

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Thess 5:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

For all things give thanks to God,
because this is what he expects of you in
Christ Jesus.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 17:11-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke.

*It seems that no one has returned to give thanks to
God except this foreigner.*

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him. They stood some way off and called to him, 'Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.' When he saw them he said, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' Now as they were going away they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. This made Jesus say, 'Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.' And he said to the man, 'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

THE CRY OF THE ABANDONED

In this very familiar Gospel story, often titled 'the healing of the ten lepers', Jesus is in an unholy and impure setting. He is travelling, as Luke notes, between the borders of Samaria and Galilee. In technical terms, this is a 'liminal' place. It is 'on the edge' between an area familiar to Jesus (Galilee) and one that is unfamiliar and even potentially dangerous (Samaria).

He enters a village. Jesus' generic placement (it is 'a' village, not a definitively named location) allows Luke's audience to see themselves in this situation. It is us as we move through life not knowing what awaits us. Jesus is approached by ten contaminating and impure characters. They are called 'lepers'; their leprosy is not our traditional Hansen's disease but a contagious skin condition. It has the potential to disrupt and contaminate the community.

As they distance themselves from Jesus they appeal: "Jesus, Master, have pity on us." The Greek literally reads, '...have *mercy* on us'. This is the cry of the abandoned who seek God's comforting presence. It is also our cry in desperate times. Jesus tells the ten to go to the priests, the officials that can declare their healed cleanliness. Only one returns to thank God's healing work revealed in Jesus. It is the unexpected one, the 'foreigner' that recognises God's action through Jesus, a theme that echoes throughout Luke. Today's Gospel invites us to look for God's actions in the most surprising places among God's most unexpected people. These become the sources of eucharistic thanksgiving.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

12 OCTOBER 2025

FIRST READING

2 Kings 5:14-17

A reading from the second book of the Kings
*Naaman returned to Elisha, the prophet, and
acknowledged the Lord.*

Naaman the leper went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, as Elisha had told him to do. And his flesh became clean once more like the flesh of a little child.

Returning to Elisha with his whole escort, he went in and stood before him. 'Now I know' he said 'that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel. Now, please, accept a present from your servant.' But Elisha replied, 'As the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will accept nothing.' Naaman pressed him to accept, but he refused. Then Naaman said, 'Since your answer is "No," allow your servant to be given as much earth as two mules may carry, because your servant will no longer offer holocaust or sacrifice to any god except the Lord.'

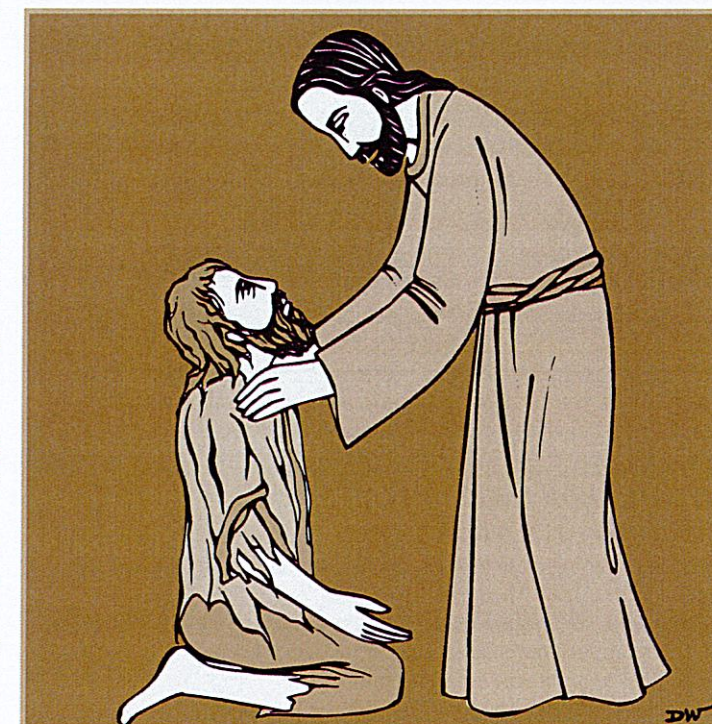
■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 97:1-4. R. cf. v. 2

**R. The Lord has revealed to the nations
his saving power.**

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy arm / have brought salvation. **R.**
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; / has shown his justice to the nations. / He has remembered his truth and love / for the house of Israel. **R.**
3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all the earth, / ring out your joy. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

2 Tim 2:8-13

A reading from the second letter of St Paul
to Timothy

If we hold firm, we shall reign with Christ.

Remember the Good News that I carry, 'Jesus Christ risen from the dead, sprung from the race of David'; it is on account of this that I have my own hardships to bear, even to being chained like a criminal – but they cannot chain up God's news. So I bear it all for the sake of those who are chosen, so that in the end they may have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus and the eternal glory that comes with it.

Here is a saying that you can rely on:

If we have died with him, then we shall live with him.

If we hold firm, then we shall reign with him.

If we disown him, then he will disown us.
We may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful,
for he cannot disown his own self.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

*Welcome to
St Nicholas' Catholic Parish,
Tamworth
for the
Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
12th 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: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

COMMUNION: The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

‘WE COME TO GIVE THANKS.’ After being cured by Jesus, nine lepers went immediately to show themselves to the temple priests in fulfilment of the law. Their primary concern was to satisfy legal requirements. Only one, a foreigner, thought first of thanking Jesus. Hopefully our primary purpose in coming to Sunday Mass is not to meet some legal requirement but to give thanks to God for the many blessings we have received in Christ and in the community.

Psalter Week 4

Monday 13/10 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
Rom 1:1-7: Ps 97:1-4: Lk 11:29-32:

Tuesday 14/10 St Mary's Mass 9am
Rom 1:16-25: Ps 18:2-5: Lk 11:37-41:

Wednesday 15/10 St Nicholas' 7am
St Teresa of Jesus, virgin, doctor
Rom 2:1-11: Ps 61:2-3, 6-7, 9: Lk 11:42-46:

Thursday 16/10 St Mary's Mass 9am
Rom 3:21-30: Ps 129:1-6: Lk 11:47-54:

Friday 17/10 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
St Ignatius of Antioch, bishop, martyr
Rom 4:1-8: Ps 31:1-2, 5, 11: Lk 12:1-7:

Saturday 18/10 St Nicholas' Mass 9am
St Luke, evangelist
2 Tim 4:10-17: Ps 144:10-13, 17-18: Lk 10:1-9:
Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 19/10 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

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'
18 Oct	Sat	Tamworth Mission – Mercy Night	St Nicholas' 7pm-9.30pm
19 Oct	Sun	+ Mission Sunday + World Mission Appeal – All Masses	
19 Oct	Sun	Birthday Blessing – All Masses	
19 Oct	Sun	Tamworth Youth Mission Retreat Day – students in Year 5 – Year 8	
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'
07 Nov	Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm St Nicholas'
11 Nov	Tue	St Nicholas Seniors	10.30am for morning tea, West Diggers, Kable Avenue
12 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

ROSARY BY CANDLELIGHT: 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 held 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.

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.



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.

If interested in being an Extra-Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion, please contact the Parish Office! Thank you!

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: Bernadette Virgen
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 Green
Sacristy Cleaning: Lynne & Peter Prisk
Candelabrum: Anne Jones 12/10/25-18/10/25

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: 5th October 2025
1st Collection \$ 1,354.48
Planned Giving \$ 3,193.00
Loose \$ 384.00
\$ 3,577.00

CONGRATULATIONS!

We wish to congratulate Fr Chris on the renewal of his tenure, for another six years, as Parish Priest of the St Nicholas' Parish and Administrator of the Dungowan Parish.

We take this opportunity to thank Fr Chris for his tireless service to our parish. May God continue to bless him with good health, stamina and wisdom as he continues in his role as our Pastor and Shepherd.

WEEKLY ROSTER – 18/19 October 2025

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm

C: Cate Allen G/R1: Sister of Nazareth G/R2: Eil Smyth
Ex Min: Kerry Ackhurst Music: Noel Greacen
Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am

C: Katrina Krogh G/R1: John Murphy
G/R2: Brian Thompson
Ex Min: Cheryl Higgins Music: Grant Quinn
Altar Servers: Will Nguyen
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am

C: Nicholas Nweke G/R1: Alison Hamilton
G/R2: Charli Manning
Ex Min: Laura Hughes/Jennifer Hatfield
Altar Servers: Amanda and Abigail Nweke
Music: St Nicholas Choir
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm

C: Claire Doherty G/R1: Paul Hagley G/R2: Alison Hagley
Ex Min: Henry Buckman Music: Henry Buckman
Altar Servers: Ethan Nijo/Kyra Akers-Gibbons
Collection: Volunteers
Counting Team: Brian Thompson/Bill Higgins
Altar Linen: Kerrie Bryant
Sacristy Cleaning: St Nicholas Women Connecting
Candelabrum: Ted & Bev Heazlett 19/10/25-25/10/25

BAPTISM: Please pray for **Paxton Gunter** who is receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend. May God bless Paxton and his family.

CONGRATULATIONS: We congratulate and warmly welcome **Brian Green** who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist and **Daniel Morris**, who is receiving Confirmation and First Eucharist this weekend. May God always guide and protect them.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Peter Maher** (Anniversary 12th October) and **Ray Gaffney** (Anniversary 14th October). May God grant them eternal rest and peace.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: We pray for the repose of the souls of **Mounir Mouawad** and **Bakhos, Rosa & Joe Sleiman**, and **Sister John Ogilvie McInally** (Hammersmith, UK), 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 Michell, Julie Michell, Judy Murphy, Rev. Jim Furze, Steve Tierney, Richard Noad, Pat & Tony Favell, Kay Mason, Doreen Eunson, Maureen White (Orange), Cornac Downes (Uralla), Michael Bryant, Sullivan Hurn (Singleton), Carmel Bennett (Gladstone), Deborah Murphy (Forbes), Bill Dennis, Maddy Anderson (Sydney), Sherree Haylock, Russell Smith.

“To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything.”
~ Thomas Merton

