

persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

In 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

In 10:27-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I give my sheep eternal life.

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;

I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life;

they will never be lost

and no one will ever steal them from me.

The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,

and no one can steal from the Father.

The Father and I are one.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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HOPE IN FACE OF TRIAL

The lives of each of us are touched by the realities of death and suffering in our world. As Christians, we are challenged to dig deep and explain the basis for our Christian hope. Why should Christians be hopeful? Why should we not give in to despair and disillusion? What is the basis for our belief that God's love is more powerful than the forces in our world which oppress and cause suffering?

Like ourselves, the first Christians had to deal with these problems. Opposition and persecution were realities for the earliest Christians and today's readings show something of the early Church's response to such difficulties. Paul and Barnabas faced the opposition of Jewish communities as they preached the good news of Jesus to Jews and Gentiles. They had come to see that the good news was meant for all nations and, by preaching the message of Jesus, the call to be a light for the nations would be fulfilled.

Some years later the Christian communities in Asia Minor were persecuted by Diocletian. It was a brutal and fearful time as Christians saw their brothers and sisters put to death. The book of the Apocalypse was written to encourage these Christians not to lose heart since Jesus had overcome death and he would shepherd them amidst their suffering.

The Johannine community had to deal with the distress and anguish that accompanied the expulsion of Christians from the synagogue. It is in the midst of such turmoil that they are reminded that with Jesus as their shepherd they need only listen to his voice to be assured of eternal life.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Acts 13:14,43-52

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We are now turning to the gentiles.

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

■ The word of the Lord.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 99:1-3.5

R. We are his people, the sheep of his flock. (*or* Alleluia!)

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. / Come before him, singing for joy. **R.**

2. Know that he, the Lord, is God. / He made us, we belong to him, / we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **R.**

3. Indeed, how good is the Lord, / eternal his merciful love. / He is faithful from age to age. **R.**

SECOND READING

Apoc 7:9,14-17

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse
The Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great

8 May 2022
4th Easter Yr C

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org>
Email: westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au



Parish Priest Fr Anthony Koppman
Pastoral Associate: Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.
Administration Di Bolitho / Anne Bowden
Sacristan Elaine Smyth
School Principals Greg O'Toole and Maree Holland

Office Hrs: Wed-Thur 9.30 am -11.30 am

Presbytery 67658211
Pastoral Associate 0411703608
St Josephs School 67654079

WEEKEND MASSES	Sat: 5.30pm	Sun: 9am and 5.30pm	CONFESSIONS Sat: 4.30-5.15pm <i>*Or by appointment</i>
	Mon: No Mass	Tues: No Mass	
WEEKDAY MASSES	Wed: 12 noon	Thurs: 9am	
	Fri: 9am	Sat: 9am St Matthias	

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down His life for His sheep and willingly dies for his flock, alleluia.

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

Recently Deceased: David Owens, Kathleen Griffin (Lismore), Ivan Abra, Annette Hardy.

Anniversaries: Peg MacRae (4/5), Harry Cunningham (30/4).

Deceased: John Steer, Terry Burke.

Sick: Alison and baby Huxley Gallagher, Roy Carpenter, Sr Rita Vella, Barbara Brennan, Peter Richards, Colin MacPherson, Kevin Bonner, Lisa Foster, Kate Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Margaret Marshall, Graeme Bussell, Fr Bernie Flood.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY:

We wish all mothers a beautiful Mothers Day today. Please collect a reflection card and free votive candle to light in respect of your mothers both present and past.

"Every vocation to the priesthood comes from the heart of God, but it passes through the heart of a mother" (St. Pius X).



COMING EVENTS:

- 8 May World Day of Prayer for Vocations Mothers Day
- 29 May The Ascension of The Lord
- 5 June Pentecost Sunday
- 12 June Feast of The Holy Trinity

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: (contactless option) BSB 082105

1st Coll: Presbytery (Dioc. Priests) Acc 001023642 **2nd Coll:** St Patricks Church Acc 001041198

My sheep hear MY VOICE, and I know them, and they follow Me. John 10:27



Keep young as long as you can.
Sr Mary Mackillop 1874

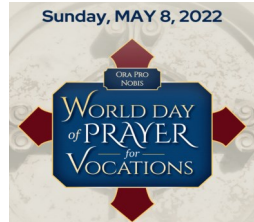
NSW STATE COVID RULES: * FACE MASKS ARE NOT COMPULSORY BUT RECOMMENDED
* SANITISE HANDS ON ENTERING. * NO CHECK IN IS REQUIRED

WELCOME: We welcome Father Ross O'Brien this weekend as he so kindly supplies to us for Father Anthony. We truly appreciate your pastoral care.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: We welcome into our catholic community Tully Roworth, Finley Preston and Darby Bowen. We pray for them, their parents and godparents.

PROJECT COMPASSION: Please return your Project Compassion boxes and envelopes marked appropriately should you require a tax receipt. We can then finalise this collection and return the funds to Caritas so they may be used where they are most desperately needed.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS: As Catholics, we firmly believe that God has a plan for our lives! He calls some to marriage, some to the priesthood, and others to religious life or to live as generous single people. Fully living our own vocations, and teaching young people how to discern God's call—is a serious duty, but also a joyful one. Please encourage the young people in your life, children, grandchildren, students, and friends—to be open if God calls them to priesthood or religious life.



ST JOSEPH'S OPEN DAY: St Joseph's is having an Open Day on Saturday 21 May from 9 am to 12 noon. All Parishioners are welcome to attend.

PLENARY COUNCIL IN PRAYER: Catholics across the country are being invited to participate in a new prayer pilgrimage as the Church journeys towards the second assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia. The "Walking in the Spirit" pilgrimage has been prepared to encourage individuals, families, parishes, schools and other ministries to keep the Plenary Council in their prayers. The prayer pilgrimage will lead up to the opening of the second—and final—assembly on Sunday 3 July. You may access resources at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/walkinginthepirit/>

*****READERS REQUIRED:** We are in great need of more readers for the Saturday evening Mass. If you can read clearly you are capable to do this ministry. Please contact the parish office if you are able to assist with this. Should you require training it is readily available. Thank you.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN UKRAINE: Please continue to pray for the people in Ukraine that the war that has invaded their lives will soon end and peace may return.

God of peace and justice, we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.

PARISH CENTRE HIRE: The lower level of our lovely parish centre is now available for event hire to the public. (no 18th's/21st's). Please contact the office for information and bookings.

WEEK 6 ROSTER: 8/5/22 Mothers Day

Vigil: R D Gowing Sr Kathryn
9am Sun: R S Brown A Sartori
5.30pm Sun: R M and J Murray
Counting Team S Brown; A Bowden
Sat Cleaning 14/5 M Vella & R Pace
Altar Linen H Reid

WEEK 1 ROSTER: 15/5/22

Vigil: R Sr Kathryn Volunteer
9am Sun: R S Nichols G Clout
5.30pm Sun: R M and J Murray
Counting Team O and J Whale; A Bowden
Sat Cleaning 21/5 S Brown & V Griffiths
Altar Linen: J Hutt

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and care for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

