

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants. "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

*Shorter form, Mt 22: 1-10*

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Reflections on the Gospel



TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

11 OCTOBER 2020

## INVITED TO THE BANQUET OF LIFE

The parable of the Wedding Banquet symbolises the story of salvation. The banquet represents God's intent for human beings, which is simply to have us as honoured guests at the banquet of life. The bridegroom is Jesus. The servants sent out to issue the invitations are, first, the Old Testament prophets and then Christian missionaries. The response of the king to those who rejected the invitations reflects early Christian belief that the fall of Jerusalem in 70 CE was retribution for failure to accept Jesus as Messiah. The new invitees from the highways and byways are Gentiles (non-Jews) who have joined the Church in large numbers.

We should not too readily identify the king in the parable with God. Jesus takes illustrations from life as it is, using aspects of the way people, including kings, behave to illustrate what he wants to convey.

The parable thus serves as an *explanation* of otherwise disturbing developments. Israel's *No* to the Gospel and the fact that the Church includes bad members as well as good has all been foreseen by the Lord.

What about the poor wretch caught out for not wearing a wedding garment? The wedding garment symbolises transformation of life. You don't have to be good to *get into* the community of the Kingdom: the invitation to the banquet is a great net of grace enclosing all, good and bad alike. But, *once within*, we must allow the grace we have received to transform us and make us worthy of final salvation, God's invitation to the banquet of life.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

## FIRST READING

Isa 25:6-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The Lord will prepare a feast and will wipe away the tears from every cheek.*

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so.

That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.

We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22. R. v. 6

**R.** I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; / there is nothing I shall want. / Fresh and green are the pastures / where he gives me repose. / Near restful waters he leads me, / to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

2. He guides me along the right path; / he is true to his name. / If I should walk in the valley of darkness / no evil would I fear. / You are there with your crook and your staff; / with these you give me comfort. **R.**



3. You have prepared a banquet for me / in the sight of my foes. / My head you have anointed with oil; / my cup is overflowing. **R.**

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me / all the days of my life. / In the Lord's own house shall I dwell / for ever and ever. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Phil 4:12-14, 19-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*I am able to do all things in him who strengthens me.*

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Eph 1:17, 18

Alleluia, alleluia! / May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ / enlighten the eyes of our heart, / that we might see how great is the hope / to which we are called. / Alleluia!



11 Oct 2020  
Wk 28 Yr A/2

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org/>



Parish Priest Fr Anthony Koppman  
Deacon Deacon Peter Harrison

Presbytery 67658211  
Office Hours:  
Tues - Fri 9.30 - 11.30 am  
[westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au)

Administration: Ms Anne Bowden  
Ms Di Bolitho  
Sacristan Mrs Elaine Smyth

St Joseph's School  
Principal Mrs Katie Hanes 67654079

WEEKEND MASSES Vigil: Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am and 5.30 pm

**\*\*72 people only in the church**

CONFESSIONS  
Sat: 4.30-5.15pm  
\*Or by appointment

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon: **\*\*No Mass** Tues: **\*\*No Mass**

Wed: **\*\* 12 noon** Thurs: 9am St Teresa of Jesus

Fri: 9 am Sat: 9am St Ignatius of Antioch



Entrance Antiphon

*If you, Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?  
But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel*

May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:

**Recently Deceased:** John Ball, Barbara Scott, Anthony Press (Bathurst), Wendy O'Toole, Sr Jan Cetta rsj, Terry Smith, Peter Koch, Marie Trinder.

**Anniversaries:** Warren Doherty (6/10), Keith Blanch (8/10), Ed Clarke (12/10), Michael Lillcrap (27/10), Alma Mulherin (29/10), Bill Teo (29/10), Sheila McNamara, France Martin.

**Deceased:** Peter Press, Bob Edgecock, Thomas Brown, Dudley Ryan, Sr Kathleen Price (sjm), William Coulston, Andrew Tickner, Hugh O'Brien, John O'Brien.

**Sick:** Bob Worthington, Kim Myers, Rachel MacPherson, Shirley Hobbs, Deacon Peter Harrison, Jenny Buxury, Aria Lee Hawley, Joy Makepeace, John Joe Kielty, 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



Wedding day was fast approaching and everything was ready. Nothing could dampen Jennifer's excitement, not even her parents' nasty divorce. Her mother Carol finally found the PERFECT dress to wear! A week later, Jennifer was horrified when her new young stepmother had purchased the same dress. She asked her stepmother to exchange the dress, but she refused, "Absolutely not! I'm going to wear this dress; I'll look like a million bucks in it!" Jennifer told her mother, who graciously replied, "Never mind, dear, after all it's your special day, not hers. Two weeks later, another dress was finally found for Jennifer's mum. Jennifer asked her mother, "What are you going to do with the first dress? You don't have any place to wear it." Carol grinned and replied,

*"Of course, I do, dear! I'm wearing it to the rehearsal dinner!" ;)*

### COMING EVENTS

11 to 17 Oct Carer's Week

16 Oct 10th Anniversary of the Canonisation of St Mary MacKillop

8 Oct Mission Sunday

25 Oct Blessing of Religious Items

**"Take fresh courage." (1877)**

**CARERS' WEEK:** 11-17 Oct. 2020 is recognised in Australia as Carer's Week. We are encouraged this week to open the doors to our parishes and open our hearts to carers. More resources on the website

**MURRAY STIRLING AND EMILY BOWLER:** Congratulations to Murray and Emily on their marriage last weekend. We pray for their married life to be blessed by the Lord always.

**CANONISATION OF ST MARY MACKILLOP:** 16 October marks the tenth anniversary of this very special event. An online event will be hosted on Friday 16 October at 8 pm by the Sisters of St Joseph. #TakeFreshCourage. See <https://www.sosj.org.au/10th-anniversary/>

**BLESSING OF RELIGIOUS ITEMS:** Sunday 25th October after the 9am Mass. Enrollment of Brown Scapular and blessing of religious items Scapulars and other religious items available for the parish piety stall after Mass each week.

**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:** 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**  
**\*\* MARK SEATING & KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**

**Sat Cleaning Roster:** 17/10/20 J Cunningham and K O'Brien 24/10/20 J Hutt & J Moran

First Collection WEST TAMWORTH PRESBYTERY BSB 082105 Acc 001023642

Second Collection WEST TAMWORTH CHURCH BSB 082105 Acc 001041198