th, 13th and 15th of December at Saints Mary & Joseph Cathedral Armidale, St Nicholas Church and Mary Help of Christians Church Tamworth respectively. A copy will be placed on the Noticeboard. RSVP for either event is required by 23 November 26.

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

COMING EVENTS:

23 Oct : Adoration 11am **1 Nov:** All Saints Day **2 Nov:** All Souls Day

ROSTER: 18/10/2026			
Vigil:	R: **Volunteer** P. Bamford	Gifts:	A & C Lyons
9am Sun:	R: M. Attard, M Donaldson	Gifts:	G & U McKay
5.00pm Sun:	R: Volunteer	Gifts:	
Counting Team:	M.Vella, A. Bowden	Altar Linen:	J. Hutt
Fri Cleaning	S. Brown & M. Lysaught		
ROSTER: 25/10/2026			
Vigil:	**R**: C Ledwos, N Pullman	Gifts:	B & M Watson
9am Sun:	**R:** J Ryan, G Clout	Gifts:	Michelle and Sally
5.00pm Sun:	**R: Volunteer**	Gifts:	
Counting Team:	A. Bowden, S. Brown	Altar Linen:	M. Vella
Fri Cleaning	**No cleaning this week**		