

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mt 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Stay awake, you must be ready.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Reproduction of this bulletin in any form prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394 3444. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2022. No 1959. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

27 NOVEMBER 2022

## WALK IN THE LIGHT

There are some phrases from the scriptures which have the power to stir the imagination thousands of years after they were written. The image of hammering swords into ploughshares, spears into sickles, and soldiers becoming farmers speaks so powerfully to our deep longing for peace. Isaiah's vision was that a time would come when all people would be united in worship of the living God; when war would be replaced by understanding and all people would walk in the light of the Lord.

Paul understood Isaiah's vision was soon to become reality on the Lord's return. His concern was to make sure that the Christians of Rome were prepared for that moment. Some of them had fallen into a misplaced sense of complacency. Paul disagrees. Now was the time to get one's house in order, to put aside the ways that blur and obscure our vision, so as to come into the light of Jesus.

In a similar way, fifty years after the resurrection of the Lord it was all too easy for Matthew's community to lose hope that the Lord would return soon and bring Isaiah's and Paul's vision to reality. As this Advent season begins, the challenge is placed squarely before us – if the Son of Man were to return now would we be ready and waiting? What are we doing to bring Isaiah's vision of peace to reality? What areas of our life still need to be brought into the light of Christ?

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Isa 2:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.*

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come  
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord  
shall tower above the mountains  
and be lifted higher than the hills.

All the nations will stream to it,  
peoples without number will come to it; and  
they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of  
the Lord,  
to the Temple of the God of Jacob  
that he may teach us his ways  
so that we may walk in his paths;  
since the Law will go out from Zion,  
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations  
and adjudicate between many peoples;  
these will hammer their swords into  
ploughshares,

their spears into sickles.

Nation will not lift sword against nation,  
there will be no more training for war.

O House of Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9. R. cf. v. 1

**R.** Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: / Let us  
go to God's house. / And now our feet are  
standing / within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**



2. It is there that the tribes go up, / the tribes  
of the Lord. / For Israel's law it is, / there  
to praise the Lord's name. / There were set  
the thrones of judgement / of the house of  
David. **R.**

3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray: / Peace  
be to your homes! / May peace reign in your  
walls, / in your palaces, peace! **R.**

4. For love of my brethren and friends / I say:  
'Peace upon you!' / For love of the house of  
the Lord / I will ask for your good. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Rom 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Romans

*The time has come, our salvation is near.*

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake  
up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was  
when we were converted. The night is almost  
over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up  
all the things we prefer to do under cover of  
the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in  
the light. Let us live decently as people do in  
the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity  
or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy.  
Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

■ The word of the Lord.

27 Nov 22  
Advent 1 Yr A

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org>  
Email: [westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au)



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

**Office Hrs:** Wed & Thurs 8.30-11.30 am

**Presbytery** 67658211  
**Pastoral Associate** 0411703608  
**St Josephs School** 67654079

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

**WEEKDAY MASSES** Mon: No Mass  
Wed: 12 pm St Andrew  
Fri: 9am

Tues: No Mass  
Thurs: 9am  
Sat: No Mass

**CONFESSIONS**  
Sat: 4.30-5.15pm

\*Or by appointment



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** The Lord will bestow His bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Andrew Brennan, Beryl Wright, Jill Moroney, Peter Yandall.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Mary McInnes (6/11), Shirley Burke (10/11), Gerry Griffiths (17/11), Antony John Croft (17/11), Irwin Brady (23/11), Ian Macpherson (30/11), Richard Bowler (1/12), Perce McInnes (2/12)

**DECEASED:** Rod Kelly, Gwen Gerathy, Les Wallworth (Sydney), Margaret Marshall, Valerie Chillingworth, Sr Rita Vella, Barry Schipp, Lois O'Brien, Bill McCulloch.

**SICK:** Sr Gerard Joseph, Gail Styman, Suzanne Roberts, Shane Davidson, Pauline Wiley, Joan Crowe, Lisa Foster, Shirley Collier, Norma O'Brien, Barbara Brennan, Colin MacPherson, Alison and baby Huxley Gallagher, William Bonner, Peter Richards, Kate Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Graeme Bussell, Fr Bernie Flood.

### VEENA'S VERSIONS:



Alex was five; all his Christmas presents were always signed, 'from Father Christmas.' A little while after Alex had opened all his presents on Christmas morning, we became aware that he was looking quite down in the mouth for no obvious reason. 'What's the matter, Al?' I asked. 'Ummmm,' replied Alex slowly, 'I really hoped that you and Mummy would give me something for Christmas.'

### COMING EVENTS:

**26/27 Nov** Saint Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal  
**29 Nov** Choir Practice 5 pm  
**30 Nov** Adoration 11 am  
**1 Dec** State School Liturgy 10 am (Mass 9 am)  
**10/11 Dec** Bambinelli Sunday - Blessing of Baby Jesus figurines

**PARISH COLLECTIONS:** BSB 082105 West Tamworth Catholic Ch. (St Pats) Acc 001041198  
West Tamworth Presbytery (Dioc) Acc 001023642

*'God will carry you safely through every struggle' (1870)*

**NSW STATE COVID GUIDE:** \* FACE MASKS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED  
\* ANTISEPTIC WIPES ARE AVAILABLE TO WIPE OVER SEATS  
\* SANITISE HANDS ON ENTERING. \* NO CHECK IN REQUIRED



**ADORATION FOR ADVENT:** During Advent, Adoration will be held every Wednesday from 11 am till 12 midday, with mass to follow. First adoration will be 30 November 2022.

**PLANNING FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS:** Please keep a close watch on the Coming Events to be ready for the celebrations planned for this year. More information on events will be provided as we get closer to each of them.

**SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION:** At St Patrick's on Wednesday 14 December at 5 pm.

**CHOIR PRACTICE:** If you are interested in playing a part in St Pats Choir, please join us for practice at 5 pm on Tuesdays - especially if you are interested in learning the keyboard role.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** We need to get our beautiful church prepared for Christmas. Spring cleaning will be done on 9 December at 9.30 am to clean the church and the grounds. Please lend a hand if you can.

**CHRISTMAS ROSTERS:** As Christmas approaches please advise the office if you will be away for the Christmas/holiday period so rosters may be co-ordinated for Christmas Masses and the ensuing weeks. Also if you are able to fill in for those absent please advise the office or arrange a replacement between you and inform the office.

**THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY:** • Theology of the Body. Christopher West heads to Sydney. • NSW Floods: Refugees return the favour • "I'll close them all". NT Bishop confronts government over schools • The Shadow Bishops • Knights and Dames: Ten Sydneysiders honoured • Christmas at the Cathedral Lights.

*Advent Wreath ~ what is that all about? A short explanation by Fr Kevin Walsh, cp, Sydney*

### The Origins of the Advent Wreath

*The origins of the Advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples, who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen and lit fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light.*

*Christians kept these popular traditions alive, and, by the 16th century, used these symbols to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light.*

*From Germany the use of the Advent wreath spread to other parts of the Christian world.*

*Traditionally, the wreath is made of four candles in a circle of evergreens.*

*The circle represents Eternity - God's life and love.*

*The evergreen leaves represent Life as we wait for the coming of our Redeemer.*

### WEEK 5 ROSTER: 27/11/22

**Vigil:** R C Ledwos, D Bolitho  
**9am Sun:** R J Ryan, G Clout  
**5.30pm Sun:** R D Bearman, J Murray,  
**Counting Team** C Lavell, A Bowden  
**Sat Cleaning** 3/12 S Brown, V Griffiths  
**Altar Linen:** E Smyth

### WEEK 6 ROSTER: 4/12/22

**Vigil:** R D Gowing, P Bamford  
**9am Sun:** R S Brown, A Sartori  
**5.30pm Sun:** R B Davis, M Murray  
**Counting Team** G & M Thrift, A Bowden  
**Sat Cleaning** 10/12 K O'Brien, J Cunningham  
**Altar Linen:** H Reid

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.

