

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because by your cross you have redeemed
the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 3: 13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.

The Son of Man must be lifted up.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

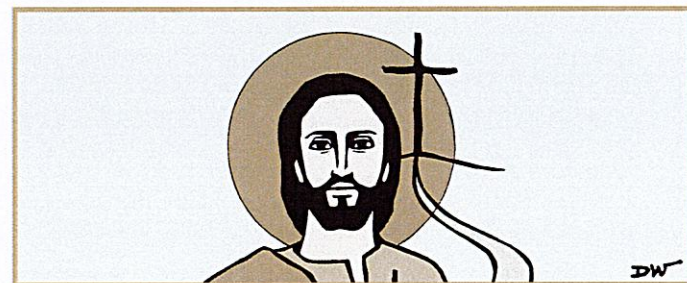
‘No one has gone up to heaven
except the one who came down from heaven,
the Son of Man who is in heaven;
and the Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have
eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may
not be lost

but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be
saved.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word

LIFTED UP

Today's Feast moves us away from our usual
journey through Luke's Gospel. Instead,
our focus is with John's Gospel. We are
in a different world. John 3 concerns the
engagement which Jesus has with Nicodemus,
a Jewish leader and, as we learn at the
Gospel's end, a potential disciple. In this
chapter, the evangelist seeks to reflect upon
Jesus' origins. John affirms that Jesus, God's
Word and source of Wisdom, is from God.
He 'came down from Heaven'. Jesus is God's
exalted heavenly and human presence. He will
be 'lifted up', that is, in John's story of Jesus'
passion and death, he will be 'lifted up' on the
cross and will be 'lifted up' in exaltation by
the Father in resurrection. Jesus' death is also
his exaltation.

In today's Gospel, the evangelist draws on the
imagery of the fashioned bronze serpent that
Moses 'lifts up', that we hear today in the first
reading from the *Book of Numbers*. The serpent
figure rescues the suffering Israelites. For
John, this, too, is Jesus' quest: to rescue and
bring eternal life to suffering humanity. John's
passage exudes hope and divine communion
with humanity and creation. God loves the
'cosmos' so much that God's very being and
expression in the Word, Jesus, suffers for it.
This word, 'cosmos', comprises the whole of
creation, including humanity.

Palpable optimism permeates this Gospel
passage. For John, God wants nothing or
anyone to be 'lost'. All are found in the Word
enfleshed in Jesus. God's community with
creation and humanity is sealed and eternal.
This is such a rich Gospel for today's Feast.
Every line deserves meditation.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS / C

14 SEPTEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Num 21: 4-9

A reading from the book of Numbers.

*When those that were afflicted looked upon it, they
were healed.*

On the way through the wilderness, the
Israelites lost patience. They spoke against
God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring
us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For
there is neither bread nor water here: we are
sick of this unsatisfying food.'

At this God sent fiery serpents among the
people; their bite brought death to many in
Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We
have sinned by speaking against the Lord and
against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to
save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded
for the people, and the Lord answered him,
'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard.
If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall
live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent
which he put on a standard, and if anyone was
bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze
serpent and lived.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 77: 1-2, 34-38. R. v. 7

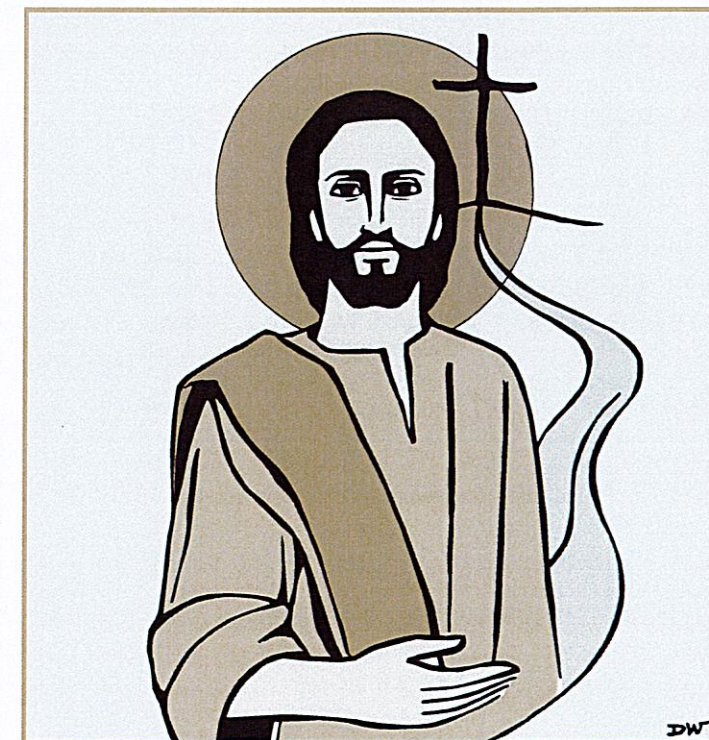
R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!

1. Give heed, my people, to my teaching; /
turn your ear to the words of my mouth /
I will open my mouth in a parable / and reveal
hidden lessons of the past. **R.**

2. When he slew them then they would seek
him, / return and seek him in earnest. / They
would remember that God was their rock, /
God the Most High their redeemer. **R.**

3. But the words they spoke were mere
flattery; / they lied to him with their lips. / For
their hearts were not truly with him; / they
were not faithful to his covenant. **R.**

4. Yet he who is full of compassion / forgave
their sin and spared them. / So often he held
back his anger / when he might have stirred up
his rage. **R.**



SECOND READING

Phil 2: 6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians.

He humbled himself, therefore God has exalted him.

The state of Jesus Christ was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the
underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

■ The word of the Lord.

*Welcome to
St Nicholas' Catholic Parish,
Tamworth
for the
Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
+ Exaltation of the Holy Cross +
Safeguarding Sunday*

14th 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/Fri 9-5pm Pauline Skewes Thurs 9-1pm

Parish 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: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

COMMUNION: How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

‘PARABLES OF MERCY.’ The parables in today’s Gospel all speak of the mercy of God. When we stray from the right path, God comes looking for us, not to condemn us but to offer us forgiveness. If we are contrite, God will lift us up and carry us back to the community, as a shepherd carries a stray sheep back to the flock. What great rejoicing there will be in our reunion with God and with the community.

Psalter Week 4

Monday 15/09 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
Our Lady of Sorrows

Heb 5:7-9: Ps 30:2-6, 15-16, 20: Jn 19:25-27: or Lk 2:33-35:

Tuesday 16/09 St Mary's Mass 9am
Saints Cornelius, pope, martyr, and St Cyprian, bishop, martyr
1 Tim 3:1-13: Ps 100:1-3, 5, 6: Lk 7:11-17:

Wednesday 17/09 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
1 Tim 3:14-16: Ps 110:1-6: Lk 7:31-35:

Thursday 18/09 St Mary's Mass 9am
1 Tim 4:12-16: Ps 110:7-10: Lk 7:36-50:

Friday 19/09 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
1 Tim 6:2-12: Ps 48:6-10, 17-20: Lk 8:1-3:

Saturday 20/09 St Nicholas' Mass 9am
Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon, priest, martyr,
Paul Chong Ha-sang & companions, martyrs
1 Tim 6:13-16: Ps 99: Lk 8:4-15:
Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 21/09 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.

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

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

14 Sep Sun St Vincent de Paul 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 NO Silent Adoration [Kevin Welsh Funeral]

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 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 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
All welcome to attend, and meet our parishioners from other cultures.

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'

08 Oct Wed Silent Adoration 10.30- 11.30am St. Nicholas'

10 Oct Fri Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St Nicholas'

13 Oct Mon Start of School Term 4

14 Oct Tue St Nicholas Seniors 10.30am for morning tea,
West Diggers, Kable Avenue

15 Oct Wed Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am St. Nicholas'

We warmly welcome Fr Clarence to our Parish (now that his feet have managed to hit the ground). We offer our prayers and support for a fruitful pastoral journey, and we hope he enjoys his time here with us.



Parish Garage Sale:
Saturday 25th October
10am – 12noon
In the Presbytery carpark -
make an offer!

Appreciation Dinner:

Wednesday 26th November 6pm for 6.30pm
North Tamworth Bowling Club, corner Bligh and Piper Streets, North Tamworth.

Parish Christmas Party:

Sunday 7th December 11am start
McCarthy Catholic College Hall

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.

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 St Vincent de Paul Festival Mass

C: Patrick Mahony

G/R1: Jennifer Burton G/R2: Paul McDougall

Prayers of the Faithful: Anne Scott

Offertory: Paul Crayn/Kevin McMahon

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: Henry Buckman

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 Virgen 14/09/25-20/09/25

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: 7th September 2025

1st Collection \$ 1,321.05

Planned Giving \$ 1,903.00

Loose \$ 365.45

\$ 2,268.45



Adoration – St Nicholas' Church

The Rosary and Silent Adoration after the 7am Mass – from 7.30am – 8am every Monday

Silent Adoration every Wednesday 10-30am-11.30am
(NB: time may be subject to change)

Eucharistic Adoration every Friday 6pm-7pm

Silent Adoration on the 1st Saturday of each month - 4pm - 5.30pm

Fr Chris will be hosting an **Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday 26th November at the North Tamworth Bowling Club**, for members of our Parish Choir & Musicians, Finance Council, Parish Pastoral Council, Office Staff, Readers, Commentators, Sacristans, Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Communion (including those who take Communion to those outside of Mass), Collection Wardens, Money counters, Sacristy & Sanctuary cleaners, Catechists, parishioners who look after the Candelabrum & Altar linen, Marriage Preparation Instructors, Gardeners, Altar decorators & members of the Children's Liturgy Group. Those who wish to attend please RSVP by **Friday 31st October**. Please phone the Parish Office on 67662228 or email stnicholasparish@armidale.catholic.org.au **Thank you!**

WEEKLY ROSTER – 20/21 September 2025

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm

C: Eil Smyth G/R1: Kerry Ackhurst G/R2: Hallie Buckman

Ex Min: Cate Allen Music: Noel Greacen

Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am

C: Sue O'Halloran G/R1: Bernadette Virgen

G/R2: Lorraine Bryant

Ex Min: Grant Quinn Music: Grant Quinn

Altar Servers: Will Nguyen

Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am

C: Gemma Moy

G/R1: Alison Hamilton G/R2: Ben Lamey

Children's Liturgy: Steph/Danae

Ex Min: Fiona Downey/Volunteer

Altar Servers: Sophie Dowsett/Dominic Vinod

Music: St Nicholas Choir

Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm

C: Henry Buckman G/R1: Judy Campbell

G/R2: Carol Wheaton

Ex Min: John Clery Music: Henry Buckman

Altar Servers: Ethan Nijo/Hallie Buckman

Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Brian & Maria Lincoln

Altar Linen: Vivienne Mundy

Sacristy Cleaning: Beth & John Ryan/Bruce Stewart

Candelabrum: Bruce Stewart 21/09/25-27/09/25

BAPTISMS: Please pray for **James and Kaitlyn Rudd** who are receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend. May God's love be with them throughout their lives.

RECENTLY DECEASED: We pray for the blessed repose of the souls of **Kevin Welsh** and **Allan Russell**. May God grant them eternal rest and peace.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Loreta Tiong, recently deceased.

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, Maddy Anderson (Sydney).

“In difficult moments, I will fix my gaze upon the silent heart of Jesus stretched on the Cross, and from the exploding flames of His merciful heart, will flow down upon me power and strength to keep fighting.”

~ St. Faustina

