

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

23 APRIL 2023

something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

CHRIST'S FULFILMENT OF GOD'S PLAN

In order to piece a jigsaw together, a great deal of patience is required, as well as the skill of being able to work out the relationship of one piece to the pieces around it. Slowly, large patterns begin to take shape, and so it was with the early Church. In the light of the experience of the Risen Lord, and the catalyst provided by the gift of the Spirit, the first generation of Christians was able to place the life, death and resurrection of Jesus into their proper context. The gift of the Spirit enabled Peter to see that all that had taken place in the life of Jesus was part of a larger plan, and took place with God's foreknowledge. Even Jesus' death was but a preliminary step towards his exaltation and ability to pour out the gift of the Spirit on those who believe.

In a similar vein, Peter saw that promises made before the world began were now fulfilled in Jesus. While the end of days was seen to have already begun, the final pieces of the jigsaw had yet to be put in place. In the meantime, the community was called to remember with gratitude the price Jesus had paid for our freedom, and to live appropriately till the Lord's return.

For the disciples on the road to Emmaus, it was not an easy matter to see how the pieces of the puzzle of Jesus' life fitted together. As they journeyed, they were helped by the Risen Lord to finally understand the message contained in the Scriptures and to recognise him with them in the breaking of the bread.

Christopher Monaghan CP

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FIRST READING

Acts 2:14, 22-33

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always, / for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. / So my heart was glad / and my tongue cried out with joy. / my body, too, will rest in the hope / that you will not abandon my soul to Hades / nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. / You have made known the way of life to me, / you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11. R. v. 11

R. Lord, you will show us the path of life. (or Alleluia!)

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. / I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.' / O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; / it is you yourself who are my prize. R.

2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, / who even at night directs my heart. / I keep the Lord ever in my sight: / since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. R.

3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; / even my body shall rest in safety. / For you will not leave my soul among the dead, / nor let your beloved know decay. R.

4. You will show me the path of life, / the fullness of joy in your presence, / at your right hand happiness for ever. R.

SECOND READING

1 Pet 1:17-21

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Lk 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia! / Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: / make our hearts burn with love when you speak. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 24:13-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke. *They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.*

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but

23 April 23
Easter Wk 3 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: 5.30 pm Sun: 9 am & 5.30 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES Tues: 8.30am Anzac Day Wed: 12pm St Mark
Thurs: 9am Fri: 9am St Peter Chanel

CONFESSIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm

*Or by appointment

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in Him you may grow to salvation, Alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, Alleluia.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Ann Daley, Carmel MacPherson, Peter Richards, Gary McSweeney, Sr Clare Keating RSJ.

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Bruce MacPherson (8/4), Harry Cunningham (30/4).

DECEASED: Margaret Cummins, Janet Corcoran, Anna Fordham, Pam Perkins, Des Saunders.

SICK: John Betts, 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, Kate Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Graeme Bussell, Fr Bernie Flood.

VEENA'S VERSIONS:



Thomas was famously known for insisting on seeing Jesus' wounds for himself, and while most think it was because he didn't believe the stories he was hearing, we know it was because he wanted to confirm that Jesus was indeed a holy man.

**Which is why Jesus didn't walk on water after his resurrection? ~~~~~

CHURCH COLLECTIONS:

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

**Direct Debit or EFT donations are preferred for planned giving however envelopes are still available.

Lest We Forget 2023

COMING EVENTS:

25 Apr Anzac Day Mass at 8.30 am

26 May, 29 Aug, 17 Nov Mission & Evangelisation Events



"I feel more trust in God than ever."

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



ANZAC DAY: On Tuesday 25 April a special mass will be held at 8.30 am to pray for peace and for all those who have served. We hope many people will join us for these important causes for prayer.

BOOKLETS MISSING: The services throughout Easter were marvellously attended with great participation. However, a number of Holy Week Missals and Way of the Cross booklets have inadvertently been removed from the Church. These are expensive to purchase and will be needed for services in the future. Could you please check cars and homes and if any have accidentally been collected, please return these to the back of the church. Thank you for your assistance in allowing continued reference to these wonderful books.

PROJECT COMPASSION: Thank you to all those who have already returned their Project Compassion Boxes and Envelopes. Please return your donations in the coming week so donations can be receipted. You can also donate via www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion or Ph 1800 024 413. Thank you.

VOLUNTEER CALL OUT: We thank all those whose contributions helped in so many ways in making the Easter ceremonies so beautiful and we greatly appreciate your efforts. As people do get busy with other activities however we find ourselves short of readers in particular and ask if anyone feels that they can contribute in this way, please contact the office to volunteer. We are in particular need for the Saturday and Sunday Evening Masses. Thank you.

PALMS AUSTRALIA: Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills and knowledge with those who have few other chances for training. Build enduring global relationships while assisting sustainable, self-reliant, community development. Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code here. On our website 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 for you or someone you know: **RING: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567** or visit www.palms.org.au.



PRAYER FOR OUR NEW BISHOP:

God our Father, in Jesus, your Son, You have given to your Church the perfect model of priest, prophet and king, and so You have blessed us through His sacrifice, taught us through His Word, and guided us through His rule. We ask You, Father, to guide and enlighten those who will be tasked with helping to choose the next bishop of our diocese.

May the person they choose be one of deep and true prayer, a person of a compassionate heart and firm resolve, and a person of joy and peace, who desires above all to do Your will.

We entrust our prayers to our Patroness, Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

WEEK 2 ROSTER: 23/4/23

Vigil: R Sr Kathryn P Bamford
9am Sun: R S Brown O Monet
5.30pm Sun: R J Murray D Bearman
Counting Team S Brown, A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 28/4 M Vella A Jones
Altar Linen: H Reid

WEEK 3 ROSTER: 30/4/23

Vigil: R C Ledwos N Pullman
9am Sun: R M Holley A Sartori
5.30pm Sun: R M Murray D Bearman
Counting Team O & J Whale A Bowden
Fri Cleaning: S Brown & V Griffiths
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.

