

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*I am the gate of the sheepfold.*

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come are thieves and brigands;

but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:

he will go freely in and out

and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes

only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come

so that they may have life

and have it to the full.'

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

30 APRIL 2023

## FULLNESS OF LIFE

The readings for today invite us to reflect on the death and resurrection of Jesus and its consequences for us. As Peter concludes his preaching on the day of Pentecost, he reminds the pilgrims gathered in Jerusalem that Jesus' brutal and wrongful death has been reversed by God raising him as Lord and Christ. That is not all, because the resurrection provides them with the possibility to think again and so accept the gracious forgiveness that God is unexpectedly offering. In the midst of human frailty, misunderstanding and violence God's love will find a way to bring life out of death.

In the second reading the focus shifts as Peter pays close attention to Jesus' manner of dealing with his own suffering and death as a model for disciples as we confront suffering and injustice. As the shepherd, Jesus goes before us carrying our weakness and brokenness on the cross, transforming them by the power of his healing love. In our turn, we are called to follow his example of forgiving and life-giving love.

The Gospel today invites us to accept Jesus as the Good Shepherd who calls, protects, and enlivens us. Jesus is the Shepherd who gave himself for the sake of the sheep, the one who still calls us to hear his voice and follow. He has come so we might have life and have it to the full. In Jesus, we have the sure hope that whatever struggles lie before us he will lead us safely home if we listen to his voice and follow where he leads.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Acts 2:14, 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.'

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22:1-6. R. v. 1

**R.** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (or Alleluia!)

1. The Lord is my shepherd; / there is nothing I shall want. / Fresh and green are the pastures / where he gives me repose. / Near restful waters he leads me, / to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**
2. He guides me along the right path; / he is true to his name. / If I should walk in the valley of darkness / no evil would I fear. / You are there with your crook and your staff; / with these you give me comfort. **R.**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me / in the sight of my foes. / My head you have anointed with oil; / my cup is overflowing. **R.**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me / all the days of my life. / In the Lord's own house shall I dwell / for ever and ever. **R.**



## SECOND READING

1 Pet 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.*

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you are called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

30 April 23  
Easter Wk 4 Yr A

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

**Website:** <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org>  
**Email:** [westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto: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** Wed: 12pm Sts Philip and James  
Thurs: 9am Fri: 9am

### CONFESSIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm  
\*Or by appointment

**ENTRANCE** The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;

**ANTIPHON:** by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, Alleluia.

**COMMUNION** The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down His life for His sheep

**ANTIPHON:**

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Ann Daly, Charlie Burns, Carmel MacPherson, Peter Richard.

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

**DECEASED:** Hugh and Dalis O'Brian, John O'Brien, Gary McSweeney, Sr Clare Keating RSJ, Margaret Cummins, Janet Corcoran, Anna Fordham, Pam Perkins, Des Saunders.

**SICK:** Marjie Balfe, John Betts, Gerard Dunn, Sr Gerard Joseph, Gail Styman, Suzanne Roberts, Shane Davidson, Pauline Wiley, Joan Crowe, Lisa Foster, Shirley Collier, Norma O'Brien, Barbara Brennan, Colin MacPherson, Kate Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Terry Dean, William Bonner, Alison and baby Huxley Gallagher, Graeme Bussell, Fr Bernie Flood.

### VEENA'S VERSIONS:

A priest decides to skip Mass one Sunday morning to enjoy the day playing golf. He explains his absence claiming illness. Fortunately for him, as Mass was a rather large gathering, his absence isn't noticed much by others. However, God notices and is determined to exact a punishment. God spends a few minutes pondering his options, before ordering his angels to ensure that the man gets a hole-in-one on every hole on the eighteen-hole course. The angels think this is quite the unusual punishment. They ask God, "Why are you rewarding him? He'll be only too happy when this happens." God replies, "Yes, yes. But whom would he tell?"



### 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)

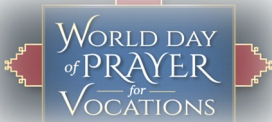
\*\*Direct Debit or EFT donations are preferred for planned giving however envelopes are still available.

### COMING EVENTS:

**14 May** Mothers' Day and Parish Morning Tea

**4 June** Sunday Evening Mass move to 5 pm

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



*"Judge not, leaving that most painful duty to those appointed for it."*



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

**SUNDAY MASS TIME:** Thank you to those who submitted feedback regarding possible changes to this mass time, which has assisted me in making a decision to more adequately support the Parish. In order to meet the needs of as many parishioners as possible, the Sunday evening mass time will be changed to **5pm** from **4 June 2023**. It is hoped that this change will allow greater options for weekend masses and help those who do attend to get home safely.

**MOTHERS DAY:** A Parish Morning Tea will be held on Mothers' Day, 14 May after 9 am mass. Please bring a plate if you can. We look forward to sharing company with you all.

**CHOIR:** The return of our regular choir in 2022 has been a wonderful addition to our liturgical celebrations. Their commitment and achievement is very obvious and means a great deal to the Parish. We are now very blessed to be able to return to yet another former addition to our liturgical celebrations. Many parishioners would recall that some time ago we had the Filipino Choir of Tamworth helping us celebrate the liturgy once a month. All Parishes in Tamworth will now have this Choir assisting in liturgies one day a month again. Our Parish will host the Filipino Choir every second Sunday at the 9am mass. How blessed we are to be showered with all these talents in our music ministries as our current Choir continues to add great joy to our liturgical celebrations.

**60TH WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS 30TH APRIL 2023:** This is a worldwide opportunity to pray with increased fervor for an increase of holy workers today. St Hannibal Mary Di Francia, the Apostle of Prayer for Vocations, had placed into posterity that famous quotation, "*Vocations come from on high; if we do not pray, vocations will not come.*"

For this 60th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, we are invited to reflect on the theme "Vocation: Grace and Mission". For the Prayer for Vocations see the notice board, and more information [Pope Francis' Message](#) to the world on the Vatican website.

### 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 3 ROSTER: 30/4/23

**Vigil:** R C Ledwos N Pullman  
**9am Sun:** R G Clout A Sartori  
**5.30pm Sun:** R M Murray D Bearman  
**Counting Team** O & J Whale A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning:** 5/5 S Brown & V Griffiths  
**Altar Linen:** J Hutt

### WEEK 4 ROSTER: 7/5/23

**Vigil:** R P Bamford Sr Kathryn  
**9am Sun:** R S Brown, M Donaldson  
**5.30pm Sun:** R C Lavell J Murray  
**Counting Team** G & M Thrift, A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** 12/5 K O'Brien J Cunningham  
**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.

