

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 14:25-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, 'Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish.' Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

What is the 'cost' of being a disciple? What will it require? These questions are addressed in today's Gospel. Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem where suffering and death await. He is accompanied by a crowd of people. They, too, are on the 'way'—the earliest expression used of Jesus' followers who, according to Luke in the Acts of the Apostles, are named people of 'The Way' (Acts 9.2f).

It is clear from Jesus' teaching that discipleship will not be easy. We have met this theme already back in August, on the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, when Jesus spoke of the tensions that would arise within households where committed disciples lived. In today's passage, this household division is even more dramatically described. Disciples' relationship to Jesus must trump every other. The word which Luke uses is 'hate'. Disciples must 'hate' parents and siblings. The language of Luke's day employed superlatives and exaggerated speech to make a point. So, the disciple is not to literally 'hate' family members, but the 'hate' expression is a reminder that following Jesus will come at a cost. This cost requires commitment and needs calculation.

This is the point of the two examples which conclude the Gospel: calculation is needed in building materials or the chances of victory in battle. The final note the passage ends on is one of Luke's favourite themes: Disciples must not be possessed by possessions. The disciple must be free, of wealth and even relationships that hinder communion with Jesus.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

7 SEPTEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Wis 9:13-18

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Who can comprehend the will of the Lord?

'What man can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind.

It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth,

laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?

As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 89:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v. 1

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

1. You turn men back into dust / and say: 'Go back, sons of men.' / To your eyes a thousand years / are like yesterday, come and gone, / no more than a watch in the night. **R.**

2. You sweep men away like a dream, / like grass which springs up in the morning. / In the morning it springs up and flowers: / by evening it withers and fades. **R.**

3. Make us know the shortness of our life / that we may gain wisdom of heart. / Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? / Show pity to your servants. **R.**

4. In the morning, fill us with your love; / we shall exult and rejoice all our days. / Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: / give success to the work of our hands. **R.**



SECOND READING

Philem 9-10, 12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon

Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear brother.

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

■ The word of the Lord.

Welcome to
St Nicholas' Catholic Parish,
Tamworth
for the
Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Father's Day

7th September 2025

Fr Christopher Onuekwusi – Parish Priest
Fr Clarence Canafe – 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

Parish 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: You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

COMMUNION: Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

‘PUT JESUS FIRST.’ It is somewhat shocking to hear Jesus say, ‘Whoever comes to me without hating (family members) cannot be my disciple’. Jesus is using hyperbole to stress that we must give first place to following him. If that puts us in conflict with our family, we must choose Jesus. Thankfully, most of us don’t face such a conflict. We can rejoice in God and in family, as Paul does in today’s Second Reading.

Psalter Week 3	
Monday 08/09	St Nicholas’ Mass 7am The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Micah 5:1-4: or Rom 8:28-30: Ps 12:6-7: Mt 1:1-16, 18-23:
Tuesday 09/09	St Mary’s Mass 9am Col 2:6-15: Ps 144:1-2, 8-11: Lk 6:12-19:
Wednesday 10/09	St Nicholas’ Mass 7am Col 3:1-11: Ps 144:2-3, 10-13: Lk 6:20-26:
Thursday 11/09	St Mary’s Mass 9am Col 3:12-17: Ps 150:1-6: Lk 6:27-38:
Friday 12/09	St Nicholas’ Mass 7am 1 Tim 1:1-2, 12-14: Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-8, 11: Lk 6:39-42:
Saturday 13/09	St Nicholas’ Mass 9am St John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor 1 Tim 1:15-17: Ps 112:1-7: Lk 6:43-49: Vigil Mass 6pm
Sunday 14/09	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 this Bulletin, after the Communion Antiphon. You are encouraged to reflect on this every week.

PARISH EVENTS – for the month ahead			
07 Sep	Sun	<i>Father's Day</i>	
09 Sep	Tue	St Nicholas Seniors West Diggers, Kable Avenue	10.30am for morning tea,
10 Sep	Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30- 11.30am St. Nicholas’
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	
17 Sep	Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30- 11.30am St. Nicholas’
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 hosted by the Men’s Breakfast Group	St Nicholas’
23 Sep	Tue	St Nicholas Seniors West Diggers, Kable Avenue	11.30am for lunch,
24 Sep	Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30- 11.30am St. Nicholas’
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 - followed by a light supper	6-7pm St Nicholas’
27 Sep	Sat	Men’s Breakfast Outdoor Function Area	7am St Nicholas’
28 Sep	Sun	<i>Migrant and Refugee Sunday</i> Mass 9.30am, St Nicholas’ Church Followed by sharing of food & friendship in the Outdoor Function Area	
03 Oct	Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm St. Nicholas’
04 Oct	Sat	Anointing of the Sick during the 9am Mass	St Nicholas’
04 Oct	Sat	Silent Adoration	4-5.30pm St Nicholas’
07 Oct	Tue	‘Petitions’ Rosary	12.15pm St Nicholas’

		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: 31st August 2025 1 st Collection \$ 1,855.30 Planned Giving \$ 2,133.00 Loose \$ 305.50 \$ 2,438.50		

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.

“Start being brave about everything, driving out darkness and spreading light as well. Don’t look at your weakness, but realize that in Christ crucified you can do everything.”
~ St Catherine of Siena

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
Children’s Liturgy: Linda/Alison
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

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!

ANNIVERSARIES – September
Joan Abbott, John Anderson, Fay Betts, Morris Blomquist, John Booby, Adrian Brazier, Anthony Brown, Lorraine Burgmann, Deborah Byrnes, Sidney Canu, Nanette Carroll, Norman Caslick, Francis Caulfield, Cecilia Chapman, Mary Chapman, Geoffrey Cluff, Marie Cooper, Chloe Coss, Richard Cox, Cecil Coyle, Alan Cracknell, Thomas Daley, Mark Davies, Mary Doyle, Margaret Elliott, Lorna Epps, Kathleen Follington, Betty Garrett, Allan Giles, Arthur (Clive) Graham, Anthony Graham, Catherine Griffiths, Wendy Gunn, Terrence Halcroft, Shirley Hawkins, Michael Hill, Cherie Hunter, Henry Hyson, Benjamin Jackson, Phyllis Jackson, Agnes Jamieson, Vincent Jankowski, Martha Johnson, Suzi Jow, Leslie Kennedy, Dorothy Layton, Ethel Luckett, Carmel Lynch, Colin McCarter, James McCormack, John McDonald, Kenneth McNamara, Antonio Manconi, Nancy Meehan, John (Jack) Mullins, James Murray, Brian Nash, Phillip Nolan, Patrick Norman, Pieter Oeljee, Wayne Pullman, Myra Ransay, Melanie Rapley, Giorgio Rindo, Bruce Rogers, Barbara Scott, Pierre Sobbel, Harold (Harry) Tolman, Zola Wainwright, Colin Watson, Iris White.

May they rest in peace

Please note: Silent Adoration will now be held in St Nicholas’ Church every Wednesday between 10.30-11.30am.

WEEKLY ROSTER – 13/14 September 2025
St Nicholas’ Saturday 6pm
C: Cate Allen G/R1: Eil Smyth G/R2: Pauline Skewes
Ex Min: Kerrie Ackhurst Music: Noel Greacen
Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne
St Mary’s Sunday 7.30am
C: Julie McGuirk G/R1: Grace Knight G/R2: Alex Knight
Ex Min: John Wallace Music: Grant Quinn
Altar Servers: Will Nguyen
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas’ Sunday 9.30am [**Vinnies Festival Mass**](#)
C: SVdP member
G/R1: Jennifer Burton G/R2: Paul McDougall
Prayers of the Faithful: Regional Council Members
Offertory: Regional Council members
Children’s Liturgy: Louise/Janine/Felicita
Ex Min: Maria Lincoln/Alison Hamilton
Altar Servers: Abigail Nweke/Jason/Charles Igbenije
Music: St Nicholas Choir
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas’ Sunday 5.30pm
C: Hallie Buckman G/R1: Miriam Redolfi
G/R2: Renee Dunst
Ex Min: Claire Doherty Music: Veronica Frost
Altar Servers: Charlie Dunst/Kyra Akers-Gibbons
Collection: Volunteers
Counting Team: Cecilia Dries/Anne Jones
Altar Linen: Mena Clery
Sacristy Cleaning: St Nicholas Women Connecting
Candelabrum: Peter Virgin 14/09/25-20/09/25

BAPTISMS: Please pray for **Nicole Hooker** and **Mitchell Flanagan** who are receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend. May the Lord’s blessings be poured upon them.

CONGRATULATIONS: We warmly welcome **Quinn** and **Minerva Leabon**, who are receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist this weekend, and **Chiara** and **Davina Leabon**, who are being Confirmed. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their journey in faith.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Mounir Mouawad** and **Bakhos, Rosa and Joe Sleiman**.

RECENTLY DECEASED: We pray for the blessed repose of the souls of **Shirley Smith, Constance “Connie” Maher** and **Kevin Welsh**. 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), Deborah Murphy (Forbes), Bill Dennis.



Today, we celebrate all the Fathers in our parish, recognizing their strengths, love, and faith as a reflection of God's own Fatherly heart. Thank you for the guidance, support, and love you provide to your families. May God bless you all abundantly.