

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 12:49-53

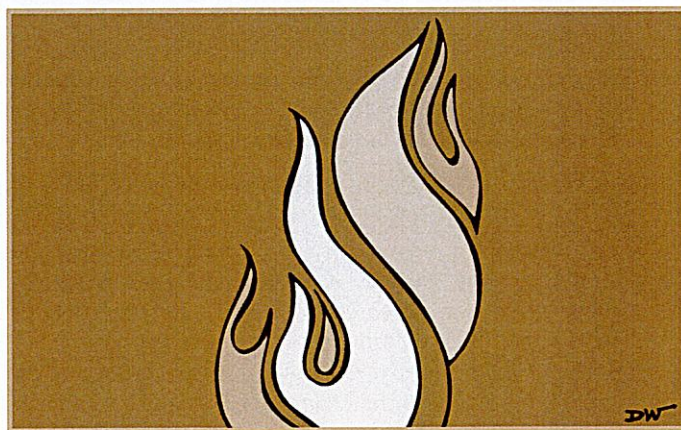
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

I have come not to give peace, but discord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word

BAPTISMAL COMMITMENT

Over these Sundays we continue to steep ourselves in Luke's journey teaching. Over Chapters 9 to 19, Luke offers readers teaching about discipleship and fidelity amid the struggles that they experience in their Greco-Roman world. One of them is the struggle to live out authentic discipleship as Jesus' followers when the temptation is otherwise.

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers this late first century audience a sobering reminder. Faithful discipleship is not easy. It will come at a cost and struggle. It will touch the very heart of life. Jesus looks towards his passion. This is the 'baptism' that he will undergo. But the very mention of 'baptism' in the Gospel's opening words reminds listeners that their baptism connects them to Jesus. They, too, will suffer – not because this is God's intent or 'will' (which some even today think) – but because of the very nature of the life of discipleship lived within the particular social and cultural context of their world.

Baptismal commitment does not, then, equal tranquillity and a life of ease. These matters have already been reflected upon over the last few Sundays. For some, the struggle to remain true to one's baptismal commitment will affect even core relationships. This is seen in the divisions experienced in Luke's day within households. The shocking nature of Jesus' words would be felt by Gospel listeners. The family household and its internal relationship were the building blocks for a secure society with the Greek (and Jewish) world. Baptismal fidelity to Jesus will at times be a struggle and may even cause family division and conflict.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

17 AUGUST 2025

FIRST READING

Jer 38:4-6, 8-10

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

You bore me to be a man of strife for the whole world.

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king, 'My lord king,' he said 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 39:2-4, 18. R. v. 14

R. Lord, come to my aid!

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord / and he stooped down to me; / he heard my cry. **R.**
2. He drew me from the deadly pit, / from the miry clay. / He set my feet upon a rock / and made my footsteps firm. **R.**
3. He put a new song into my mouth, / praise of our God. / Many shall see and fear / and shall trust in the Lord. **R.**
4. As for me, wretched and poor, / the Lord thinks of me. / You are my rescuer, my help, / O God, do not delay. **R.**



SECOND READING

Heb 12:1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Let us bear patiently the struggle placed upon us.

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shamefulness of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

■ The word of the Lord.

*Welcome to
St Nicholas' Catholic Parish,
Tamworth
for the
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

17th August 2025

Fr Christopher Onuekwusi – Parish Priest
Fr Saji Kappikuzhi – Assistant Priest
stnicholasparish@armidale.catholic.org.au ☎ (02) 6766 2228
Website: <https://www.stnicholasparish.org.au/>

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

ENTRANCE: Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

COMMUNION: With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

‘THE FIGHT AGAINST SIN.’ Some of the first converts to Christianity were shocked to find that their lives as Christians still contained many difficulties. In some cases, becoming a Christian added to their troubles as they met opposition from non-Christian family members. We too face difficulties of one kind or another. Participating in the Eucharist does not eliminate our problems, but gives us the strength and courage we need not to give up in the face of them.

Psalter Week 4

Monday 18/08 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
Judges 2:11-19: Ps 105:34-37, 39-40, 43-44: Mt 19:16-22:

Tuesday 19/08 St Mary's Mass 9am
Judges 6:11-24: Ps 84:9, 11-14: Mt 19:23-30:

Wednesday 20/08 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
St Bernard, abbot, doctor
Judges 9:6-15: Ps 20:2-7: Mt 20:1-16:

Thursday 21/08 St Mary's Mass 9am
St Pius X, pope
Judges 11:29-39: Ps 39:5, 7-10: Mt 22:1-14:

Friday 22/08 St Nicholas' Mass 7am and 9.30am
The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14-16, 22: Ps 145:5-10: Mt 22:34-40:

Saturday 23/08 St Nicholas' Mass 9am
Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17: Ps 127:1-5: Mt 23:1-12:
Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 24/08 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.

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

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	YOUTH GROUP	7-8.45pm, Outdoor Function Area
23 Aug Sat	CONFIRMATION MASS	6pm St Nicholas'
24 Aug Sun	CONFIRMATION MASS	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	FAMILY MASS followed by Morning Tea in the Outdoor Function Area, hosted by Yr 1 & Yr 5 students & parents	
31 Aug Sun	St NICHOLAS PARISH PICNIC & Farewell to Fr Saji Tamworth Miniature Railway, Botanical Gardens, 12noon with Entertainment provided by the McCarthy Catholic College School band and choir.	
02 Sep Tue	'Petitions' Rosary	12.15pm St Nicholas'
05 Sep Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm St Nicholas'
05 Sep Fri	YOUTH GROUP	7-8.45pm, Outdoor Function Area
06 Sep Sat	Anointing of the Sick during the 9am Mass	St Nicholas'
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
16 Sep Tue	St Nicholas Women Connecting – meet at 5.30pm for dinner at the Tamworth City Bowling Club	



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

PLANNED GIVING: SUPPORTING OUR PRIESTS & PARISH

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

2ND 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: 10th August 2025

1 st Collection	\$ 1,542.30
Planned Giving	\$ 2,198.00
Loose	\$ 344.85
	\$ 2,542.85

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 – 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 Virgen
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

Jubilee Year Plenary Indulgence

Pope Francis called on all Catholics to become pilgrims of hope in our Jubilee Year. The Holy Father declares that the gift of an Indulgence in this Jubilee 'is a way of discovering the unlimited nature of God's mercy'. The Plenary Indulgence which can be obtained, therefore, is a Jubilee grace.

To obtain it the normal three conditions apply:

1. **Going to Confession (detached from all sin)**
2. **Receiving Holy Communion**
3. **Praying for the intentions of the Holy Father**

There are copies of the Decree at the back of our churches, with more details, if you wish to take a copy. Thank you!

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, friendship and activities to be enjoyed, with members of the parish and Immaculata community in attendance. Please phone 0406 361 272 for more details.

Please keep in your prayers the candidates preparing for Confirmation. We pray they will be filled with the joy of God's presence.

WEEKLY ROSTER – 23/24 August 2025

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm CONFIRMATION MASS
C: Renee Dunst G/R1: Sr of Nazareth G/R2: Eil Smyth
Prayers of the Faithful: Renee Dunst Offertory:
Ex Min: Jennifer Hatfield Music: St Nicholas Choir
Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am
C: Bernadette Virgen G/R1: Katrina Krogh
G/R2: Bruce Stewart
Ex Min: Kevin McMahon Music: Grant Quinn
Altar Servers: Will Nguyen
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am CONFIRMATION MASS
C: Renee Dunst G/R1: Anne Bowden G/R2: Peter Flynn
Prayers of the Faithful: Renee Dunst Offertory:
Ex Min: Fiona Downey
Altar Servers: Jason/Charles Igbenije
Music: St Nicholas Choir
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm
C: Miriam Redolfi G/R1: Alison Hagley G/R2: Paul Hagley
Ex Min: Cecilia Dries Music: Veronica Frost
Altar Servers: Kyra Akers-Gibbons/Hallie Buckman
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Giovanna & Paul McDougall
Altar Linen: Lynne Prisk
Sacristy Cleaning: Elspeth Muldoon/Kerrie Bryant
Candelabrum: Ted & Bev Heazlett 24/08/25-30/08/25

BAPTISMS: Please pray for **Sonny Gatty, Charli Bennett, Eley Freeman Styles and Charli Stokes** who are receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend. May God always bless them abundantly.

CONFIRMATION: We congratulate **Joo Li Kim**, who is receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist this weekend.

RECENTLY DECEASED: We pray for the blessed repose of the soul of **Bernard Andren, Pat Wall and Terry Dean**. May God grant them eternal rest and peace.

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, 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).

“To have courage for whatever comes in life – everything lies in that.”
~ St. Teresa of Avila

