

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! / No one lives on bread alone, / but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. / Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

Mt 4:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the
mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the
test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these,' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT / A

26 FEBRUARY 2023

IN JESUS' FOOTSTEPS

At the dawn of human history, Adam and Eve were seduced into trying to grasp equality with God. In their quest to become like God they gained some knowledge, but it left them chastened and disillusioned. Created in God's image they now saw that dignity was distorted by sin and became aware of their nakedness, vulnerability and need for God.

Prior to commencing his public ministry, Jesus undergoes a time of testing and preparation. During this time Jesus shares in all the trials that Israel experienced in the desert. They lost their way in the desert but Jesus gives us hope as he reveals the qualities that mark God's children. He knows the source of his life is to be found in God so there is no need to make his own bread. He knows that God is with him, and does not need to put God to the test. He is certain that God is the source of his life and power, and rejects the call to worship Satan.

Paul looked at all of salvation history and saw that Adam and Jesus marked two vital moments in God's dealing with humanity. What had been lost by one had been more than regained by the other. Through the gracious gift of Jesus' death, we are able to begin anew as God's children. As we begin the season of Lent we are invited to reflect on our own story, to begin once again with thankful hearts, and follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v. 3

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. / In your compassion blot out my offence. / O wash me more and more from my guilt / and cleanse me from my sin. R.

2. My offences truly I know them; / my sin is always before me. / Against you, you alone



have I sinned; / what is evil in your sight I have done. R.

3. A pure heart create for me, O God, / put a steadfast spirit within me. / Do not cast me away from your presence, / nor deprive me of your holy spirit. R.

4. Give me again the joy of your help; / with a spirit of fervour sustain me. / O Lord, open my lips / and my mouth shall declare your praise. R.

SECOND READING

Rom 5:12, 17-19.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned.

If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

■ The word of the Lord.

Longer form 5:12-19

26 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
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: 12.00pm **Thurs:** 9am **Fri:** 9 am

CONFESSIONS
Sat: 4.30-5.15pm
*Or by appointment

ENTRANCE ANTI-PHON: When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

COMMUNION ANTI-PHON: One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

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

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

ANNIVERSARIES: Dalis O'Brien (12/2), Bill Blanch (12/2), Julia Blanch (12/2), Maria Mood (16/2),
Matias Jose Vergara and Regina Vergara (23/2), 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



As a mother was preparing pancakes for her sons on Shrove Tuesday, the boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake.

The mother saw an opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait".
The older boy said to his younger brother, "Leo, you be Jesus!".



"Lent is 40 days long, not including Sundays" (that means the season is technically 46 days long). How many days left - try this : <https://days.to/until/lent-catholic>

COMING EVENTS:

24 Feb Mission & Evangelisation Event
4 Mar Reflection Day
19 Mar Morning tea Celebration of St Patrick's and St Joseph's Feasts - Catechist Installation.
29 Mar Anointing of the Sick Mass 12pm and Easter Reconciliation 2nd Rite 5.30pm.

*"Will you not help me to be faithful,
will you not cheer me on with your kind, good prayers". (1872)*



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

HOLY FATHER'S MESSAGE FOR LENT 2023: Please see copies at the back of the church.
WELCOME TO FR JOHN McHUGH: We are delighted and very grateful in welcoming Fr McHugh to provide for our pastoral needs in the three weeks commencing 27 March 2023. Fr Anthony will take some annual leave during this time.

BISHOP KENNEDY'S FAREWELL: A farewell Mass will be celebrated in Armidale at the Cathedral on 5th March at 10.00 am to be followed by morning tea in the Cathedral Precinct. Priests, religious and parishioners from the Diocese are all invited on an RSVP basis. There were a limited number of seats available on a bus from St Edwards parish for any wishing for transport.

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.

PROJECT COMPASSION: 16-year-old Laxmi lives in one of the most remote communities in Nepal which experiences high levels of poverty. You can help to improve the lives of children like Laxmi by making a donation through Project Compassion boxes and envelopes, visiting www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion or phoning 1800 024 413. Please if using a box or envelopes for your donation collect them from the back of the Church. Thank you.

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 'IRISH' MORNING TEA/CATECHIST DAY will be held on **19 March** to celebrate St Patrick's Day (17 Mar.) and St Joseph's Day (19 Mar) and to also commission our catechists for the current year. Please come along and bring a plate to share if you can.

CATECHISTS NEEDED: One important way to become an intentional disciple is to join others in our Parish in sharing God's love for everyone to the children in state schools in our Parish area. If you feel you would like to help children learn about their Catholic faith and God's love for them, please contact the office. You will be very much supported, and very much appreciated.

PARISH COLLECTIONS:

BSB 082105 1st. Collection - West Tamworth Presbytery Acc 001023642 (Diocese collection)
2nd Collection -West Tamworth Catholic Church. Acc 001041198 (Church Collection)

"May the Holy Spirit inspire and sustain us this Lent" Pope Francis

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 S Brown A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 3/3 M Vella A Jones
Altar Linen: E Jackson

WEEK 1 ROSTER: 5/3/23

Vigil: R C Ledwos P Bamford
9am Sun: R S Nichols G Clout
5.30pm Sun: R M Murray D Bearman
Counting Team R Paull A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 10/3 S Brown V Griffiths
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.

