

Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 1:18–24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

18 DECEMBER 2022

GOD CARES

While many people can assert that God exists, it is often a huge leap to be able to say with confidence that God cares about what we are going through. It is even a greater leap to be able to say that God actually cares enough to be with us in the complexity and challenges of our lives. Both the first reading from Isaiah and today's Gospel proclaim that God cares enough to be with us and that the living God often works in and through the most disturbing and surprising events. King Ahaz had given in to despair in the face of the imminent attack on Jerusalem by more powerful forces. Joseph was struggling to come to terms with Mary's pregnancy which was both disconcerting and unexpected. Both Ahaz and Joseph were led to recognise that God's presence was to be seen in the birth of a child whose very name – God with us – was a constant reminder not to lose heart in the God who loves us.

As Paul begins the letter to the Romans, he reflects on the marvellous call that he has received to be an apostle. He sets the story of Jesus firmly within the saving history of God's dealings with the people of Israel, but this is not the end of the story. The God of surprises has made it clear to Paul that what happened in the birth of Jesus belongs to all humanity. In Jesus, God has come close to all peoples and Paul's mission is to preach this message to the nations.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 7:10–14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the
patience of men

without trying the patience of God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Emmanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 23:1–6. R. cf. vv. 7, 10

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **R.**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 1:1–7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

■ The word of the Lord.

18 Dec 22
Advent 4 Yr A

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, 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
	Mon: No Mass	Tues: No Mass
WEEKDAY MASSES	Wed: 12 pm	Thurs: 9am
	Fri: 9am	Sat: No Mass



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve: 24 December

Vigil Mass: 5.30 pm

Vigil Mass: 7.30 pm

Christmas Day:

25 December 9 am



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Des Saunders, Val McInnes (Riordan), Margaret Greentree, Lyn Moore, Andrew Brennan, Beryl Wright.

ANNIVERSARIES: Richard Bowler (1/12), John Paul Vella (2/12), Perce McInnes (2/12).

DECEASED: Pamela Davy, Rod Kelly, Gwen Gerathy, Les Wallworth (Sydney), Margaret Marshall, Valerie Chillingworth, Sr Rita Vella, Barry Schipp.

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.

POPE FRANCIS ON CHRISTMAS

Christmas inaugurates a new age, in which life is not planned, but given; in which one lives not for oneself, on the basis of one's own tastes, but for God, and with God, because from Christmas onwards God is God-with-us, Who lives with us, Who walks with us.

COMING EVENTS:

20 Dec Choir Practice 5 pm

21 Dec Adoration 11 am and Anointing Mass at 12 pm

PARISH COLLECTIONS: BSB.082105 West Tamworth Presbytery (Dioc) Acc 001023642

West Tamworth Catholic Ch (St Pats) Acc 001041198

'Do not say in heat what you may bitterly regret later.' (1883)



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

PLEASE NOTE: There is no 5.30 pm Christmas Day Evening Mass.

MADE FOR EACH OTHER: The Archdiocese of Hobart are hosting the fifth annual Made for Each Other Summer School! The theme for 2023 is 'Him & Her: Vive La Difference', which celebrates and explores the undeniable differences and complementarity of the sexes. What: An overnight retreat with engaging speakers, opportunity for prayer, reflection, and social interaction. When: January 27th-28th 2023 Where: Launceston, Tasmania Who: 18+ year olds who are discerning marriage and forming relationships. Register: www.himandher.eventbrite.com.au More information: rachel.bradley@aohtas.org.au

CARITAS APPEAL- GLOBAL GIFT: A Global Gift is a donation to Caritas made on behalf of another that reflects real items that help the world's most vulnerable. Visit www.globalgifts.org.au or scan the QR code on the poster on the noticeboard. You can choose to send a card or email to your loved one who receives the third party gift notice.

ANOINTING MASS OF THE SICK: Mass on Wednesday 21 December at 12pm will include this special gift of anointing. All are welcome to attend and receive this special blessing from Fr Anthony, especially those facing difficulties in health and healing

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.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT ST EDWARD'S: St. Edward's Parish-South Tamworth has hosted a Christmas lunch since 2015. If you can't be with family or friends this Christmas or if you are unable to make your own Christmas meal, we are inviting you to celebrate the joy and blessings of Christmas with us. Mary Help of Christians Church Hall 72 Hillvue Road, South Tamworth Sunday 25 December 2022 12pm for 12.30pm. For catering purposes, RSVP is required by December 20 Phone: 02 6765 9543 (leave a message if unattended) or email: southtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au

ETHICAL COVID-19 VACCINE TRIAL: Covid-19 vaccinations have been an important population health measure during the recent pandemic. One moral concern with currently available Covid-19 vaccines, however, is their link to the use of aborted fetal cell lines. An Australian Covid-19 vaccine, SpikoGen, does not share this concern, whilst still maintaining comparable safety and efficacy as the other available vaccines. SpikoGen is approved for use overseas and the Adelaide-based developers are now seeking to have it approved in Australia. They are conducting a single-booster clinical trial of SpikoGen for anyone who has had either 2 or 3 Covid-19 vaccinations of other approved products. The UNE Medical Centre in Armidale is one of two trial sites in NSW with the next clinics to be held in Feb 2023. For further information, including on participating, contact: Dr Joe Turner <medical.centre@une.edu.au> or the Trial Coordinator <admin@vaxine.net.au>

ROSARY: Will be recited 45 minutes before each of the Christmas masses.

WEEK 2 ROSTER: 18/12/22

Vigil: R Sr Kathryn N Pullman
9am Sun: R S Brown O Monet
5.30pm Sun: R (D Bearman J Murray
Counting Team S Brown, A Bowden
No Sat Cleaning 24/12/22
Altar Linen: E Jackson

CHRISTMAS ROSTER

Vigil Mass 5.30pm: R Sr Kathryn D Gowing
Vigil Mass 7.30 pm: R J Moloney G Clout
Sun 9 am: R R Paull S Brown
Counting Team R Paull, A Bowden
Sat Cleaning 7/1: M Vella R Pace
Altar Linen: B Flood

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.

