

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5:38-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Love your enemies.

Jesus said to his disciples; 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

19 FEBRUARY 2023

INCLUSIVE LOVE

How should we deal with the hurts that we receive? Should we respond by retaliating? Is there any future in the way of peace and forgiveness? These questions are as pressing today as they were in the ancient world. The people of Israel based their behaviour on the nature of the living God. As God is holy, so Israel was to express its holiness by forbearance and forgiveness among its members. Members of the people of Israel were called to love one another and forego the duty of vengeance when it came to other covenant members.

Jesus took this even further and extended it beyond Israel into our relationship with all people. Now even enemies are to be treated as brothers and sisters. Jesus knew that it is by forgiving that we can share in the nature of the living God and so become complete. It is by our preparedness to forgive that we share in the even-handed perfection of God whose love is poured out for all, deserving or not.

Perhaps Paul was mindful of Jesus' words that a house divided against itself cannot stand (cf. Mark 3:25) when he reminded the Corinthians that they were the Temple of God. Since each member shared in the gift of the Spirit there was no place for division or competition. Paul, Apollos and Cephas were united in their ministry as servants of the Gospel. If they were united, why was the community divided? It was now time to turn the other cheek and live in unity and peace.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Lev 19:1-2, 17-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus

You must love your neighbour as yourself.

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy."

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13. R. v. 8

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, / all my being, bless his holy name. / My soul, give thanks to the Lord / and never forget all his blessings. **R.**
2. It is the Lord who forgives all your guilt, / who heals every one of your ills, / who redeems your life from the grave, / who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**
3. The Lord is compassion and love, / slow to anger and rich in mercy. / He does not treat us according to our sins / nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**
4. As far as the east is from the west / so far does he remove our sins. / As a father has compassion on his sons, / the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 3:16-23

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

All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

■ The word of the Lord.

19 Feb 23
Wk 7 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: ASH WEDNESDAY 12pm and 5.30 pm
Thurs: 9 am Fri: 9 am

CONFESSIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm

*Or by appointment

ENTRANCE O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation.

ANTIPHON: I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

COMMUNION I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing

ANTIPHON: psalms to your name, O Most High.

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: Dalis O'Brien (12/2), Bill Blanch (12/2), Shirley Hobbs (28/1), Julia Blanch (12/2), Maria Mood (16/2), Mavis Parsons (25/2).

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 The Perfect Husband:

Several men are in a sports locker room. A phone on a bench rings and one answers it on hands free. Everyone stops to listen. Man: "Hello" Woman: "Honey, its me. Are you at the club?" Man: "Yes" Woman: "I'm shopping and found this beautiful leather coat. Its only \$1000. Can I buy it?" Man: "Sure, go ahead if you like it that much." Woman: "I also stopped by the Porche dealership and saw the 2023 models and I really liked one" Man: "How much?" Woman: \$200,000. Man: "OK, but for that price I want it with all the options. Woman: "Great! Oh, and one more thing, the house I wanted last year is back on the market at \$950,000". Man: "Oh well give them an offer of \$900,000. They might take it. If not, we can go the extra \$50k if it's really a good price". Woman: "Ok. I'll see you later. I love you so much!". Man: "Bye" I love you too". The man hangs up, as the other men stare at him in astonishment, mouths agape! He turns and asks "Anyone know who this phone belongs to?"



COMING EVENTS:

21 Feb Shrove Tuesday

24 Feb Mission & Evangelisation Event

19 Mar Morning tea Celebration of St Patrick's and St Joseph's Feasts - please bring a plate

Feb Ash Wednesday Masses 12pm & 5.30pm

4 Mar Reflection Day

"Do not let your troubles disturb your trust in God". (1885)

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



HOLY FATHERS MESSAGE FOR LENT 2023: Please see this message on the Notice Board.

LENT: Ash Wednesday falls this Wednesday 22/2. Masses are 12pm and 5.30pm. Masses in other Tamworth Parishes are: St Edwards South Tamworth 7.00am & 10.00am; St Mary's North Tamworth 6.00pm; St Nicholas' East Tamworth 7.00am. Please take home a Project Compassion Box or set of envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lent and vulnerable people in the world for all future generations. As Pope John Paul II said "The future starts today, not tomorrow". Your support will help tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation along with disaster risk reduction. Together we can help build a better tomorrow.

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.

PARISH MORNING TEA: Will be held on 19 MARCH to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day (17 march) and Saint Joseph's Day (19 March). All welcome. Please bring a plate if you can.

BECOMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES: Parishioners are invited to an evening of engagement and discussion on Friday 24th February 6-8pm 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 more 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.

MISSION: PALMS AUSTRALIA - CHANGE THEIR LIVES and YOURS: Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents. Explore 35 positions on our website where you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. Please enquire further about potential assignments Ph: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567. WEB: www.palms.org.au

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 5 ROSTER: 19/2/23

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

WEEK 6 ROSTER: 26/2/23

Vigil: R D Gowing Sr Kathryn
9am Sun: R S Brown A Sartori
5.30pm Sun: R M Murray D Bearman
Counting Team R Paull A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 3/3 M Vella A Jones
Altar Linen: E Jackson

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.

