

GOSPEL

Lk 14:1, 7-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All who exalt themselves shall be humbled and all who humble themselves shall be exalted.

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

MEAL-TEACHINGS

Today's opening Gospel verse sets the scene for what will unfold. It is a Sabbath, a day of rest when Israelites emulate the action of God in the creation story in Genesis 1. A meal now provides this for Jesus. What follows is in two parts.

The first is an analysis of social structure and hierarchy in Luke's day. Jesus notices how some presume to sit in the places of honour. They presume entitlement. We are in a world where one of the most important social dynamics concerns the importance of 'honour' and 'shame.' Honour is a publicly recognised value by which people are confirmed or grow in their social standing; shame is its antithesis. Honour is a limited commodity which is either inherited or acquired. Those who 'shame' another grow in honour. Luke's Jesus uses this social dynamic to reflect on self-exaltation and humility: 'Those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted'.

The second part of today's Gospel further explores what happens at meals. The common expectation would be to host a meal with one's friends and people of similar social standing. Jesus upends such meal etiquette. Rather than inviting social equals he encourages meal invitees to be the poor and those from the lower echelons. Payment for such graciousness will occur in the time of resurrection. These meal-teachings from Luke's day, of humility and welcoming of the poor, continue to speak to us today.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

31 AUGUST 2025

FIRST READING

Sir 3:17-20, 28-29

A reading from the book of Sirach

Humble yourself and you will find favour with the Lord.

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business,
and you will be better loved than a lavish giver.

The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly,
and then you will find favour with the Lord;
for great though the power of the Lord is,
he accepts the homage of the humble.
There is no cure for the proud man's malady,
since an evil growth has taken root in him.
The heart of a sensible man will reflect on parables,
an attentive ear is the sage's dream.

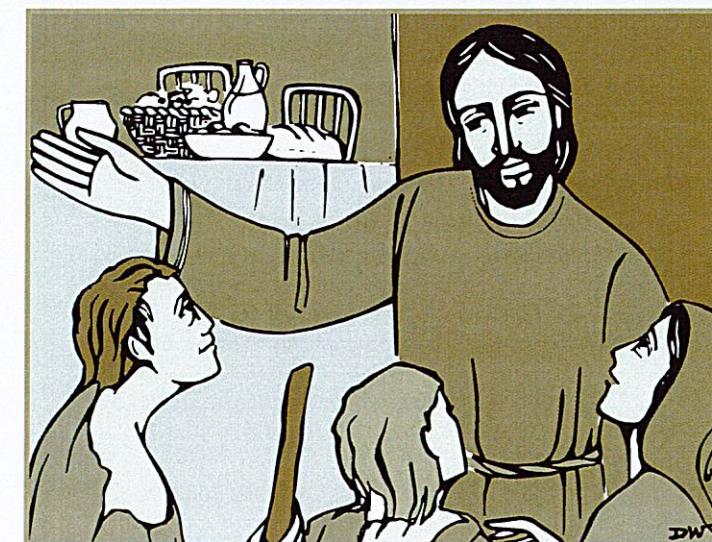
■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 67:4-7, 10-11. R. cf. v. 11

R. God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

1. The just shall rejoice at the presence of God, / they shall exult and dance for joy. / O sing to the Lord, make music to his name; / rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence. **R.**
2. Father of the orphan, defender of the widow, / such is God in his holy place. / God gives the lonely a home to live in; / he leads the prisoners forth into freedom. **R.**
3. You poured down, O God, a generous rain: / when your people were starved you gave them new life. / It was there that your people found a home, / prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor. **R.**



SECOND READING

Heb 12:18-19, 22-24

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God.

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no more should be said to them. But what you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a 'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 11:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

Take my yoke upon you;
learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.
Alleluia!

*Welcome to
St Nicholas' Catholic Parish,
Tamworth
for the
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Social Justice Sunday*

31st August 2025

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

Parish 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: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

COMMUNION: How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

‘TAKING THE LOWER PLACE.’ In today’s Gospel Jesus offers some wise advice on table etiquette. For Luke, the story has implications for the relationship of the rich to the poor who gather for the Eucharistic banquet. Only if all members are treated with equal dignity can it truly be called the Lord’s Supper. Parishes prosper when all are treated equally regardless of how much each can put on the collection plate.

Psalter Week 2

Monday 01/09 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
1 Thess 4:13-18: Ps 95:1, 3, 5, 11-13: Lk 4:16-30:

Tuesday 02/09 St Mary’s Mass 9am
1 Thess 5:1-6, 9-11: Ps 26:1, 4, 13-14: Lk 4:31-37:

Wednesday 03/09 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
St Gregory the Great, pope, doctor
Col 1:1-8: Ps 51:10-11: Lk 4:38-44:

Thursday 04/09 St Mary’s Mass 9am
Col 1:9-14: Ps 97:2-6: Lk 5:1-11:

Friday 05/09 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
Col 1:15-20: Ps 99:2-5: Lk 5:33-39:

Saturday 06/09 St Nicholas’ Mass 9am
Col 1:21-23: Ps 53:3-4, 6, 8: Lk 6:1-5:
Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 07/09 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.

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

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’

19 Sep Fri YOUTH GROUP 7-8.45pm, Outdoor Function Area

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

26 Sep Fri Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St Nicholas’
- followed by a light supper

27 Sep Sat Men’s Breakfast 7am St Nicholas’
Outdoor Function Area

28 Sep Sun Migrant and Refugee Sunday
Mass 9.30am, St Nicholas’ Church
Followed by sharing of food & friendship in the Outdoor Function Area



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: 24th August 2025

1 st Collection	\$ 1,930.30
Planned Giving	\$ 2,078.00
Loose	\$ 321.20
	\$ 2,399.20

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 FAMILY MASS
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 YOUTILMASS
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

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.

Also, the two lady’s rings found in the church are still waiting to be claimed! Thank you!

WEEKLY ROSTER – 06/07 September 2025

St Nicholas’ Saturday 6pm
C: Leonie Hansen G/R1: Belinda Tyrrell
G/R2: Cate Allen
Ex Min: Paul McDougall Music: Noel Greacen
Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary’s Sunday 7.30am
C: Alex Knight G/R1: Sue O’Halloran G/R2: John Murphy
Ex Min: Kevin McMahon Music: Grant Quinn
Altar Servers: Will Nguyen
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas’ Sunday 9.30am
C: Denise Fitzgerald G/R1: Gina Mahony
G/R2: Brian Lincoln
Ex Min: Laura Hughes/Jennifer Hatfield
Altar Servers: Amanda Nweke/Ryan Pham
Music: St Nicholas Choir
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas’ Sunday 5.30pm
C: Judy Campbell G/R1: John Clery
G/R2: Henry Buckman
Ex Min: Terry Dries Music: Veronica Frost
Altar Servers: Hallie Buckman/Evangelyn Nijo
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Gary Bryant/Andrew McGuirk
Altar Linen: Lynne Prisk

Sacristy Cleaning: Lynne & Peter Prisk

Candelabrum: John Wallace 07/09/25-13/09/25

RECENTLY DECEASED: We pray for the blessed repose of the souls of **Terry Mooney, Shirley Smith, and Constance “Connie” Maher.** 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 Hum (Singleton), Carmel Bennett (Gladstone), Deborah Murphy (Forbes), Bill Dennis.

“The past is no longer yours; the future is not in your power. You have only the present wherein to do good.” ~ St Alphonsus Mary de Liguori



‘For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.’