

**GOSPEL**

Lk 13:22-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*From east and west they will come to take their place in the kingdom of God.*

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.

'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets," but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

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# Breaking Open the Word

## AT THE FEAST IN THE KINGDOM

In this Sunday's Gospel we are still in that section of Luke that concerns the journey of Jesus and his disciples on their way to Jerusalem. This section of the Gospel, Luke 9-19, is long. It is also important as the evangelist seeks to contemporise the teaching of Jesus, for a later time and culture. The evangelist also provides us in this 'journey narrative' with a window into what some of the issues were with which Jesus' followers were dealing.

One of them here concerned salvation and ultimate communion with God. Someone enquires about the number of those 'saved'? Will it be a few? The question allows Jesus in Luke's Gospel to address a key presumption circulating within the Gospel audience. There were some who presumed that simply being a member of the Gospel household, participating in a meal (the Eucharist?) or listening to the teaching of the Master guaranteed admittance into the Kingdom.

Jesus reminds Luke's audience to be careful about such presumptive and elitist behaviour. This attitude, of being better than others because of one's spiritual heritage or conduct, does not guarantee automatic admission into the Kingdom. It needs to be checked. Rather than a restrictive or exclusive view of Kingdom admission – only those with the right 'credentials' will be admitted – ultimate communion with God is open ended and available to all, as people 'from east and west, from north and south will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. A spirit of openness, hospitality and inclusivity must characterise Jesus' disciples.

Fr Michael Trainor

# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

24 AUGUST 2025

## FIRST READING

Isa 66:18-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*They will gather all of your people from all nations.*

The Lord says this: I am coming to gather the nations of every language. They shall come to witness my glory. I will give them a sign and send some of their survivors to the nations: to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech, Rosh, Tubal, and Javan, to the distant islands that have never heard of me or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory to the nations. As an offering to the Lord they will bring all your brothers, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, on dromedaries, from all the nations to my holy mountain in Jerusalem, says the Lord, like Israelites bringing oblations in clean vessels to the Temple of the Lord. And of some of them I will make priests and Levites, says the Lord.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 116. R. Mk 16:15

**R. Go out to all the world; and tell the Good News (or Alleluia!)**

1. O praise the Lord, all you nations, / acclaim him all you peoples! **R.**
2. Strong is his love for us; / he is faithful for ever. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Heb 12:5-7, 11-13

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*The Lord disciplines those he loves.*

Have you forgotten that encouraging text in which you are addressed as sons? My son, when the Lord corrects you, do not treat it lightly; but do not get discouraged when he reprimands you. For the Lord trains the ones that he loves and he punishes all those that he acknowledges as his sons. Suffering is part of your training; God is treating you as his sons. Has there ever been any son whose father did



not train him? Of course, any punishment is most painful at the time, and far from pleasant; but later, in those on whom it has been used, it bears fruit in peace and goodness. So hold up your limp arms and steady your trembling knees and smooth out the path you tread; then the injured limb will not be wrenched, it will grow strong again.

■ **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!



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

*24<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

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 ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

**COMMUNION:** The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

**‘ENTERING GOD’S KINGDOM.’** It is frustrating to arrive at a shop a few minutes after it has closed, or at an event only to discover that all tickets have been sold. There is nothing we can do about it. We have no automatic right of entry. The same applies to God’s kingdom. To join the many people from east and west at the heavenly banquet we must strive to follow Jesus along the narrow and sometimes difficult path of love.

*Psalter Week 1*

**Monday 25/08 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am**  
1 Thess 1:1-5, 8-10: Ps 149:1-6, 9: Mt 23:13-22:

**Tuesday 26/08 St Mary’s Mass 9am**  
1 Thess 2:1-8: Ps 138:1-3, 4-6: Mt 23:23-26:

**Wednesday 27/08 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am**  
**St Monica**  
1 Thess 2:9-13: Ps 138:7-12: Mt 23:27-32:

**Thursday 28/08 St Mary’s Mass 9am**  
**St Augustine, bishop, doctor**  
1 Thess 3:7-13: Ps 89:3-4, 12-14, 17: Mt 24:42-51:

**Friday 29/08 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am and 9.30am**  
**The Passion of St John the Baptist, martyr**  
Jer 1:17-19: Ps 70:1-6, 15, 17: Mk 6:17-29:

**Saturday 30/08 St Nicholas’ Mass 9am**  
1 Thess 4:9-11: Ps 97:1, 7-9: Mt 25:14-30:  
**Vigil Mass 6pm**

**Sunday 31/08 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**

|            |   |                                 |              |
|------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 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’ |
| 07 Sep Sun | Father’s Day  |                                 |              |
| 09 Sep Tue | St Nicholas Seniors                                     | 10.30am for morning tea,        |              |
|            | West Diggers, Kable Avenue                              |                                 |              |
| 12 Sep Fri | Eucharistic Adoration                                   | 6-7pm                           | St Nicholas’ |
| 14 Sep Sun | Vinnies Festival Mass                                   | 9.30am                          | St Nicholas’ |
| 16 Sep Tue | St Nicholas Women Connecting – meet at 5.30pm for       |                                 |              |
|            | dinner at the Tamworth City Bowling Club                |                                 |              |
| 19 Sep Fri | Eucharistic Adoration                                   | 6-7pm                           | St Nicholas’ |
| 21 Sep Sun | Birthday Blessing – All Masses                          |                                 |              |
| 21 Sep Sun | Morning Tea after the 9.30am Mass                       |                                 | St Nicholas’ |
|            | hosted by the Men’s Breakfast Group                     |                                 |              |
| 23 Sep Tue | St Nicholas Seniors                                     | 11.30am for lunch,              |              |
|            | West Diggers, Kable Avenue                              |                                 |              |
| 24 Sep Wed | The Catholic Ladies – Lunch in the Russell Room at the  |                                 |              |
|            | Tamworth Services Club – 12.30pm, for 1pm               |                                 |              |
| 26 Sep Fri | End of School Term 3                                    |                                 |              |



**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: 17<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$ 1,620.35

Planned Giving \$ 1,273.00

Loose \$ 258.95

\$ 1,531.95

*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 – 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: To be appointed

Ex Min: Jennifer Hatfield Music: St Nicholas Choir

Altar Servers: Charlie Dunst, Harry Dowsett,

Callum Buckman, Emmett Buckman

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: To be appointed

Ex Min: Maria Lincoln

Altar Servers: Jason/Charles Igbenije, Will Nguyen, Ryan Pham

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

## 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.

A black jacket (longer style, Size L) has been found in the church. Please contact the Parish Office if you are the owner. Thank you!

**WEEKLY ROSTER – 30/31 August 2025**

**St Nicholas’ Saturday 6pm**

C: Kerrie Ackhurst G/R1: Pauline Skewes

G/R2: Hallie Buckman

Ex Min: Leonie Hansen

Music: Noel Greacen

Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

**St Mary’s Sunday 7.30am**

C: John Wallace G/R1: Brian Thompson G/R2: Judy Scott

Ex Min: Cheryl Higgins

Music: Grant Quinn

Altar Servers: Will Nguyen

Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

**St Nicholas’ Sunday 9.30am**

C: Maria Gruer G/R1: Mick Larkin G/R2: Gemma Moy

Ex Min: Anne Bowden/Maria Lincoln

Altar Servers: Harry Dowsett/Isaac Hetherington

Music: St Nicholas Choir

Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

**St Nicholas’ Sunday 5.30pm YOUTHMASS**

C: Youth G/R1: Youth G/R2: Youth

Ex Min: Volunteer

Music: Henry Buckman

Altar Servers: Callum and Emmett Buckman

Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Brian Thompson/Bill Higgins

Altar Linen: Rosemary Kinsela

Sacristy Cleaning: Marie Rice/Gemma & Michael Moy

Candelabrum: Brian Thompson 31/08/25-06/09/25

**BAPTISMS:** Please pray for **Sophie Swain** who is receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend. May God always bless and watch over her.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** We pray for the blessed repose of the souls of **Pat Wall, Terry Dean, John Gray** and **Terry Mooney**. 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), Bill Dennis.

“Jesus showed us a model of human holiness that we can all imitate, together with the promise of an eternal destiny that transcends all our limits and abilities.”

~ Pope Leo XIV



*Congratulations  
to the young people in  
our parish celebrating  
the Sacrament of  
Confirmation  
this weekend.*