

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Such was said to your ancestors; but I say to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court;

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form 5:17-37

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

12 FEBRUARY 2023

CHOICES

Choices are a part of the human experience. Some are minor and of little consequence, others will shape our futures and have lasting ramifications for our lives. Ecclesiasticus places a choice before us: we have the power to choose life or death, that is, whether we will follow the living God or not. While many people are fearful of God's judgement the point of the first reading is that any judgement on God's part is only a consequence of our own (cf. John 3:17.12:47).

Jesus invited his hearers to make a decision about the standard they used to live their life of faith. They had grown up with the Jewish law but now the invitation is made to choose a new set of criteria. In the next few weeks, the excerpts from the Sermon on the Mount invite us to choose once again the values that Jesus places before us. Today the challenge is made in terms of our attitude regarding violence, sexual morality and the quality of our speech.

Paul places a choice before the Corinthians – to model their lives on the wisdom of the cross. In Paul's time, the mystery cults abounded and such groups considered themselves as having been initiated into the elect, those who had knowledge and power denied to those around them. He knew they had been given the gift of the Spirit and wisdom, but it was the misunderstood and paradoxical wisdom of the cross.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Sirach

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34. R. v. 1

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, / who follow God's law! / They are happy those who do his will, / seeking him with all their hearts. **R.**
2. You have laid down your precepts / to be obeyed with care. / May my footsteps be firm / to obey your statutes. **R.**
3. Bless your servant and I shall live / and obey your word. / Open my eyes that I may consider / the wonders of your law. **R.**
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes / and I will keep them to the end. / Train me to observe your law, / to keep it with my heart. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 2:6-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden



wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;

you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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12 Feb 23
Wk 6 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 and 5.30pm

WEEKDAY MASSES Wed: 12pm Thurs: 9 am Fri: 9 am

CONFESSIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm

*Or by appointment

ENTRANCE O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us,
ANTIPHON: for he is the Lord our God.

COMMUNION Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men
ANTIPHON: for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Pam Perkins, William Barry Davy, Cardinal George Pell, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Barbara Smith.

ANNIVERSARIES: Shirley Hobbs (28/1), Bill Blanch (12/1), Julia Blanch (12/2), Dalis O'Brien (12/1), Maria Mood (16/2).

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

SICK: Gerard Dunn, 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 VERSIONS

A child got caught swearing in class today.....

The teacher told him to stop saying those words. She also implies that he doesn't even know what it means.

The child responded "I know what it means"

The teacher said "Oh really? Then what does it mean?"

The student said "It's when the car won't start"

COMING EVENTS:

22 Feb Ash Wednesday Masses 12pm 5.30pm **24 Feb** Mission & Evangelisation event

4 Mar Reflection Day **19 Mar** Morning tea Celebration of St Patrick's and St Joseph's Feasts

PARISH COLLECTIONS: The first collection (Presbytery Acc) goes to the Armidale Diocese to support diocesan clergy with the second collection (Church Acc) supporting the running of St Pats.

BSB 082105 1st. Collection - West Tamworth Presbytery (Dioc) Acc 001023642

2nd Collection - West Tamworth Catholic Church. (St Patricks) Acc 001041198

"Value your crosses as the most precious presents from a good and loving God." (1890)



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

MISIONARIES ORDERS SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: For a number of years the diocese has taken up a special collection in support of the missionary work of the Orders of the La Salette's in the Philippines and more recently the Rogationists of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in India both who have priests ministering here in the Diocese of Armidale. The funds from these appeals have helped to support the marginalised people in the local areas where the La Salette's and Rogationist's minister. Past collections have supported families during the pandemic, refurbished a water tank tower, funded support for a rehabilitation centre for street kids, fed the hungry on the streets, funded support of an orphanage and supported single parent families.

LENT: Ash Wednesday falls on 22 February - a very early Lent this year. Keep this in mind if you are wanting to participate in any program. Lists will be placed at the back of the church for you to show your preferred time to join a group. Masses will 12 noon and 5.30 pm on Ash Wednesday. Project Compassion donation boxes envelopes and online giving details will be provided soon.

THE FRASSATI SOCIETY FOR YOUNG ADULT CATHOLICS invites all young adults (16-39 yrs) to join us for the Lent prayer program Wed nights at 7.30pm at St Patricks West Tamworth Parish Centre commencing Wed 22nd Feb (Ash Wednesday). Phone Tammy on 0459784171 for info.

BECOMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES: Parishioners are invited to an evening of engagement and discussion on Friday 24th February 6pm-8pm on the topic of "Becoming Intentional Disciples". Join with Bishop Kennedy and other interested parishioners at hubs around the Diocese or online Parishes holding in-person hubs are: Armidale Ursula Room, Moree, All Tamworth Parishes at West Tamworth Parish Hall. Good food, good input and discussion will be available on the night for further information or RSVP contact Chris da Silva chris@armidale.catholic.org.au or phone 6771 8700 or use the QR code to register and receive the zoom meeting link for online participation or register your interest for other events if unable to attend.



2023 SAVE THE DATES: Following Evangelise 2022 Diocesan hubs a series of follow-up zoom hubs and face to face gatherings to be held across the diocese on the following Fridays 24th Feb., 26th May, 25th August, 17th November. Further information will be provided closer to the date

4 MARCH REFLECTION DAY: Hosted by Sr Maureen McDermott RSJ—*Gospel Reflections* will be held at St Patrick's Parish Centre. Refreshments at 9.30am and reflections to commence 10am till 3 pm. Bring lunch. Register at the back of the church or online at St Patrick's website.

WEEK 4 ROSTER: 12/2/23

Vigil: R P Bamford Sr Kathryn
9am Sun: R S Brown M Donaldson
5.30pm Sun: R J Murray D Bearman
Counting Team G & M Thrift A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 17/2 K O'Brien J Cunningham
Altar Linen: H Reid

WEEK 5 ROSTER: 19/2/23

Vigil: R C Ledwos D Bolitho
9am Sun: R J Ryan G Clout
5.30pm Sun: R J Murray D Bearman
Counting Team R Paull A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 24/2 J Hutt J Moran
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.

