

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10:27

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.



### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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# Reflections on the Gospel



# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

27 SEPTEMBER 2020

## THE PATIENCE OF GOD

The parable about two sons in today's Gospel can be understood on various levels. In Jesus' own context it probably served to defend his practice, shocking to the religious authorities, of celebrating the discovery of God's mercy with those considered outcasts and sinners.

At a deeper level, the parable shows that what God looks to—and can wait for with infinite patience—is the *final* outcome in people's lives. God can put up with an initial *No*, and many other *No*'s besides, on the way to a final and lasting *Yes*.

From the human angle, people who appear religious and obedient from the start may never have sufficiently plumbed the depth of God's mercy to know God as God really is. Conversion at depth and the knowledge of God that goes with it overflows into a pattern of life truly reflecting God's grace. But a hard, judgemental attitude to others may indicate lack of true conversion and knowledge of God: something that may leave such people waiting at the door, while those whom they thought far less worthy enter into the fullness of life before them.

What ultimately determines fitness for eternal life is conformity of the human heart to the heart of God. None of us could ever amass sufficient good works to merit even a second of life with God. That life will be God's gift in abundance if only we have grown—sometimes in the course of a very winding and to-and-fro journey—into the capacity to receive it.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

## 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 Sept 2020  
Wk 26 Yr A/2

**WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH**  
**Website:** <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org/>




<b>Parish Priest</b>	Fr Anthony Koppman	<b>Presbytery</b> 67658211
<b>Deacon</b>	Deacon Peter Harrison	<b>Office Hours:</b> Tues - Fri 9.30 - 11.30 am
<b>Administration:</b>	Ms Anne Bowden Ms Di Bolitho	<a href="mailto:westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au">westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au</a>
<b>Sacristan</b>	Mrs Elaine Smyth	<b>St Joseph's School</b> Principal Mrs Katie Hanes 67654079

<b>WEEKEND MASSES</b>	Vigil: Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am and 5.30 pm <b>**72 people only in the church</b>	<b>CONFESSIONS</b> Sat: 4.30-5.15pm *Or by appointment
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b>	Mon: <b>**No Mass</b> Tues: <b>**No Mass</b> Wed: <b>**12 noon St Jerome</b> Thurs: 9am St Therese of the Child Jesus Fri: 5.30 pm Sat: 9am	

Entrance : *"All you have done for us O Lord, you have done with true judgement For we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name, deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy".*


May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:  
**Recently Deceased:** Marie Trinder, Thomas Brown, Peter Press, Bob Edgecock.  
**Anniversaries:** Betty Lynch (2/9), Matthew Moloney (9/9), Bill Hansen (10/9), Bert McCann (14/9), Dulcie Smith (19/9), Carmel Graham (22/9), Mary Betts (24/9),  
**Deceased:** Dudley Ryan, Sr Kathleen Price (sjm), Elizabeth (Betty) Perry, Max Kennedy, Joy Aurelia Trowbridge, Lionel Grattan, Margaret O'Callaghan, William Coulston, Andrew Tickner, Hugh O'Brien, John O'Brien.  
**Sick:** Kim Myers, Rachel MacPherson, Shirley Hobbs, Deacon Peter Harrison, Jenny Buxury, Aria Lee Hawley, Joy Makepeace, John Joe Kiely, Monica Austin, Joe Lew, Trisha Aquino, Paul Steer, Baby Jack Smith, Noel O'Brien, Bill Press, Karen Guillermo, David Owens, Yvonne Tarrant, Terry Lee, Rosa Maria Santos, Margaret Greentree, Janice Rizzi, Richard Crawford, Sr Pat Bartley, Judy Cumins, Brindley Cavallaro, Maureen Harrison, Elaine White, Linda Bourke, Peggy Bussell, Margaret Doyle, Christopher Struck, Graeme Bussell, Jack & Marge Attard.



**CRACKERS TAILS**  
*Mildred, the church gossip and self-appointed arbiter of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose in the other members' private lives. Church members were unappreciative of her activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence. She made a mistake, however, when she accused George, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his pickup truck parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon. She commented to George and others that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing. George, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny; he said nothing. Later that evening, George quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house... and left it there all night.*

**COMING EVENTS**

4 Oct Sunday 2am -Daylight Saving begins  
 7 Oct Solmenity of Our Lady of the Rosary (Patroness of our Diocese)  
 18 Oct World Mission Appeal (Mission Sunday)




*"May God bless you and keep you strong." (1875)*



**FRIDAY MASS AND EXPOSITION:** Please note that there will be mass at 5.30 pm on Friday 2 October, followed by exposition until 6.30 pm.  
**IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CHURCH:** The recent improvements to the Sacristy and Church will make a significant difference to our day-to-day operations, as well as ensuring we meet the many safeguarding guidelines. Whilst there is still much to do in the repair and maintenance of our buildings, we hope you enjoy the fresh and new look.  
**PUBLIC ROSARY:** On Sat. 10 October at 11 am a public Rosary will be prayed in honour of Our Lady of Fatima near the corner of Peel and Fitzroy Streets near R M Williams. This public Rosary is being prayed worldwide on this day. You are invited to come and pray the Rosary together for Our Lady's blessing on our country. We will be social distancing. Contact 67618228  
**30 SCHOLARSHIPS AT AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY:** Do you know of anyone considering their next step in life following school who may be interested in studying a Bachelor of Arts (Western Civilisation) in 2021? There are 30 scholarships on offer. Contact the office.  
**NON-EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS AT ST ALBERTS COLLEGE:** Bishop Kennedy is seeking to appoint up to 3 non-executive directors to the St Alberts College Board. Candidates will have values that align with the College as a Catholic organisation AND are passionate about the College's work. In addition, it is essential that a candidate has skills, knowledge and experience in at least one of the following areas: law, finance, business development, youth work, education or hospitality. For further information and a Position Description please email the Chair of St Alberts College [chair.stalberts@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:chair.stalberts@armidale.catholic.org.au).  
**HELP FOR MARRIAGES UNDER STRESS:** The BreakThrough Online Course created by SmartLoving will enable you to identify your conflict triggers, learn strategies to de-escalate an argument and find constructive ways to re-establish connection. Restore hope for your relationship's future. Visit [www.smartloving.org/breakthrough](http://www.smartloving.org/breakthrough)  
**FORWARD NOTICE OF CHANGE TO MASS TIMES:** Due to Clergy Retreat there will be NO EVENING MASS (5.30 PM) AT ST. PATRICK'S ON SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER and no weekday masses from 8 - 14 Nov. (9 am). Normal Masses will resume from 5.30 pm Sat. 14 Nov.

**COVID-19 UPDATE:** Masses are continuing in line with current COVID-19 restrictions.

 **ONLY 72 PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO ATTEND MASS AT ANY ONE TIME AT ST PATRICKS.** It is preferable for you to register with the Parish Office. **PLEASE EMAIL THE PARISH AND LEAVE YOUR NAME, TELEPHONE NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESS AND PREFERENCE TIME FOR MASS ATTENDANCE (Saturday evening or Sunday).** The parish phone is not always attended so please only call if you do not have email. If not registered you may still attend mass, however you **MUST** leave your name and contact details on the sheet upon entering and can only enter if less than 72 people have registered on the entry sheet already. **\*\*Masks are currently strongly recommended but not mandatory at the time of print.**

**SOCIAL DISTANCING - \*\*YOU MUST \*\* REGISTER TO ENTER**  
**\*\* SANITISE HANDS ENTERING AND LEAVING**  
**\*\* KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**

**Sat Cleaning Roster:** 3/10/20 M Vella and R Pace 10/10/20 B and B Lane

**First Collection WEST TAMWORTH PRESBYTERY BSB 082105 Acc 001023642**  
**Second Collection WEST TAMWORTH CHURCH BSB 082105 Acc 001041198**