

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors  
through the prophets;  
now he speaks to us through his Son.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Lk 2: 16-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the crib . . . When the eighth day came, they gave him the name of Jesus.*

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

■ 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 1964. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD / A

1 JANUARY 2023

## MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

The Octave of Christmas concludes by honouring Mary as the Mother of God continuing the long and rich tradition that goes back to the Council of Ephesus in 431. The formula that Levites and priests were instructed to use when blessing the people of Israel has a special resonance when applied to Mary. She could surely say that she had been blessed in the gift of Jesus, that God's face had shone upon her, and that God had been gracious to her in ways that she could never have anticipated or imagined. Her positive response to the words of the angel Gabriel opened a pathway for all humanity.

In the letter to the Galatians, we get a glimpse into Paul's wonder at the mysterious ways of God knowing that our ability to cry out in the Spirit 'Abba, Father' would not have come about if Jesus had not been born of Mary. He describes this birth as taking place in the fullness of God's time. Jesus was born as a member of the people of Israel, but this is only a part of his identity and role in God's saving plan that extends to all creation.

The first witnesses to the birth of Jesus in Luke's Gospel were the shepherds who were informed that a Saviour had been born in Bethlehem, the city of David whose own career as king started humbly as a shepherd. In a similar way, Jesus' humble beginnings in a manger will lead to blessings for all of us. Like Mary, we are called to treasure all this in our hearts.

## FIRST READING

Num 6: 22-27

A reading from the book of Numbers.

*They will call down my name on the children of Israel and I will bless them.*

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 66: 2-3, 5, 6, 8. R. v. 2

R. May God bless us in his mercy.

1. God, be gracious and bless us  
and let your face shed its light upon us.  
So will your ways be known upon earth  
and all nations learn your saving help. R.

2. Let the nations be glad and exult  
for you rule the world with justice.  
With fairness you rule the peoples,  
you guide the nations on earth. R.

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
May God still give us his blessing  
till the ends of the earth revere him. R.

## SECOND READING

Gal 4: 4-7

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

*When the appointed time came, God sent his son, born of a woman.*

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave anymore; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

■ The word of the Lord.



1 Jan 23  
Wk 1 Yr A

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.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 Tues: No Mass  
Wed: 12 pm Thurs: 9am  
Fri: 9am Sat: No Mass

### CONFESSIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm  
\*Or by appointment

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Hail Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever.

**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), Gloria Lillicrap (20/12), Mary Sampson (2/1), John O'Brien (3/1), Pamela Davy (nee Barry) (6/1), Ivan Lillicrap (18/1), Rod Taylor (20/1).

**DECEASED:** Relatives and friends of Kathie O'Brien, Pamela Davy, Rod Kelly, Gwen Gerathy, Les Wallworth, Margaret Marshall, Valerie Chillingworth, Sr Rita Vella, Barry Schipp.

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

### VEENA'S VERSION: New Year's Day Prayer for One and All



Dear Lord, So far this year I've done well. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I'm very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help. **Amen**

### COMING EVENTS:

8 Jan 23 The Epiphany of The Lord  
9 Jan 23 The Baptism of the Lord  
4 Mar 23 Save the Date Special Event TBA



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



*'The bells are just ringing the New Year in and I heartily wish you a happy and holy one.'* (1880)

**COVID GUIDE:** \* FACE MASKS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED  
\* ANTISEPTIC WIPES & SANITISER ARE AVAILABLE.

### FEAST DAY SUNDAY 1 JANUARY 2023:

Today is the Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God. "Mary, the all-holy ever-virgin Mother of God, is the masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullness of time. For the first time in the plan of salvation and because his Spirit had prepared her, the Father found the dwelling place where his Son and his Spirit could dwell among men. In this sense the Church's Tradition has often read the most beautiful texts on wisdom in relation to Mary. Mary is acclaimed and represented in the liturgy as the "Seat of Wisdom."



*Holy Mary, mother fair, Filled with love for God,  
Pray for us in all our needs. Pray for us today.*

### POPE FRANCIS ON NEW YEAR AND WORLD DAY OF PEACE 1 JAN 2023:

*"When tragic events seem to overwhelm our lives, we are called to keep our hearts open to hope and to trust in God, who makes himself present, accompanies us with tenderness, sustains us in our weariness and, above all, guides our path."*

**CHRISTMAS DUES:** Your generosity in this challenging time is greatly appreciated

**NEW YEAR ROSTERS:** As we begin 2023 we would love to see more volunteers assist with what can be done during Masses, particularly readers, cleaners and counters. If you can assist please call the office or let Father know.

**2023 SAVE THE DATES:** Following the success of the Evangelise 2022 Diocesan hubs Bishop Kennedy invites interested parishioners to attend a series of follow-up zoom hubs and face to face gatherings to be held across the diocese on the following Fridays 24th February, 26th May, 25th August, 17th November. Participants will be provided with input from speakers regarding Evangelisation along with food, sharing of ideas and discussion. Further information regarding venue of hubs, timings etc will be provided closer to the date

**Saturday 4 March 2023** \*Sr Kathryn has also asked that we all save this date. Something special is coming ... watch this space for details.

### WEEK 4 ROSTER: 1/1/23

**Vigil:** R C Ledwos, \*Volunteer  
**9am Sun:** R S Brown, M Donaldson  
**5.30pm Sun:** R \*Volunteer J Murray  
**Sat Cleaning** 7/1 M Vella, A Jones  
**Altar Linen:** E Smyth

### WEEK 5 ROSTER: 8/1/23

**Vigil:** R P Bamford, \*D Gowing  
**9am Sun:** R J Ryan, G Clout  
**5.30pm Sun:** R Volunteer, J Murray,  
**Sat Cleaning** 14/1 S Brown, V Griffiths  
**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.

