

GOSPEL

Lk 17:5-10

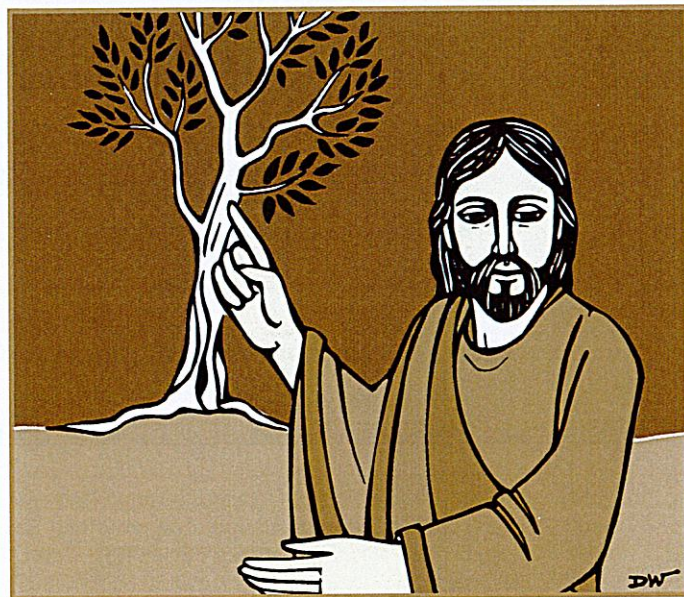
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

If you had faith!

The Apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you.

'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal immediately"? Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards"? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, "We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty."'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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Breaking Open the Word

MERELY SERVANTS

There are two parts to today's Gospel. The first concerns faith. The apostles ask Jesus to 'increase their faith'. His response is not about making faith quantifiable but about allowing it to be active—no matter how limited one's faith seems to be. Faith makes what seems impossible (requesting a tree to be uprooted and planted in the ocean) possible. The imagery that Jesus uses accentuates the real nature of faith and assures Gospel listeners that faith helps disciples to act with confidence and see unimaginable possibilities for their lives with God.

This affirmation connects to the second part of today's proclamation. It is about acting with a spirit of humility, rather than from high status and arrogance. The final words of the Gospel – 'We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty'—invites Luke's audience, and ourselves, to see that our conduct in fidelity to God is what is important, not how we are promoted or regarded differentially by others. The saying that exemplifies Luke's portrait of Jesus, as 'one who came to serve and not be served' encourages his disciples, seduced by status, to live similarly, 'rather than be served'.

This reversal of social expectation and status seeking is difficult in a world which promotes a popularity founded on worldliness, status seeking and entitlement.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

5 OCTOBER 2025

FIRST READING

Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4

A reading from the prophet Habakkuk

The just will live by faithfulness.

How long, Lord, am I to cry for help while you will not listen; to cry 'Oppression!' in your ear and you will not save? Why do you set injustice before me, why do you look on where there is tyranny? Outrage and violence, this is all I see, all is contention, and discord flourishes. Then the Lord answered and said,

'Write the vision down,
inscribe it on tablets
to be easily read,
since this vision is for its own time only:
eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive;
if it comes slowly, wait,
for come it will, without fail.
See how he flags, he whose soul is not at rights,
but the upright man will live by his
faithfulness.'

■ The word of the Lord.

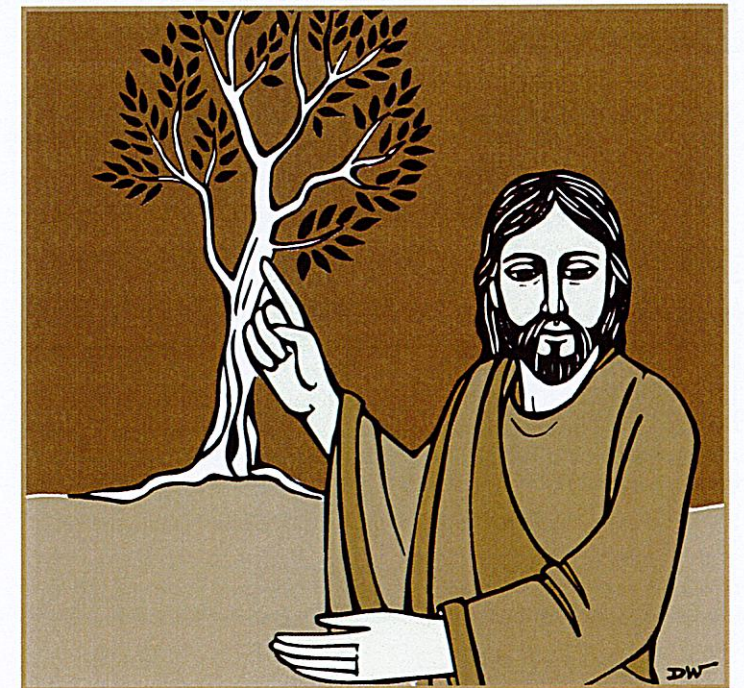
RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 8

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail the rock who saves us. / Let us come before him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; / let us kneel before the God who made us / for he is our God and we / the people who belong to his pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! / 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as on that day at Massah in the desert / when your fathers put me to the test; / when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

**SECOND READING**

2 Tim 1:6-8, 13-14

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

Never be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord.

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God.

Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Pet 1:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of the Lord stands for ever:
it is the word given to you, the Good News.
Alleluia!

*Welcome to
St Nicholas' Catholic Parish,
Tamworth
for the
Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

5th October 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: Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

COMMUNION: The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

‘DOING OUR DUTY.’ Advertisements sometimes suggest that our lives should be always fun-filled, exciting and glamorous. For most of the time, however, our lives have a mundane character – doing our daily chores, caring for our loved ones, going to work. By faithfully attending to these tasks, we express our belief that the sacred is present in the ordinary, that our simple acts are precious to God.

Psalter Week 3

Monday 06/10 St Nicholas' Mass 9am
Public Holiday

Jonah 1:1-2:1, 11: Jonah 2:3-5, 8: Lk 10:25-37:

Tuesday 07/10 St Mary's Mass 9am

Our Lady of the Rosary (Patroness of Diocese)

Jonah 3:1-10: Ps 129:1-4, 7-8: Lk 10:38-42:

Wednesday 08/10 St Nicholas' 7am

Jonah 4:1-11: Ps 85:3-6, 9-10: Lk 11:1-4:

Thursday 09/10 St Mary's Mass 9am

Mal 3:13-20: Ps 1: Lk 11:5-13:

Friday 10/10 St Nicholas' Mass 7am

Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2: Ps 9:2-3, 6, 16, 8-9: Lk 11:15-26:

Saturday 11/10 St Nicholas' Mass 9am

Joel 4:12-21: Ps 96:1-2, 5-6, 11-12: Lk 11:27-28:

Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 12/10 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.

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 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: 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.

PARISH EVENTS – for the month ahead

05 Oct Sun Daylight Saving commences – 3am AEDT- clocks forward

06 Oct Mon Labour Day ≧ Public Holiday ≦

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'

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

19 Oct Sun + Mission Sunday + World Mission Appeal – All Masses

19 Oct Sun Birthday Blessing – All Masses

19 Oct Sun Morning Tea after the 9.30am Mass St Nicholas'
hosted by the St Vincent de Paul Society groups

21 Oct Tue St Nicholas Women Connecting – meet at Tamworth City
Bowling Club at 5.30pm for 6pm dinner

22 Oct Wed Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'

22 Oct Wed The Catholic Ladies – Lunch in the Russell Room at the
Tamworth Services Club – 12.30pm, for 1pm

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

25 Oct Sat Men's Breakfast 7am St Nicholas'
Outdoor Function Area

25 Oct Sat Parish Garage Sale - Presbytery carpark – 10am-12noon
★ make an offer! Proceeds to the Parish! ★

28 Oct Tue St Nicholas Seniors 11.30am for lunch,
West Diggers, Kable Avenue

29 Oct Wed Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'

31 Oct Fri Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St Nicholas'
Followed by a light supper in the Parish Meeting Room

01 Nov Sat ALL SAINTS DAY

01 Nov Sat Anointing of the Sick during the 9am Mass St Nicholas'

01 Nov Sat Silent Adoration 4-5.30pm St Nicholas'

02 Nov Sun ALL SOULS DAY

04 Nov Tue 'Petitions' Rosary 12.15pm St Nicholas'

05 Nov Wed Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'

★ Coming Up ★

**Appreciation Dinner for All
Volunteers & Staff:**

Wednesday 26th November – 6pm
for 6.30pm. Venue yet to be finalised.

RSVP: 31 October 2025



Parish Christmas Party:

Sunday 7th December – 11am start
McCarthy Catholic College Hall

All parishioners of all ages are invited to a rosary procession by candlelight to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The event will be coordinated by the Frassati Society and will be on Fri 17 October at 7.30pm at Nazareth House chapel. Please see the leaflet at the back of the church, or phone Tammy on 0459784171.



Volunteer Call-out

The Parish is in need of Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at all Masses, as soon as possible. If you would like to be involved in this Ministry, please contact Fr Chris or the Parish Office – it will be necessary to do a short session with Fr Chris before your commencement.
Thank you!



October is the month of the Holy Rosary. The month serves as a special time for the faithful to pray the Rosary, meditating on the life of Jesus through the mysteries, and seeking Mary's intercession for the Church and the world.

WEEKLY ROSTER – 04/05 October 2025

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm

C: Belinda Tyrrell G/R1: Kerry Ackhurst

G/R2: Leonie Hansen

Ex Min: Paul McDougall

Music: Noel Greacen

Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am

C: Brian Thompson G/R1: Joan Newley

G/R2: Julie McGuirk

Ex Min: Karen King

Music: Grant Quinn

Altar Servers: Will Nguyen

Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am

C: Esther Nweke G/R1: Marie Rice G/R2: Maria Lincoln

Ex Min: Volunteer/Volunteer

Altar Servers: Dominic Vinod/Ryan Pham

Music: St Nicholas Choir

Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm

C: Terry Dries G/R1: Claire Doherty G/R2: Marilyn Gaffney

Ex Min: Carol Wheaton

Music: Veronica Frost

Altar Servers: Callum Buckman/Kyra Akers-Gibbons

Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Ted Heazlett/Bruce Stewart

Altar Linen: Kate Stewart

Sacristy Cleaning: Marie Rice/Gemma & Michael Moy

Candelabrum: Brian Lincoln 05/10/25-11/10/25

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: 28th September 2025

1st Collection \$ 1,517.90

Planned Giving \$ 1,628.00

Loose \$ 337.35

\$ 1,965.35

St Brigid's Deanery Jubilee Day

St Brigid's Parish in Quirindi is holding the **Miniature Cathedral Pilgrimage on Wednesday 15 October 2025**, commencing with Holy Rosary at 9am, Holy Hour & Adoration at 9.30am and Holy Mass at 11am. There is an explanation of the Miniature Cathedral 11.45am.

At 12.15pm, a light luncheon will be held in the Fr Stan Campbell Parish Hall. **If you wish to attend the luncheon, please RSVP to quirindiparish@armidale.catholic.org.au before 08 October.**

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 – 11/12 October 2025

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm

C: Kerry Ackhurst G/R1: Giovanna McDougall

G/R2: Belinda Tyrrell

Ex Min: Leonie Hansen

Music: Noel Greacen

Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am

C: Lorraine Bryant G/R1: Judy Scott

G/R2: Cheryl Higgins

Ex Min: John Wallace

Music: Grant Quinn

Altar Servers: Will Nguyen

Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am

C: Gina Mahony G/R1: Timothy Igbenije

G/R2: Helen Rowsell

Ex Min: Maria Lincoln/Alison Hamilton

Altar Servers: Isaac Hetherington/Ryan Pham

Music: St Nicholas Choir

Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm

C: Cecilia Dries G/R1: Renee Dunst G/R2: Miriam Redolfi

Ex Min: Paul Hagley

Music: Henry Buckman

Altar Servers: Hallie Buckman/Charlie Dunst

Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Paul & Giovanna McDougall

Altar Linen: Denise Fitzgerald

Sacristy Cleaning: Lynne & Peter Prisk

Candelabrum: Anne Jones 12/10/25-18/10/25

BAPTISM: Please pray for **Charlotte Herd** who is receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend. May God bless Charlotte and her family.

WEDDING: We congratulate **Raymond Nixon & Alice Woodhill** who celebrated Christian Marriage this week. We wish them a lifetime of faith, love and happiness.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: We pray for the repose of the souls of **Mounir Mouawad and Bakhos, Rosa & Joe Sleiman, Sister John Ogilvie McNally** (Hammersmith, UK), and **Virginia Cavallaro**, recently deceased. May they rest in God's 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 Mitchell, Julie Mitchell, 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), Sherree Haylock, Russell Smith.

“Faith alone is truly the substance and foundation of all that exceeds knowledge and understanding.”

~ St. Maximus the Confessor



**If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.**