

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*You will conceive and bear a son.*

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

20 DECEMBER 2020

## MYSTERIOUS WAYS OF GOD

If the history of God's dealings with us teaches us anything, it is that God's ways don't always match up with what we expect. David's rise to power was an unexpected one. He could not have foreseen being chosen from among his brothers, or that he could have defeated Goliath. He knew that behind all these events the God of Israel had been at work. As soon as his kingdom was firmly established, he set out to build a Temple to the God who had made it all possible. Despite his good intentions God had other plans. Rather than David building a house to honour God, it is God who will build a royal house for David.

The last thing Mary would have expected was that the promises made centuries before to David would come to fruition in her own life and that the child born to her would be both Son of God and Israel's king. Two thousand years later we are still coming to terms with the meaning of Gabriel's annunciation to Mary – what must it have been like for her? And yet, it is in the midst of this unsettling and unexpected news that her remarkable faith and confidence in God shines through as she responds: 'Let what you have said be done.'

Years later, as Paul concludes his letter to the Christians of Rome, he ponders all the mysterious ways of God. He invites us to respond with praise and wonder to the gift we have been given in Jesus, God's most unexpected and most welcome surprise.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel  
*The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.*

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."'

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 88: 2-5, 27, 29. R. cf. v. 2

**R.** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; / through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. / Of this I am sure, that your love lasts



for ever, / that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; / I have sworn to David my servant: / I will establish your dynasty for ever / and set up your throne through all ages.' **R.**

3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, / my God, the rock who saves me.' / I will keep my love for him always; / for him my covenant shall endure. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Rom 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.*

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.



20 Dec 2020  
Year B Advent 4

# WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

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



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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  
Mon: \*\*No Mass Tues: \*\*No Mass Wed: 12 noon  
**WEEKDAY MASSES**  
Thurs: No 9 am Mass Christmas Eve- see below  
Fri: 9 am Christmas Day - see below  
Sat: 9 am Boxing Day mass

### CONFESSIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm  
\*Or by appointment



**Christmas Eve Children's \*Mass 5.30 pm is fully booked**  
Vigil Masses 7.00 pm & 9.00 pm  
Christmas Day Masses 7.30 & 9.00 am  
**\*\*BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL\*\***

**Entrance Antiphon** *Drop down dew from above you heavens, and let the cloud rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a saviour.*

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

**Recently Deceased:** Janice Press, Sr Helen Cooke, Stuart Betts (Sydney), Doanh Tran (Vietnam), Sr Eleanor Dawson (rsj), Max MacDonald, Joan Ryan (Sydney), Thomas Brown.

**Anniversaries:** Pauline Gatt (2/1), Mary Sampson (2/1), John O'Brien (2/1), Stan Hobbs, Perce McInnes (2/12); William Coulston (22/12), John-Paul Vella (4/12), Rod Kelly (20/1), Lawrence Vella (23/1).

**Deceased:** Jack Sampson, Hugh and Dalis O'Brien, John O'Brien, Beth Galvin, June Foley.

**Sick:** Mimmie Bennett, Norm Moran, Bob Worthington, Kim Myers, Rachel MacPherson, Judy Cumins, Shirley Hobbs, Jenny Crawford, Sr Pat Bartley, Brindley Cavallaro, Deacon Peter Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Elaine White, Linda Bourke, Peggy Bussell, Margaret Doyle, Christopher Struck, Graeme Bussell, Jack & Marge Attard.

## CRACKERS TAILS



*What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinsillitus.*

*What goes Oh! Oh! Oh! ? Santa talking backwards.*

*Did you hear that production was down at Santa's workshop? Many of his elves have had to elf isolate.*



### COMING EVENTS

24 Dec: Christmas Eve

25 Dec: Christmas Day

*"Lying upon the straw of Bethlehem, Jesus does not only preach humility, but gives us a perfect example of obedience and charity." (1890)*



**SOCIAL DISTANCING - \*\*PLEASE**

**\*\* REGISTER TO ENTER USING EITHER QR CODE OR RECORDING ENTRY ON PAPER**

**\*\* SANITISE HANDS ENTERING AND LEAVING**

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



**CHRISTMAS MASSES AND BOOKINGS:** 5.30 PM MASS IS NOW BOOKED OUT BY THOSE WHO HAD REGISTERED BY 9 DECEMBER. **\*\*Due to COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS BOOKINGS ARE MANDATORY FOR ALL CHRISTMAS MASSES. \*PLEASE ENSURE YOU RECORD YOUR PREFERRED MASS TIME THIS WEEK TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT. There being no registrations for 10.30 am mass on Christmas Day it has been cancelled. 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 REMAINING masses and any help you could give.**

**REMOVAL OF DISPENSATION FROM SUNDAY MASS:** Please see the Bishop's letter on the notice board. With the re-opening of our churches and the continued lifting of restrictions, to the capacity of our parish churches. everyone now has opportunity to attend Sunday Mass. Bishop Michael Kennedy is lifting his dispensation effective from the 4th Sunday of Advent being of 18th-19th Dec, 20.

**TAMWORTH RECONCILIATION TIMES:** Second rite of reconciliation with a number of priests attending will be held at **St Patrick's West on Tues. 22 Dec. at 5.30 pm.**

**CHRISTMAS DUES:** Envelopes are available on the seats. Your generosity in this challenging financial year would be very much appreciated.

### Christmas Eve Children's Mass Tues 24/12

**5.30pm Readers:** Josh Murray and Patricia Bamford

**7 pm Readers:** David Gowing and Colleen Greer

**9 pm Readers:** Dominica Bearman and John Moloney

### Christmas Day Mass Wed 25/12

**7.30 am Readers:** Rozann Paul and Kerry Sartori

**9 am Readers:** Sheryl Brown and Colleen Greer

### WEEK 2 ROSTER: 20/12/20

**Vigil:** R C Greer P Bamford

**9am Sun:** R R Paull M Donaldson **5.30pm Sun:** Readers M and J Murray

**Sat Cleaning Roster** 19/12/20 J Hutt & Moran 26/12/20 M Vella and R Pace

**Altar Linen** E Jackson

### WEEK 1 ROSTER: 27/12/20

**Vigil:** R D Gowing G Styman

**9am Sun:** R S Brown G Clout **5.30pm Sun:** R M and J Murray

**Sat Cleaning Roster:** 14/11/20 J Cunningham and K O'Brien 21/11/20 J Hutt and J Moran

**Altar Linen:** J Hutt



First Collection WEST TAMWORTH PRESBYTERY

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