

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

cf. Jn 6:63, 68

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:  
you have the words of everlasting life.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Jn 6:60-69

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.*

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life,  
the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit  
and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

22 AUGUST 2021

**MAKING DECISIONS**

In the lives of us all there are moments when we have to make decisions – decisions which will radically shape our future. When Joshua gathered all the people of Israel to the shrine of Shechem it was a moment of decision. Having finally taken possession of their own land, the risk was that they would be assimilated into the religious culture of the people that surrounded them. An even greater danger was that of forgetting the God who had made all this possible. Joshua saw that the time had come for the people of Israel to choose.

In a similar fashion, as Jesus concludes the bread of life discourse, his disciples and his contemporaries are challenged to decide where their allegiance lies. While Jesus' words are a scandal for even some of the disciples, the Twelve, through Peter, decide that Jesus' message is truly life-giving and that it comes from God.

The decision which is envisaged in the second reading is that married couples decide to model their relationship on the love that Jesus has shown in giving up his life for us all. The regulation of relationships in households found here is clearly coloured by its first century context and its language of submission can give the modern reader a jolt. Despite this there are reciprocal demands made on both spouses to model their love on that of Jesus who gave his life for us all.

Christopher Monaghan CP

**FIRST READING**

Josh 24:1-2, 15-18

A reading from the book of Joshua.

*We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.*

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

■ The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 33:2-3, 16-23. R. v. 9

**R.** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, / his praise always on my lips; / in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. / The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**

2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked / to destroy their remembrance from the earth. / The Lord turns his eyes to the just / and his ears to their appeal. **R.**

3. They call and the Lord hears / and rescues them in all their distress. / The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; / those whose spirit is crushed he will save. **R.**

4. Many are the trials of the just man / but from them all the Lord will rescue him. / He will keep guard over all his bones, / not one of his bones shall be broken. **R.**

5. Evil brings death to the wicked; / those who hate the good are doomed. / The Lord



ransoms the souls of his servants. / Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

Eph 5:21-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

*This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.*

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

■ The word of the Lord.

22 August 2021  
Yr B 21st Sunday

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

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



**Parish Priest** Fr Anthony Koppman  
**Parish Assistant:** Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.  
**Administration** Di Bolitho / Anne Bowden  
**Sacristan** Elaine Smyth  
**School Principal** Mrs Katie Hanes

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Office Hrs: Tues -Wed 9.30 am -11.30 am  
**Parish Associate** 0411703608  
**St Josephs School** 67654079

WEEKEND  
MASSES  
WEEKDAY  
MASSES

### NO MASSES

The Tamworth Local Government Area is currently under stay at home orders from 5pm, Mon 9 Aug 2021 recently extended till at least 28 Aug 2021. The Church and Office are closed during this time.

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

**Recently Deceased:** Betty Hodgens, Loyola Hawthorne, Coral Markey, Vera Anne Pendergast.

**Anniversaries:** Eric Graham (3/8), John Jackson (8/8), Jack Sampson (9/8), Stan Hobbs (16/8), Andrew Tickner (20/8), Dudley Ryan (21/8).

**Deceased:** Sister Ita Harris (rsj), Sister Francis Gabriel (rsj), Mary Sampson, William Coulston.

**Sick:** Norma O'Brien, Sophie Littlejohn, Margaret Marshall, Colleen Greer, Graeme Bussell, Fr Bernie Flood, Deacon Peter Harrison, Maureen Harrison.

### POPE FRANCIS PRAYER TO MARY FOR THE PANDEMIC.

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Patroness of our Diocese of Armidale, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin

### PADDY'S CORNER - Marriage...

\*Marriage is when a man and woman become as one. The trouble starts when they try to decide which one.

\*Marriage is full of surprises but it's mostly just asking each other, "Do you have to do that right now?"

\*After a quarrel, a wife said to her husband, "You know, I was a fool when I married you." And the husband replied, "Yes, dear, but I was in love and didn't notice it."

\*Marriage is the alliance of two people, one of whom never remembers birthdays and the other never forgets them.

\*Before marriage, a man yearns for the woman he loves. After marriage, the "y" becomes silent.



May God give you Patience and  
Courage in our sufferings. (March 1904)



**NSW STATE COVID LOCKDOWN:** Due to the current lockdown the Church and Presbytery Office remain closed at this stage till at least 28th August. There will be no physical celebrations of the Mass until further notice. This is a constantly changing situation.

**LIVESTREAMING CATHEDRAL SUNDAY MASSES:** For the period of lockdown the 10.00 am Sunday Mass at the Cathedral will be livestreamed. Each week there will be a new link for the livestream and this will be provided to you as well as being loaded on the Diocesan website. Each Mass will be loaded to the Diocesan Youtube site so that parishioners may access the Mass later if this is more convenient for you. The links for this Sunday's Mass are below. YouTube Live:

<https://youtu.be/uM2Nbr1tu5o> Also provided next a back up zoom link.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81666131808?pwd=aFVQY0J6d2JFYXdtOTBkR3pyWDRSZz09>



**AUSTRALIA PRAYS:** You are invited to participate in a National Day of Prayer in this time of pandemic. This Sunday 22 August, The National Council of Churches Australia encourages parishes and other Catholic communities to pray alongside their Christian brothers and sisters for local, national and international communities experiencing great need and distress caused by COVID-19. The theme is "Lord have mercy," and calls people to be especially united in prayer, both individually and, where possible, in our liturgies.

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE:** During these trying and worrying times we can often feel more alone than normal, even if living with others, but moreso if living alone. Let us all consider the impact a call from a friend can make on our day and "pay it forward" or "create it forward" by contacting someone you know that may be feeling isolated. Check in on them and have a chat - it will improve their day and your own, as a good deed, and a good chat, even if brief, is very therapeutic all round and a big part of our community support.

### MASS AT HOME:

**Television:** Mass for You at Home airs on **Channel 10** at 6am each Sunday, and also on Aurora (Foxtel Channel 173) at 10am.

**Masses at St Patrick's Cathedral** are livestreamed daily via **Archdiocesan YouTube Channel**. Link below. On Sundays, the 11am Mass will also be televised live on **C31** (Please note: C31 is available as **Channel 44** on digital television)

**Online:** Online Masses streamed by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney are available on:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZxfrykD8iSWExFBdM7fpRg>

**CLERGY EDUCATION AND RETIRED CLERGY COLLECTION:** If you had taken envelopes home they may be returned after the lockdown period when Masses recommence.

**CHURCH COLLECTIONS:** Collections are currently non-existent and so Church income greatly affected. If you are able to still contribute to your regular giving please do so by the electronic options below. We appreciate circumstances may have changed for many and we fully appreciate and pray for you and the greater nation as we work through the current pandemic.

BSB 082105 **1st Coll:** Presbytery Acc 001023642 **2nd Coll:** St Patricks Church Acc 001041198

\*Please keep payments separate for each account.

**COMING EVENTS:** 16th Oct Mens Online Gathering - Covid Permitting

We acknowledge that we walk upon the traditional lands of First Nations peoples. We pay our respects to them and recognise the continuing gift of their cultures to the life and spirit of Australia.

