

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus'. Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

DYING IN ORDER TO LIVE

As Holy Week approaches, we are invited to enter more deeply into our own hearts and to accompany Jesus as he searches his heart in preparing to undergo his passion. The readings focus not only on the new life that we are offered, but also on the decisions that must be made to die to what is false within us so that God's new life may grow and flourish within us.

Jeremiah spoke to his contemporaries about the new covenant that God wanted to plant in their hearts. He powerfully calls for a decision to renewal. Would they give God the space in which to plant a seed? Did they have the courage to leave their past behind and journey towards a new future?

In the second reading and the Gospel we see how Jesus also shared in our struggle to choose the life that comes from dying to self. In the letter to the Hebrews, we are presented with the image of Jesus as God's Son who, like us, must search, struggle and pray so that the seed might grow and flourish. Some people may be disquieted by the image of Jesus having to come to perfection through struggle. It is a most precious gift – this is how seriously God takes it when God becomes one like us and shares in our humanity. In the gospel we see Jesus wrestling with this moment which is paradoxically the moment when he is already glorified. It is the moment of decision, when he must choose to become the living example of the seed that dies in order to live.

Christopher Monaghan CP



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

21 MARCH 2021

FIRST READING

Jer 31: 31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 50: 3-4, 12-15. R. v. 12
R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. / In your compassion blot out my offence. / O wash me more and more from my guilt / and cleanse me from my sin. R.
2. A pure heart create for me, O God, / put a steadfast spirit within me. / Do not cast me away from your presence, / nor deprive me of your holy spirit. R.
3. Give me again the joy of your help; / with a spirit of fervour sustain me, / that I may teach transgressors your ways / and sinners may return to you. R.



SECOND READING

Heb 5: 7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 12: 26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! / If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; / and where I am, my servant will also be. / Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

21 Mar 2021
Year B Lent 5

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH



Parish Priest Fr Anthony Koppman
Deacon Deacon Peter Harrison

Presbytery 67658211

westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au

Administration: Di Bolitho / Anne Bowden
Sacristan Elaine Smyth

St Joseph's School
Principal Mrs Katie Hanes 67654079

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

CONFESSIONS
Sat: 4.30-5.15pm
*Or by appointment

WEEKDAY MASSES
Mon: **No Mass
Wed: 12 Noon
Fri: 9 am
Tues: **No Mass
Thurs: 9 am Annunciation of the Lord
Sat: 9 am

EASTER CONFESSIONS: Confessions to be held **St Patricks** Wednesday 24 March at 5.30 pm; **St Edwards** Wednesday 24 March at 12 noon; **St Nicholas** Wednesday 31 March at 6 pm.

Entrance Give me justice O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
Antiphon: From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you O God are my strength.

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

Recently Deceased: Steven Walton, Stephanie Cayley, Ronald Dietrich, Patricia Hawes, Norm Moran, Fay Sims.

Anniversaries: William Grima (3/3), Sofia Laulualo (5/3).

Deceased: Giuseppi Pomponio, Bishop Luc Matthys, Leonie Baker, Fay Bradbery, Hugh O'Brien.

Sick: Fr Bernie Flood, Barbara Brennan, Monica Austin, Erin Hansen, Bill Press, Mimmie Bennett, Bob Worthington, Kim Myers, Rachel MacPherson, Judy Cummins, Shirley Hobbs, Elaine White, Jenny Crawford, Sr Pat Bartley, Brindley Cavallaro, Deacon Peter Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Linda Bourke, Peggy Bussell, Margaret Doyle, Christopher Struck, Graeme Bussell, Jack & Marge Attard.

CRACKERS MEMOIRS RIP ON LENTEN SACRIFICES

A Catholic priest spied a parishioner enjoying some tasty smoked sausage on Friday during Lent -- a strict no-no in the church. The priest, being a pragmatic soul, told the man for his penance he was to bring a load of lumber to the church to help repair the roof. The man grumbled, but went off to do his penance. He arrived at the church on the next Friday and proceeded to dump a huge load of sawdust into the parking lot. "What's this?" the priest wanted to know. "I told you your penance was a load of lumber, not sawdust." The man replied coolly, "Well, if that sausage I ate was meat, then this sawdust is lumber."



COMING EVENTS

28 Mar Palm Sunday
1 April Last day of term 1
4 April Easter Sunday
30 Mar Chrism Mass
2 April Good Friday

"God gives me strength for what is necessary"



PALM SUNDAY: Holy Week commences with Palm Sunday on 28 March.

There will be special COVID-19 requirements around Holy Week services and further details will be provided shortly. It is anticipated there will be the usual special Easter services on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

CHRISM MASS: Bishop Kennedy invites all parishioners to join him and the priests of the Diocese at the Chrism Mass 30th March, 2021 at 11.00 am in the Cathedral and for refreshments afterwards in the Torreggiani courtyard. Please RSVP to your Parish Priest or Parish Office no later than 22 March, 2021.

READERS FOR EASTER: With more readers required for the Easter ceremonies could you please advise the parish if you will be available to read over the period and what Masses you may be attending. We thank you all for your wonderful support.

WANT TO SUPPORT THE AGED CARE SECTOR IN AUSTRALIA? Catholic Health Care Australia asks people to visit the website <https://www.careaboutagedcare.org.au/> to sign the petition to Members of Federal Parliament to support comprehensive reform of aged care.

COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION: Please see on the Notice Board a note from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on the morality of Anti Covid-19 vaccines.

BISHOP O'MAHONY SESQUICENTENARY MASS: Bishop Kennedy invites all parishioners to join with him on Thursday 25 March at 11am for a Celebratory Mass and Blessing of the Memorial Stone for the 150 year Anniversary of Bishop O'Mahony's installation as first Bishop of Armidale. RSVP to the Chancery Office phone: 6771 8700 or : chancery@armidale.catholic.org.au.

ANNIVERSARY FR MELVILLE: Friends, relatives and parishioners are warmly invited to an Anniversary Mass for Fr Bernie Melville at St Michael's Catholic Church Manilla on Saturday, 17th April 11am, Principal Celebrant - Most Rev Michael Kennedy. Followed by Light Luncheon at Manilla Bowling Club 12pm for 12.30pm. Please indicate if you will attend Mass and/or Luncheon RSVP Thurs, 7th April 21 To Jan Gallagher, Mobile 0400 313 464 Marie Flett, Telephone (02) 6785 1120 Karen Keys, Email: kkeys@arm.catholic.edu.au

SOCIAL DISTANCING - **PLEASE**

- ** REGISTER TO ENTER USING EITHER QR CODE AT ENTRANCE - OR PAPER REGISTER AT ENTRY TO CHURCH
- ** SANITISE HANDS ENTERING AND LEAVING
- ** STICKER MARK YOUR SEATING AND **KEEP YOUR



WEEK 1 ROSTER: 21/3

Vigil: R D Gowing G Styman
9am Sun: R S Brown G Clout
5.30pm Sun: R M and J Murray
Counting: R Paull; A Bowden
Sat Cleaning: 20/3 J Hutt and J Moran
27/3 M Vella and R Pace
Altar Linen: H Reid

WEEK 2 ROSTER: 28/3/21

Vigil: R D Bolitho R Palmer
9am Sun: R C Monet O Monet
5.30pm Sun: R M and J Murray
Counting: P Sheils; A Bowden
Sat Cleaning: 27/3 M Vella and R Pace
3/4 B & B Lane
Altar Linen : J Hutt

1st Collection: PRESBYTERY BSB 082105 ACC 001023642
2nd Collection: CHURCH BSB 082105 ACC 001041198