

TRUSTING THE PROMISE

At the beginning of Lent, it is not uncommon for people to feel discouraged or dissatisfied. Another year has come and gone and there is still much to be done as we get our spiritual house in order. Today's readings converge as they give reasons not to lose heart in God or, perhaps more importantly, in ourselves because we are loved by God. Abraham and Sarah were prepared to set out on the greatest adventure of their lives in their old age. Such willingness to trust in God's promises, despite the difficulties that lie before us, is at the very heart of the life of faith.

Prior to setting out for his final journey to Jerusalem, Jesus instructed the disciples that a brutal death awaited him. They were discouraged and bewildered, fearful both for Jesus and themselves. In the midst of this Jesus takes some of them aside and goes up the mountain and is transfigured before them. Their fear is now replaced by terror, but Jesus comes and touches them, encouraging and empowering them for the road that lies ahead.

In a similar fashion, the second letter to Timothy invites him not to be disheartened by the challenges and difficulties that beset him. God's grace and power have already been poured freely into our hearts. Since this is the case there is no need to be disheartened or fearful. Jesus' death has already won the victory, all that is needed is for us to take heart and trust in the new life that has been promised to us.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Gen 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22. R. v. 22

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful / and
all his works to be trusted. / The Lord loves
justice and right / and fills the earth with his
love. **R.**

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him, /
on those who hope in his love, / to rescue
their souls from death, / to keep them alive in
famine. **R.**

3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. / The Lord
is our help and our shield. / May your love be
upon us, O Lord, / as we place all our hope in
you. **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Tim 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul
to Timothy

God has saved us, and called us to be holy.

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of
the Good News, relying on the power of God
who has saved us and called us to be holy – not
because of anything we ourselves have done
but for his own purpose and by his own grace.
This grace had already been granted to us, in
Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but
it has only been revealed by the Appearing of



our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death,
and he has proclaimed life and immortality
through the Good News.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice
is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Mt 17:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his
brother John and led them up a high mountain
where they could be alone. There in their
presence he was transfigured; his face shone like
the sun and his clothes became as white as the

PILGRIMAGE IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL THROUGH GREECE AND TURKEY

11-23 SEPTEMBER 2023

Chaplain:
Fr Michael Goonan SSP,
Editor of *God's Word* and
St Pauls Sunday Bulletins

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5 Mar 23
Lent 2 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: No Mass Thurs: 9am Fri: 9am



CONFESSIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm
*Or by appointment

ENTRANCE ANTIPTON: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek His face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.
COMMUNION ANTIPTON: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Anna Fordham, Pam Perkins, William Barry Davy.
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), Joseph Tran (29/2).
DECEASED: Cardinal George Pell, Barbara Smith, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.
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 stranger approached the pastor after service and said, "I'd like you to pray for my hearing." The pastor placed his hands on the man's ears and said a passionate, earnest prayer.

"How's your hearing now?" the pastor asked.

Looking surprised, the man said, "Well, it's not until tomorrow."



"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>

PARISH COLLECTIONS:

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

COMING EVENTS:

4 Mar Reflection Day
7&8 Mar Clergy Assembly
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.
26 May, 29 Aug, 17 Nov Mission & Evangelisation Events

"I hope that you have more charity and trust and that you have not judged by appearances". (1900)



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 whilst Fr Anthony takes some annual leave.

PROJECT COMPASSION: A young Gamilaroi woman born and raised on Darug land, Tereesa, felt disconnected from her culture. At just 16 years old, she had to leave school after falling pregnant with her first child. A single mother struggling with homelessness, Tereesa's only concern was finding stability for her children. You can help people like Tereesa continue to thrive 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.

RESOURCES FOR LENT: The Armidale Diocesan website has available Lenten prayer resources to be used by groups or individuals: <https://armidale.catholic.org.au/> should you be looking for a good Lenten program, reflection guide and activities for families and children to get more out of Lent. You will find this if you just begin scrolling down the homepage, or you can go straight to this link to see the resources: <https://lentarmidale.my.canva.site/>

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.

"Lenten penance is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross".

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

WEEK 2 ROSTER: 12/3/23

Vigil: R Sr Kathryn N Pullman
9am Sun: R S Brown
5.30pm Sun: R J Murray A O'Halloran
Counting Team R Paull A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 17/3 K O'Brien, J Cunningham
Altar Linen: E Smyth

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.

