

# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

7 MAY 2023

you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'

Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?'

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?' Do you not believe

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly,

whoever believes in me

will perform the same works as I do myself,

he will perform even greater works,

because I am going to the Father.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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## OPEN TO CHANGE

Living with change is often uncomfortable and unsettling. Ways of acting and seeing things no longer work as they once did. We look for direction and a sure guide, to know how to act in the present, and plan for the future. It may be a source of comfort to know that the early Church faced many challenges and needed to adapt to changing situations and contexts. The very growth of the community in Jerusalem had created its own problems and the apostles were stretched thin. Consequently, some groups were disadvantaged. It was a moment of tension and decision which led the apostles to call for deacons to be appointed so that the needs of the poor, and the need for the word to be proclaimed, would both be satisfied.

When Jesus spoke of his coming departure the disciples were rightly fearful. How would they manage without Jesus' presence to guide them? They felt ill-prepared for such change and distrustful of their own ability to find the right path. Addressing this dilemma, Jesus reminds them that his departure is how God will open the way to a future that they have not yet dared to imagine.

To deal with changes creatively we need a solid core on which we can rely. Peter stresses that steadfastness in the face of opposition and misunderstanding is an essential requirement in the life of a disciple. For others Jesus is a stumbling block, but for believers he is a precious stone. In a constantly changing world, there is one firm foundation, and we are called to trust in him and sing his praises.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.*

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19. R. v. 22

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. (*or* Alleluia!)

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; / for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. / Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, / with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. R.

2. For 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.

3. 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.

## SECOND READING

1 Pet 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.*

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia! / I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; / no one comes to the Father, except through me. / Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Jn 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am

7 May 23  
Easter Wk 5 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: 5.30pm Sun: 9am & 5.30pm

**WEEKDAY MASSES** Wed: 12pm Thurs: 9am Fri: 9am

### CONFESSIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm

\*Or by appointment

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** O sing a new song to the Lord, for He has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations He has shown His deliverance, alleluia.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Sophie Littlejohns, Father Efen Musngi MS, Marian Murphy, Ann Daly, Charlie Burns, Carmel MacPherson, Peter Richard.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Peg MacRae (4/5), Hugh O'Brien (18/5), Sandy Murray (22/5).

**DECEASED:** 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, Suzanne Roberts, Shane Davidson, Pauline Wiley, Joan Crowe, Lisa Foster, Shirley Collier, Norma O'Brien, Barbara Brennan, Terry Dean, Colin MacPherson, Kate Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, William Bonner, Alison and baby Huxley Gallagher, Graeme Bussell, Fr Bernie Flood.

**VEENA'S VERSIONS:** Four men are in the hospital waiting room because their wives are having babies. A nurse goes up to the first guy and says, "Congratulations! You're the father of twins." "That's odd," answers the man. "I work for the Minnesota Twins!" A nurse says to the second guy, "Congratulations! You're the father of triplets!" "That's weird," answers the second man. "I work for the 3M company!" A nurse tells the third man, "Congratulations! You're the father of quadruplets!" "That's strange," he answers. "I work for the Four Seasons hotel!" The last man is groaning and banging his head against the wall. "What's wrong?" the others ask ..... "I work for 7 Up!"

### 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 Time changes to 5pm

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



*"Have courage, no matter what your crosses are"*

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



**SUNDAY MASS TIME:** Thank you to those who submitted feedback regarding possible changes to the Sunday afternoon Mass time. This 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 afternoon mass time will be changed to **5pm** from **4 June 2023**. It is hoped that this change will allow greater options for weekend masses at St Patricks.

**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. Some time ago we had the Tamworth Filipino Choir help us celebrate the liturgy once a month. Tamworth parishes will again have this Choir assisting in liturgies once a month. Our Parish will host the Filipino Choir every second Sunday at the 9am Mass. How blessed we are to be showered with so many talents in our music ministries as our own Choir continues to add great joy to our celebrations.

**FR EFREN MUSNGI'S PASSING:** Many parishioners will recall Fr Efen serving here at St Patrick's during 2003/2004 period. We have been advised of his sad passing on 30th April in the Philippines. Keep the La Salette Fathers and Fr Efen in your prayers.

**PLANNED GIVING:** If you are not part of our planned giving program you are still able to give regularly by direct debit or funds transfer into the Church account via the bank details given on the page opposite. Please consider contributing, if you are able, as this is how our Church is financially maintained.

### 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 4 ROSTER: 7/5/23

**Vigil:** R P Bamford Sr Kathryn  
**9am Sun:** R S Brown, A Santori  
**5.30pm Sun:** R J Murray C Lavell  
**Counting Team** S Brown A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** 12/5 K O'Brien J Cunningham  
**Altar Linen:** E Jackson

### WEEK 5 ROSTER: 14/5/23

**Vigil:** R C Ledwos, D Bolitho  
**9am Sun:** R J Ryan, G Clout  
**5.30pm Sun:** R J Murray D Bearman  
**Counting Team** P Sheils, A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** 19/5 J Hutt J Moran  
**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.

