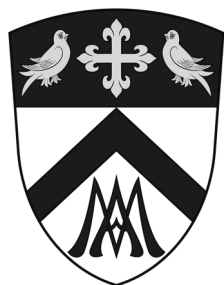


ST EDWARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

[Mary Help of Christians Church]



72 Hillvue Road (PO Box 5002) South Tamworth NSW 2340
Parish Office Ph: 6765 9543 | Hall Booking Ph: 6765 7259

Email: southtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au

Website: <https://stedwardsparish.org.au/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stedwardsouthtamworth>

Free Parish App **myFaith** (available in Apple Store or Google Play)



Rev. Fr Paul Aguilar, PP | Mrs. Liz Hearne, *parish secretary* | Rev. Paul Manvell, *deacon*

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

22 AUGUST 2021

First Reading | Joshua 24:1-2,15-18

A reading from the Book of Joshua.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people, 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? What is more, the Lord drove all those peoples out before us, as well as the Amorites who used to live in this country. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 33(34):2-3,16-23

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal.

They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken.

Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

Second Reading | Ephesians 5:21-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. *For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body.* This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation | cf John 6:63, 68

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:
you have the words of everlasting life.
Alleluia!

Gospel | John 6:60-69

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St John.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?' 'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer.

turn to page 2

from page 1

The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

‘But there are some of you who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, ‘This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.’ After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, ‘What about you, do you want to go away too?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.’

The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Our History, Our Story 1971-1981

In 1979 we had a new assistant priest, Father John Curran. Father John grew up in Moree, was educated at De La Salle Armidale and Downlands College, Toowoomba. An enthusiastic runner as he was growing up he took part in distance runs in Tamworth as well as Gunnedah where he was previously stationed. On holiday with his parents in New Zealand in 1980, Father John walked the famous Milford Track. While Father John was at South, new church fund raising was at fever pitch. He enthusiastically attended all the functions. He was an eloquent preacher and did much work with the local youth. He was in the Parish for 3 years before being transferred to Inverell in February 1982.

The Women's World Day of Prayer was held in Robert Street Church, the first time the service was held in a Catholic Church in Tamworth. The Ministry of Acolyte was instituted in the parish by Father Frank; nine men became Acolytes.

*(Faith of Our Fathers,
Living Still... - Kitty Thomas)*

(The Church Upon the Hill – Kitty Thomas)

National Day of Prayer | 22 August 2021

On Sunday 22 August 2021 from 9AM – 9PM, the National Day of Prayer & Fasting team will host a Zoom Prayer call featuring Church leaders and Indigenous Christian Leaders. Come for a short while or come for a long while. Let us join in prayer for our nation. To register:

<http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org.au/LordHaveMercy/>

Spring Ember Day | 03 September 2021

Ember days mark the beginning of each of the four seasons. In Australia, the church observes the Fridays of Autumn and Spring (March & September) as a special day of prayer & penance, focusing on the environment, the season of God's providence.

THE MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.



THE WORD IN OTHER WORDS

First Reading | Commentary

This final chapter of the Book of Joshua shows Israel settled into the ‘land flowing with milk and honey’, having concluded the great trek of the Exodus. At Shechem they held a great assembly of all the tribes, and renewed the covenant, with promises of loyalty to the Lord. The renewal of the covenant was necessary because in the course of their desert wandering a number of various tribes had joined Moses’ original group of escaped slaves, and not all of them had been present at the original covenant. This scene at Shechem is put in parallel to today’s gospel reading because Joshua challenged them to make up their minds whether or not they intended to remain loyal to the Lord, in the same way as Jesus challenges the disciples at the end of the Bread of Life discourse. The similarity is not only a challenge to loyalty, but specifically to covenant loyalty, since the Eucharistic context of the discourse puts the failure of some of the disciples and the acceptance by Peter and the others into the context of refusing or accepting the New Covenant made by Jesus at the Last Supper.

Second Reading | Commentary

The idea that husbands should be subject to their wives, as well as wives to their husbands, was revolutionary in the patriarchal society of the first century; but it is a consequence of the teaching that every human being has infinite dignity as made in the image of God. Another really enriching teaching, however, is that the devotion and self-sacrifice of husband for wife is seen as a parable for the love of Christ for his spouse, the Church. The love and devotion of spouses for each other – and it works both ways – gains greater dignity from this Christological truth. It is designated as a ‘mystery’, which in Pauline language does not mean ‘something I can’t understand’. It means the great profound truths about God which are to be finally revealed in these, the last times. In this case the ‘mystery’ is the depths and intensity of Christ’s love for his Church, of which the love of spouses for each other is only an echo. The bonding and binding love and self-sacrifice of spouses echoes and reveals Christ’s love for the Church. From this comparison we gain understanding and awe for both members of the comparison. It also nicely sums up the repeated message of Ephesians about unity in the Church.

Gospel | Commentary

Throughout the Gospel of John a great division is taking place between those who accept Jesus as the Messiah, the Wisdom of God, the Light of the world, the Good Shepherd, the King of the Jews, the Lamb of God, and those who do not accept. The marriage-feast at Cana, where the disciples believe and see the glory of Jesus, is immediately followed by the rejection by the custodians of the Temple. Then Nicodemus comes by night and tentatively approaches the light, while the Samaritan joyfully accepts him and announces him to her fellow-townfolk. Later in the Gospel we will see the stark division growing ever stronger between the sick man at the Pool of Bethzatha and the Man born Blind on the one hand and the Pharisees on the other. Finally the gentile Pilate declares Jesus to be king, while the Jewish authorities reject any king but Caesar.

Now, as the conclusion of the revelation of Jesus as the Wisdom of the Father and the Bread of Life, comes the sad moment of the division between the disciples, when some find the message too fierce and walk away, while Peter in the name of the faithful disciples makes his moving and loving act of faith, ‘you have the words of eternal life’. It is the same profession of faith as Peter in the synoptic gospels makes at Caesarea Philippi, but directly in terms of the Johannine gift, eternal life.

In all this, the choice is being put before us too: how deep is our faith, how firm our commitment? It is the ultimate choice in life; there is no sitting on the fence. And the choice must be renewed from day to day.

In your charity, please pray for

Our sick

Shelly Howlett	Barry Winning
Sally Shrago	Fr John Willis
Harryson Rits	Chris Fardy
Petrina (Fardy) Keys	Angela Allan
Ricky Lee Peachy	Jay Peachy
Addison Peachy	Narelle Albans
Julien Ryan	Laurence Hearne
Romeo Polinar	John Green

Our Deceased

+ Helen Gatlec
+ Nola Addinall
+ Patricia Whale
+ Tanya de Souza, *anniversary 22/08*
+ Veronica Fitzgerald, *anniversary 22/08*
+ Kevin Ferguson, *anniversary 28/08*

Roman Martyrology

23/08 St Rose of Lima, *virgin*
24/08 St Bartholomew, *apostle*
25/08 St Joseph Calasanz, *priest*
26/08 St Monica, *holy woman, mother of St Augustine*
27/08 St Augustine, *bishop & doctor*

Omnnes sancti Mártires, oráte pro nobis

Public Worship & Church Bulletin

Our church may be closed, but Christ is not quarantined and his Gospel is not in chains. Our Lord's heart remains open to every man and woman. Even though we cannot worship together, each of us can seek him in the tabernacles of our own hearts.

Our Church is Closed

Due to the snap lockdown, our church building is CLOSED. Public worship and visiting is suspended until further notice. A shrine was erected in the church foyer for people who wish to make a short visit. For updates, visit our parish website: <https://stedwardsparish.org.au/>

Daily Mass (Missa sine populo)

Daily Mass is celebrated in private.

Monday through Saturday	12.00noon
Sunday	09.00am

Church Notices/Bulletin

Church bulletin is sent out via email, if you want to be in our mailing list please notify us by phone or email: southtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au

Also available on the parish website:

<https://stedwardsparish.org.au/> Hard copies are available in front of the church: Sat. 12pm-5pm, Sun. 8am-5pm.

TV / ONLINE MASS

HOW TO PREPARE FOR TV/ONLINE MASS

1. Prepare yourselves well.
2. Do not watch it with a cup of coffee or tea in hand. Mobile phone in silent or flight mode.
3. Before the Mass, read the Mass readings to prepare yourselves to hear them better once they are proclaimed in the Eucharist.
4. Have a few moments too to think what you are to thank the Lord for and what to offer to him during this Mass.
5. Remember that you are praying this Eucharist with many other fellow Catholics not only in our parish but all over the world.
6. Stay in reverent gesture throughout the Mass, standing and sitting up properly when possible.
7. Do not watch the Mass. Join it with your prayers, responses and singing. Join in it with your family.
8. At the time of communion, make the Act of Spiritual Communion. At the end of the TV or online Mass, take some moment of silence.

TV / ONLINE MASS SCHEDULE

TV Mass - Channel 10, every Sunday 06.00am

Online:

Armidale Cathedral Parish | Sunday 10am

Youtube link: <https://youtu.be/uM2Nbr1tu5o>

Zoom backup link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81666131808?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81666131808?pwd=aFVQY0J6d2JFYXdtOTBkR3pyWDRSZz09)

[pwd=aFVQY0J6d2JFYXdtOTBkR3pyWDRSZz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81666131808?pwd=aFVQY0J6d2JFYXdtOTBkR3pyWDRSZz09)

St Mary's Cathedral (Sydney) | Sunday 10.30am

<https://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au/>

St Patrick's Cathedral (Melbourne) | Sunday 11am

<https://melbournecatholic.org/connect/mass-online>

Hornsby Cathedral Parish (Broken Bay)

Daily Mass 7.00am, Sunday Mass 9.30am.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNenwlf17i14XB9TsVBrLvQ/videos)

[UCNenwlf17i14XB9TsVBrLvQ/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNenwlf17i14XB9TsVBrLvQ/videos)

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

PRAYER IN TIME OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

God our Father, we come to you in our need to ask your protection against COVID-19 that has claimed lives and has affected many. We pray for your grace for the people tasked with studying the nature and cause of this virus and of stemming the tide of its transmission. Guide the hands and minds of doctors, nurses and all health care professionals that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion, and of those governments and private agencies that must find cure and solution to this pandemic.

Accord our frontline workers: wisdom, protection and compassion. Sustain all employees and business owners who suffer loss of livelihood due to shut-downs, quarantines, closed borders, and other restriction. Protect and guard all those who must travel. We pray for those afflicted may they be restored to health soon. Grant us the grace to work for the good of all and to help those in need. Hold in your gentle embrace all who have died and who will die this day. Comfort their loved ones in their despair.

We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Mary Help of all Christians,	<i>pray for us.</i>
St Roch,	<i>pray for us.</i>
St Edward the Confessor,	<i>pray for us.</i>

St Raphael the Archangel,	<i>pray for us.</i>
St Corona,	<i>pray for us.</i>
St Mary of the Cross,	<i>pray for us.</i>

A PRAYER SERVICE FOR YOUR HOME

Keeping the Lord's day holy even in isolation.

1. Set up a Sacred Space

Gather a few religious items from around your house to make a small prayer space. Consider including:

- A Bible
- A candle
- Holy Water
- A Crucifix, Cross, or picture of Jesus
- A rosary or images of Mary and the saints.
- Paper & pencils for writing prayer intentions
- If you have children, have them draw pictures of Jesus, or a saint and include their drawing.

2. Begin with the Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

3. Read and Reflect on the Sunday's Scripture Readings (page 1 & 2)

Begin each reading: A reading from...

End each reading:

The Word of the Lord,

R: Thanks be to God.

End the Gospel reading:

The Gospel of the Lord,

R: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Watch a Gospel reflection Sunday Reflection:

<https://stedwardsparish.org.au/homily/>

or use these questions to reflect on one of the readings

For Adults:

- a. What words, images, or ideas stood out for you in the reading?
- b. How do those words, images, or ideas relate to your life right now?
- c. What is God saying to you? What is He asking you to do?

For Children:

- a. What's happening in this Bible story? What are the people thinking or feeling in this story?
- b. How do you see God working in this Bible story?
- c. What did you learn from this Bible story?

Prayer Moves Us to Action

As we draw closer to the Lord in prayer, He helps us to see the needs of our brothers and sisters. Who do you see in need? • Write a thank you note to workers in hospitals, nursing homes, grocery stores, etc. Thank them for working hard to insure health and safety for all of us. • Send snail mail! Make cards for elderly neighbours or the homebound to brighten someone's day. • Contribute towards the social justice initiatives of the parish.

4. Share Prayer Intentions

Consider reading aloud these prayer intentions;

then go around and invite everyone present to share a prayer intention.

Leader: Lord, we turn to you with all our hopes and fears, our joys and our sorrows. Hear our prayers, fill our hearts with hope, and grant us your peace.

Leader: For all people of faith, that we may find closeness to God and His Church, even in times of isolation. We pray to the Lord. *R: Lord hear our prayer.*

Leader: For local and world leaders, may God guide them in making decisions for the common good. We pray to the Lord. *R: Lord hear our prayer.*

Leader: For the sick, the vulnerable, the fearful, and the lonely, may God bring them healing, comfort, and peace. We pray to the Lord. *R: Lord hear our prayer.*

Leader: For what else shall we pray? (Allow each person to share a prayer intention, responding after each prayer with:) We pray to the Lord. *R: Lord hear our prayer.*

4. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

5. An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

6. Closing Prayer

Close with the following prayer of thanksgiving - even in difficult times, we can foster a heart of gratitude!

Lord, we thank you for this time of prayer and for our community of faith who, even in this time of isolation, are drawn together in our continued worship of You. We entrust all our prayers, work, joys, and sufferings to You, Lord Jesus, and ask you to fill our hearts with hope and love.

For what do we give thanks?

After everyone has a chance to share, end with:

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good

All: His mercy endures forever.

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.