

made to him and he had been told: it is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

Shorter form Heb 11:1-2, 8-12

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 24:42,44

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

you know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL

Lk 12:32-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*See that you are prepared.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form Lk 12:32-48

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



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# Breaking Open the Word

## BE ALERT

Luke's audience consists of people who are wealthy and those who are poorer, from the lower rung of the social ladder. The evangelist's focus is frequently on those of comfortable and wealthy status. This is presumed in today's reading. This Gospel passage follows immediately from last Sunday's. Luke continues to reflect on the themes of wealth and the disciple's attentiveness to God. Jesus reminds Luke's audience that God wants to offer the Kingdom to all. It is not restrictive. But there is one barrier for its reception: wealth and greed—a theme noted last Sunday. Disciples are encouraged to be generous and respond tangibly to the needs of the poor, encouragement that is at the heart of Catholic social teaching.

A second theme emerges: besides generosity, disciples must also remember Jesus' *Parousia*, his coming at the end of time. This perspective is not to be forgotten, though perhaps some in the Lukan household had done so. The example are householders being alert to the master's eventual arrival after a wedding or to a burglar who might smash through the house's mud brick walls. Alertness is thus key. It will surface again later in the Gospel when the disciples are told in Gethsemane to 'keep awake!' Luke promises that such existential alertness will be substantially rewarded.

For ourselves, too, today's Gospel is a spiritually healthy reminder. As we gather around the Lord's Table, we are encouraged to an alertness for the Lord's coming at the end of time. The acclamation after the words of Institution in the Eucharistic Prayer echoes this.

Fr Michael Trainor

# THE SAVING WORD

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

10 AUGUST 2025

## FIRST READING

Wis 18:6-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

*Just as you struck our enemies, you made us glorious by calling us to you.*

That night had been foretold to our ancestors, so that, once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their trust in they would joyfully take courage. This was the expectation of your people, the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their enemies; for by the same act with which you took vengeance on our foes you made us glorious by calling us to you. The devout children of worthy men offered sacrifice in secret and this divine pact they struck with one accord: that the saints would share the same blessings and dangers alike; and forthwith they had begun to chant the hymns of the fathers.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 32:1, 12, 18-20, 22. R. v. 12

**R. Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.**

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; / for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. / They are happy, whose God is the Lord, / the people he has chosen as his own. **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

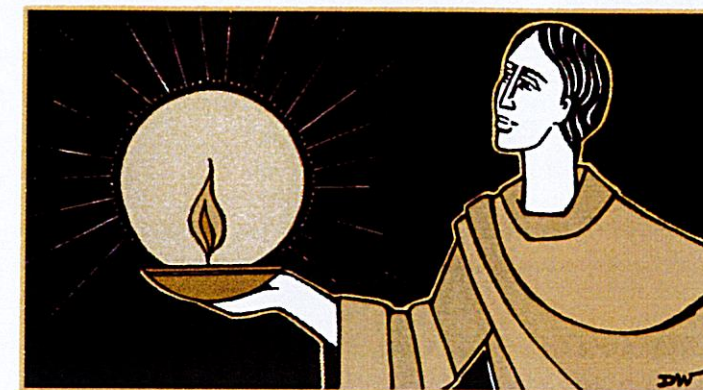
Heb 11:1-2, 8-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*We will look for the city designed and built by God.*

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance



given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. By faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised Land, and lived there as if in a strange country, with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. They lived there in tents while he looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

All these died in faith, before receiving any of the things that had been promised, but they saw them in the far distance and welcomed them, recognising that they were only strangers and nomads on earth. People who use such terms about themselves make it quite plain that they are in search of their real homeland. They can hardly have meant the country they came from, since they had the opportunity to go back to it; but in fact they were longing for a better homeland, their heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, since he has founded the city for them.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been



*Welcome to  
St Nicholas' Catholic Parish,  
Tamworth  
for the  
19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*10<sup>th</sup> August 2025*

**Fr Christopher Onuekwusi – Parish Priest**  
**Fr Saji Kappikuzhi – Assistant Priest**  
[stnicholasparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:stnicholasparish@armidale.catholic.org.au) ☎ (02) 6766 2228

Parish Secretaries: Finance: Stephanie Hetherington - Mon/Tue 9-5pm  
Admin: Anne Jones Wed 9-1pm/Fri 9-5pm Pauline Skewes Thurs 9-1pm  
**Office hours: Monday – Friday 9am - 5pm**

**Catholic schools in our parish**

McCarthy Catholic College ☎ (02) 6761 0800	Principal: Mr Michael Whitton Students currently enrolled: 945
St Nicholas Primary School ☎ (02) 6766 1500	Principal: Mr Peter Flynn Students currently enrolled: 590

**ENTRANCE:** Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

**COMMUNION:** O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

**‘KEEP AWAKE TILL HE COMES.’** The early Christians applied this teaching of Jesus to their expectation of his second coming. More generally speaking, today’s Gospel parables should encourage us to be morally vigilant at all times and ever ready to encounter, in the midst of daily life, the ‘God of surprises. Paul has similar advice for us: ‘Keep alert, stand firm in your faith’ (1 Cor 16:13).

***Psalter Week 3***

**Monday 11/08 St Nicholas' Mass 7am**  
*St Clare, virgin*  
Deut 10:12-22: Ps 147:12-15, 19-20: Mt 17:22-27:

**Tuesday 12/08 St Mary's Mass 9am**  
Deut 31:1-8: Deut 32:3-4, 7-9: Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14:

**Wednesday 13/08 St Nicholas' Mass 7am**  
Deut 34:1-12: Ps 65:1-3, 5, 16-17: Mt 18:15-20:

**Thursday 14/08 St Mary's Mass 9am**  
*St Maximilian Mary Kolbe, priest, martyr*  
Josh 3:7-11, 13-17: Ps 113A:1-6: Mt 18:21-19:1:

**Friday 15/08 St Nicholas' Mass 7am and 9.30am**  
**The ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**  
**+ HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION +**  
Rev 11:19, 12:1-6, 10: Ps 44:10-12, 16:  
1 Cor 15:20-26: Lk 1:39-56:

**Saturday 16/08 St Nicholas' Mass 9am**  
Josh 24:14-29: Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-8, 11: Mt 19:13-15:  
**Vigil Mass 6pm**

**Sunday 17/08 St Mary's 7.30am Mass**  
**St Nicholas' 9.30am & 5.30pm**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4pm – 5.30pm**

**BAPTISMS** are held **Saturdays at 11am & Sundays at 12 noon**. If you wish to book a Baptism, please email or telephone the Parish Office on 67662228 for more information. Forms can also be submitted on our parish website at <https://www.stnicholasparish.org.au/>

**Parish toilet** is located in the Outdoor Function Area. Please ensure children are accompanied by an adult when leaving the Church during Mass to go to the toilet or for any other reason.

**Home Visits:** Any ‘Housebound’ Parishioner who would like a visit by a Priest once a month, is requested to call the Parish office on 67662228. Parishioners are also encouraged to call the Parish Office, if there is any housebound Parishioner who should be visited by a Priest.

**PRAYERFUL REFLECTION** on the readings is always included on the Bulletin, after the Communion Antiphon. You are encouraged to reflect on this every week.

**PARISH EVENTS – for the month ahead**

12 Aug Tue	St Nicholas Seniors	10.30am for morning tea, West Diggers, Kable Avenue
15 Aug Fri	<b>HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION</b> The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Masses 7.00am and 9.30am, St Nicholas' Church	
15 Aug Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm St Nicholas'
17 Aug Sun	Birthday Blessing	All Masses
17 Aug Sun	Morning tea hosted by the Frassati Prayer Group after the 9.30am Mass at St Nicholas'	
19 Aug Tue	St Nicholas Women Connecting – meet at 5.30pm for dinner at the Tamworth City Bowling Club	
22 Aug Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm St Nicholas'
22 Aug Fri	<b>YOUTH GROUP 7-8.45pm, Outdoor Function Area</b>	
23 Aug Sat	<b>CONFIRMATION MASS</b>	6pm St Nicholas'
24 Aug Sun	<b>CONFIRMATION MASS</b>	9.30am St Nicholas'
26 Aug Tue	St Nicholas Seniors	11.30am for lunch, West Diggers, Kable Avenue
27 Aug Wed	The Catholic Ladies – Lunch in the Russell Room at the Tamworth Services Club – 12.30pm, for 1pm	
29 Aug Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm St Nicholas' followed by a light supper in the Meeting Room
30 Aug Sat	Men's Breakfast, Outdoor Function Area – 7am	
31 Aug Sun	<b>FAMILY MASS followed by Morning Tea in the Outdoor Function Area, hosted by Yr 1 &amp; Yr 5 students &amp; parents</b>	
31 Aug Sun	<b>St NICHOLAS PARISH PICNIC &amp; Farewell to Fr Saji</b> Tamworth Miniature Railway, Botanical Gardens, 12noon	
02 Sep Tue	'Petitions' Rosary	12.15pm St Nicholas'
05 Sep Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm St Nicholas'
05 Sep Fri	<b>YOUTH GROUP 7-8.45pm, Outdoor Function Area</b>	
06 Sep Sat	<b>Anointing of the Sick during the 9am Mass St Nicholas'</b>	
06 Sep Sat	Silent Adoration	4-5.30pm St Nicholas'
09 Sep Tue	St Nicholas Seniors	10.30am for morning tea, West Diggers, Kable Avenue



**Parish Bulletin Deadline –**

All materials to be in by **midday Wednesday** - the Bulletin is printed on **Thursday morning**.

**PLANNED GIVING: SUPPORTING OUR PRIESTS & PARISH**

**1<sup>ST</sup> Collection (supports the clergy)**  
BSB: 082 105 A/C No: 001 023 584  
A/C Name: St Nicholas Presbytery

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection (Planned Giving for Parish maintenance)**  
BSB: 082 105 A/C No: 001 003 255  
A/C Name: St Nicholas Parish

Ref: Planned Giving Number/or your name. **Thank you for your support.**

**COLLECTIONS: 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2025**

1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	\$ 1,536.55
Planned Giving	\$ 1,678.00
Loose	\$ 547.15
	<b>\$ 2,225.15</b>

*Testimonial envelopes* have been placed at the back of the church for parishioners wishing to express their appreciation to Fr Saji for his dedication and service to our parish during his time here at St Nicholas'. We wish him every success and happiness in his new role as Administrator at St Patrick's Parish in West Tamworth.

**WEEKLY ROSTER – 09/10 August 2025**

**St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm**  
C: Paul McDougall G/R1: Cate Allen  
G/R2: Sister of Nazareth  
Ex Min: Leonie Hansen Music: Noel Greacen  
Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

**St Mary's Sunday 7.30am**  
C: John Murphy G/R1: Cheryl Higgins G/R2: Joan Newley  
Ex Min: Kevin McMahon Music: Grant Quinn  
Altar Servers: Will Nguyen  
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

**St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am**  
C: Alison Hamilton G/R1: Charli Manning  
G/R2: Gina Mahony  
Children's Liturgy: Steph/Felicita  
Ex Min: Laura Hughes/Jennifer Hatfield  
Altar Servers: Isaac Hetherington/Ryan Pham  
Music: St Nicholas Choir  
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

**St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm**  
C: Alison Hagley G/R1: Cecilia Dries G/R2: Terry Dries  
Ex Min: Paul Hagley Music: Henry Buckman  
Altar Servers: Halle Buckman/Ethan Nijo  
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Pauline Skewes/Andrew Tighe  
Altar Linen: Kerrie Bryant  
Sacristy Cleaning: St Nicholas Women Connecting  
Candelabrum: Brian Lincoln 10/08/25-16/08/25

**Prayer for Ukraine**

God of peace and justice,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.  
We pray for peace  
and the laying down of weapons.  
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
that your Spirit of comfort  
would draw near to them.  
We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
for wisdom, discernment  
and compassion to guide their decisions.  
Above all, we pray for all your precious children,  
at-risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect them.  
We pray in the name of Jesus,  
the Prince of Peace.  
**Amen.**

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC WEEKLY**

Copies are available at the back of the Church every week. Sponsored by St Vincent de Paul's St Nicholas Conference. \$2.00 per copy & money deposited in the collection box. Please collect a copy & stay connected with all the news of our Church in Australia.

**The Youth Group** are now meeting every fortnight during school terms. If you have children in Yr 6 – Yr 8, they may enjoy attending – there is plenty of faith, fun and friendship to be enjoyed, with members of the parish and Immaculata community in attendance. Please phone 0406 361 272 for more details.

"Spread love everywhere you go: first of all, in your own house. Give love to your children, to your wife or husband, to a next-door neighbour... Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting." ~ *Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

**WEEKLY ROSTER – 16/17 August 2025**

**St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm**  
C: Giovanna McDougall G/R1: Paul McDougall  
G/R2: Belinda Tyrrell  
Ex Min: Eil Smyth Music: Noel Greacen  
Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

**St Mary's Sunday 7.30am**  
C: Matt Pawsey G/R1: Grant Quinn  
G/R2: Bernadette Virgin  
Ex Min: Karen King Music: Grant Quinn  
Altar Servers: Will Nguyen  
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

**St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am**  
C: Jo Manalastas G/R1: Brian Lincoln  
G/R2: Nicholas Nweke  
Children's Liturgy: Louise/Marielle/Kiera  
Ex Min: Maria Lincoln/Alison Hamilton  
Altar Servers: Dominic Vinod/Abigail Nweke  
Music: St Nicholas Choir  
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

**St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm**  
C: Renee Dunst G/R1: Merrilyn Gaffney  
G/R2: Claire Doherty  
Ex Min: Henry Buckman Music: Henry Buckman  
Altar Servers: Callum & Ethan Buckman/Charlie Dunst  
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Ted Heazlett/Bruce Stewart  
Altar Linen: Rosemary Kinsela  
Sacristy Cleaning: Beth & John Ryan/Bruce Stewart  
Candelabrum: Anne Jones 17/08/25-23/08/25

**BAPTISMS:** Please pray for **Paxton Peak** and **Freya Whitten**, who are receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend. May God always bless and watch over them.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** We warmly welcome **Lynne Ragenovich** and **Narelle & Chris Sheppeard**, who are receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist this weekend. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their journey in faith with us.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** We pray for the blessed repose of the soul of **Bernard Andren**. May God grant him eternal rest and peace.

**SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Judy Thompson**, recently deceased (1<sup>st</sup> August, Nowra), **Loyola Hawthorne** (4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) and **Cyril & Margaret Thompson** (Anniversaries 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> August).

**PERPETUAL INTENTIONS:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Alec & Betty Fyffe** and **Cyril & Grace Cahill**, who will be long remembered in our parish.

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK AT THIS TIME**

Dan Daly, Brindley Cavallaro (Sydney), Rev. Fr Tony Castelli, Kath Donoghue, Colin Bryant, Darren Graham, Suzanne Perfrement, Kay Tucker, Ken Michell, Julie Michell, Judy Murphy, Rev. Jim Furze, Steve Tierney, Cassandra Harkins, Richard Noad, Pat & Tony Favell, Kay Mason, Doreen Eunson, Maureen White (Orange), Cormac Downes (Uralla), Michael Bryant, Sullivan Hurn (Singleton), Carmel Bennett (Gladstone), Connie Maher, Deborah Murphy (Forbes).

