

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mk 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

*Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

## WELCOME AND THANK YOU

Today we welcome Fr Chris Monaghan CP as our reflection writer. Fr Chris is President of Yarra Theological Union, University of Divinity, where he teaches both Old and New Testament. In his reflection, he will consider briefly each of the Scripture readings set down for the Sunday.

We are very grateful and thank Fr Brendan Byrne SJ, of the Jesuit College of Spirituality, University of Divinity, for his insightful reflections on the Gospels over the past three years.

## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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# Breaking Open the Word

## THE CALL TO CONVERSION

As Advent begins, we set out once again to prepare our hearts for the great feast of God's humble presence among us. Expectation and complacency, longing and listlessness, can all be found in our hearts as we prepare for Christmas. Today's readings speak of our need for God's presence and our thankful response of faithfulness.

The reading from Isaiah is a passionate plea for renewal and change. The people have been left to their own devices for too long. If God would only tear open the heavens and come down, the mountains would melt before God's presence. Isaiah hopes that the hearts of the people of Israel should also melt so that God the great potter, could once more mould, shape, and breathe life into their hearts.

Paul's perspective is one of thanksgiving for the gifts that have already been given as the community waits for the Lord's return. Such gifts are given to sustain us as we wait for the moment when Jesus will finally be revealed in glory.

It is one thing to be grateful for blessings and gifts received but the Gospel calls us to take the next step of using these gifts faithfully. The parable of the master who leaves his servants in charge during his absence is as relevant today as in the days of Mark. It is important to note that each of the servants is entrusted with a task to be faithfully completed. As Advent begins each one of us is given the task of preparing our hearts and lives to welcome the Lord.

Christopher Monaghan CP



# THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

29 NOVEMBER 2020

## FIRST READING

Isa 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

*Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,  
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.  
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways  
and harden our hearts against fearing you?  
Return, for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and  
come down — at your Presence the mountains  
would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but  
you act like this for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity  
and keep your ways in mind.

You were angry when we were sinners;  
we had long been rebels against you.

We were all like men unclean,  
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.

We have all withered like leaves  
and our sins blew us away like the wind.

No one invoked your name  
or roused himself to catch hold of you.

For you hid your face from us  
and gave us up to the power of our sins.

And yet, Lord, you are our Father;  
we the clay, you the potter,  
we are all the work of your hand.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 79:2-3, 15-19. R. v. 4

**R.** Lord, make us turn to you, let us see  
your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,/ shine forth  
from your cherubim throne./ O Lord, rouse up  
your might,/ O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,/ look  
down from heaven and see./ Visit this vine  
and protect it,/ the vine your right hand has  
planted. **R.**



3. May your hand be on the man you have  
chosen,/ the man you have given your  
strength./ And we shall never forsake you  
again:/ give us life that we may call upon your  
name. **R.**

## SECOND READING

1 Cor 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to  
the Corinthians.

*The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.*

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ  
send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces  
you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank  
him that you have been enriched in so many  
ways, especially in your teachers and preachers;  
the witness to Christ has indeed been strong  
among you so that you will not be without any  
of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting  
for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he  
will keep you steady and without blame until  
the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
because God by calling you has joined you to  
his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

■ The word of the Lord.

29 Nov 2020  
Year B Advent 1

# WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

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



**Parish Priest** Fr Anthony Koppman  
**Deacon** Deacon Peter Harrison

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

**Administration:** Ms Anne Bowden  
Ms Di Bolitho

**St Joseph's School**  
Principal Mrs Katie Hanes 67654079

**Sacristan** Mrs Elaine Smyth

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

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

\*\*72 people only in the church

**WEEKDAY MASSES**  
Mon: \*\*No Mass Tues: \*\*No Mass  
Wed: \*12 noon Thurs: 9 am St Francis Xavier  
Fri: 9 am Sat: 9 am

**Entrance** To you I lift up my soul, O God. In you I have trusted, let me not be put to shame.

**Antiphon:** Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

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

**Recently Deceased:** Sr Eleanor Dawson (rsj), Max MacDonald, Elizabeth (Beth) Galvin, Joan Ryan (Sydney), Thomas Brown.

**Anniversaries:** Mary McInnes (6/11), Gerry Griffiths (17/11), Anthony John Croft (17/11), Ian MacPherson (30/11), Perce McInnes (2/12); Rod Kelly (20/1), John-Paul Vella (4/12), Lawrence Vella (23/1).

**Deceased:** June Foley, John Ball, Anthony Press (Bathurst), Wendy O'Toole, Sr Jan Cetta rsj, Terry Smith, Barbara Scott, Peter Koch, William Coulston, Andrew Tickner.

**Sick:** Norm Moran, Bob Worthington, Kim Myers, Rachel MacPherson, Shirley Hobbs, Deacon Peter Harrison, Jenny 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

What do you call a person who lies awake all night wondering if there is really a dog?? A dyslexic, agnostic insomniac

I was arrested for being awake too long. The police said I was resisting a rest.

## COMING EVENTS

**6 Dec:** Second Sunday of Advent

**25 Dec:** Christmas Day



*"God's work does not depend on any of us" (1898)*



**SOCIAL DISTANCING - \*\*PLEASE \*\* REGISTER TO ENTER**

**\*\* SANITISE HANDS ENTERING AND LEAVING**  
**\*\* MARK SEATING & KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**

**CHRISTMAS MASSES AND BOOKINGS:** \*\*Due to COVID-19 restrictions Bookings will be mandatory for all Christmas Masses. This means we need to plan now for the number of extra Masses we will require at St Patricks. Forms are available on the website and sheets are available at the back of the church for you to register your interest to attend one of the nominated masses and any help you could give. PLEASE ENSURE YOU RECORD YOUR PREFERRED MASS TIME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. \*\*Note the Mass times at this stage are 'proposed' only and we will move to finalise Masses based on your feedback.

**READERS ROSTER:** Thank you to those who have already registered. Rosters are now available and have been emailed to those who have graciously volunteered. **Those who are here for the Christmas period could please consider helping at these Masses also. Thank you.**

**VINNIES SUPPORT FOR DROUGHT AFFECTED COMMUNITIES:** Are you a farmer, farm worker, supplier or contractor facing hardship due to drought? You could be entitled to immediate assistance through the Government-funded, Vinnies-delivered Drought Community Support Initiative - Round 2. Information at the back of the church or please call Vinnies on 1300 846 642.

**COVID PANDEMIC:** Whilst the restriction on numbers has been eased we are still subject to the space we have available at St Patricks. **ONLY 72 PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO ATTEND MASS AT ANY ONE TIME AT ST PATRICKS. 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.**

## WEEK 1 ROSTER: 29/11/20

**Vigil:** R D Gowing G Styman **9am Sun:** R S Nichols S Brown **5.30pm Sun:** R M and J Murray  
**Sat Cleaning Roster** 28/11/20 M Vella & R Pace 5/12/20 B & B Lane  
**Altar Linen:** H Reid

## WEEK 2 ROSTER: 6/12/20

**Vigil:** R C Greer P Bamford  
**9am Sun:** R R Paull M Donaldson  
**5.30pm Sun:** Readers M and J Murray  
**Sat Cleaning Roster** 5/12/20 B & B Lane 12/12/20 J Cunningham & K.O'Brien  
**Altar Linen** E Smyth

*Jesus, help us get ready for your birth. Help us see past the shiny decorations in all the stores and to remember that we are waiting for you. Amen*

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

