

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Cor 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;

and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 18:9-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The publican returned to his home justified; the Pharisee did not.

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else. 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.****A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

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Breaking Open the Word

PONDERING OUR ATTITUDES

Today's Gospel presents us with a mirror to help us reflect on the way we regard others. It is especially pertinent when we feel assured that our religious attitude and approach to our Faith and God is correct. It is even possible that out of this attitude we can regard others, especially those from other faith traditions, as uninformed or perhaps targets of divine condemnation.

Jesus offers Luke's audience an opportunity to reflect on similar attitudes. It takes the form of a parable focused on two people: a person of religious scrupulosity and a public sinner. The first is called a 'Pharisee', an identification that requires nuanced historical understanding. For Luke writing in the mid-80s of the first century in the period after the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, Pharisees enabled Judaism to survive and grow. They represented its leadership. To followers of Jesus at that same period they represented those who were critical of the Jesus-movement and didn't join in. In the time of Jesus, in the 30s, the situation was very different. They were very attuned to Jesus' mission and, like him, concerned about authentic Jewish faith and Torah practice.

In the story in Luke's Gospel, Jesus compares a 'Pharisee' (in this later historical understanding) to a tax-collector judged a sinner, collaborating in Rome's oppressive taxation system. This 'sinner' recognises his need for God's mercy; the Lukan Pharisee, self-assured about his religious credentials, arrogant and without any need for God, is self-focused. These parable characters invite us to ponder our attitude to God and others.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

26 OCTOBER 2025

FIRST READING

Sir 35:12-14, 16-19

A reading from the book of Sirach

The prayer of the humble will penetrate the heavens.

The Lord is a judge

who is no respecter of personages.

He shows no respect of personages to the

detriment of a poor man,

he listens to the plea of the injured party.

He does not ignore the orphan's supplication,

nor the widow's as she pours out her story.

The man who with his whole heart serves God

will be accepted,

his petitions will carry to the clouds.

The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds,

until it arrives he is inconsolable,

nor will he desist until the Most High takes

notice of him,

acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement.

And the Lord will not be slow,

nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

■ **The word of the Lord.****RESP PSALM**

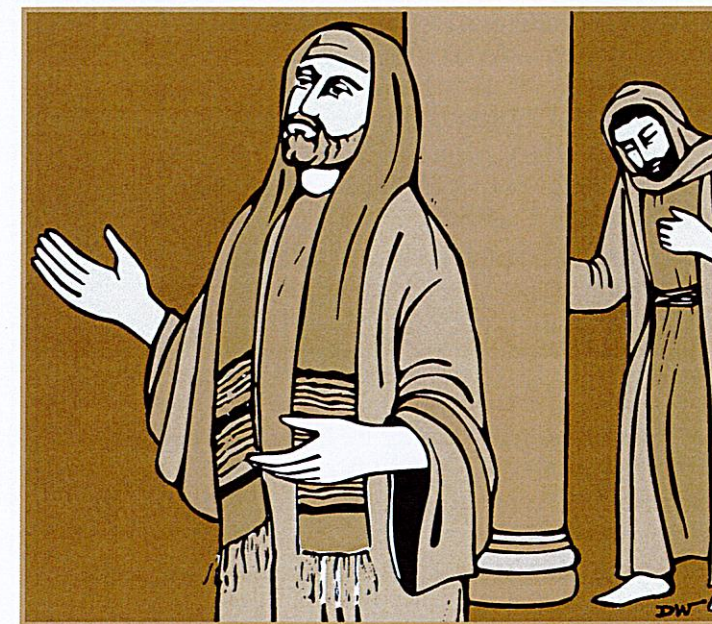
Ps 32:2-3, 17-19, 23. R. v. 7

R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, / his praise always on my lips; / in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. / The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**

2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked / to destroy their remembrance from the earth. / The just call and the Lord hears / and rescues them in all their distress. **R.**

3. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; / those whose spirit is crushed he will save. / The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. / Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

All that remains is the crown of righteousness reserved for me.

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The first time I had to present my defence, there was not a single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted me – may they not be held accountable for it. But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

*Welcome to
St Nicholas' Catholic Parish,
Tamworth
for the
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C*

26th 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 ☎ (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: Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

COMMUNION: We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

‘THE PRAYER OF THE SINNER.’ Last Sunday’s Gospel told of the determined struggle of a good person, a widow, for justice. Through this story Jesus teaches that God hears the persistent cries of the just. In today’s Gospel it is a sinner who prays to God for mercy and, wonderfully, God hears the sinner’s humble prayer also. The only prayer to which God cannot respond is that of the self-righteous who effectively says to God: ‘I do not need you.’

Psalter Week 2

Monday 27/10 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
 Rom 8:12-17: Ps 67: 2, 4, 6-7, 20-21: Lk 13:10-17:

Tuesday 28/10 St Mary’s Mass 9am
Ssts Simon and Jude, apostles
 Eph 2:19-22: Ps 18:2-5: Lk 6:12-19:

Wednesday 29/10 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
 Rom 8:26-30: Ps 12:4-6: Lk 13:22-30:

Thursday 30/10 St Mary’s Mass 9am
 Rom 8:31-39: Ps 108:21-22, 26-27, 30-31: Lk 13:31-35:

Friday 31/10 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
 Rom 9:1-5: Ps 147:12-15, 19-20: Lk 14:1-6:

Saturday 01/11 St Nicholas’ Mass 9am
ALL SAINTS DAY
 Rev 7:2-4, 9-14: Ps 23:1-6: Mt 5:1-12:
Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 02/11 St Mary’s 7.30am Mass
St Nicholas’ 9.30am & 5.30pm
ALL SOUL’S DAY

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: 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

October	Miniature Cathedral Pilgrimage Visit from 17 October to 02 November, St Nicholas’ Church		
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’
14 Nov Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm	St Nicholas’
16 Nov Sun	Birthday Blessing – All Masses		
16 Nov Sun	Morning Tea after the 9.30am Mass		St Nicholas’
	hosted by the Catechists & Children’s Liturgy groups		
	CLERGY RETREAT Mon 17 November – Fri 21 November		
18 Nov Tue	St Nicholas Women Connecting – meet at 5.30pm for 6pm - Christmas dinner		
19 Nov Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas’
21 Nov Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm	St Nicholas’
25 Nov Tue	St Nicholas Seniors	11.30am for Christmas lunch,	
	West Diggers, Kable Avenue		
26 Nov Wed	The Catholic Ladies – Christmas Lunch, Russell Room, Tamworth Services Club – 12.30pm, for 1pm		
26 Nov Wed	Appreciation Dinner for all Volunteers and Staff - 6pm for 6.30pm. RSVP: 30 October 2025		
27 Nov Thu	St Nicholas Novena commences		



★ Coming Up ★

Parish Christmas Party:
Sunday 7th December - 11am start
McCarthy Catholic College Hall

Please pray for all Year 12 students sitting for HSC exams



Miniature Cathedral Pilgrimage

The Miniature Cathedral will be visiting St Nicholas’ Parish from Friday 17 October through to Sunday 02 November 2025. Students from McCarthy Catholic College will visit St Nicholas’ Church on 21 October between 10-11am. Students from St Nicholas Primary School will visit 29/30/31 October between 9:30am-11am on those days. Parishioners are welcome to call in anytime, to mark this Jubilee Year of Hope.



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 – 25/26 October 2025

St Nicholas’ Saturday 6pm
 C: Giovanna McDougall G/R1: Paul McDougall
 G/R2: Pauline Skewes
 Ex Min: Eil Smyth Music: Noel Greacen
 Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary’s Sunday 7.30am
 C: Joan Newley G/R1: Matt Pawsey G/R2 Katrina Krogh
 Ex Min: Deb Pawsey Music: Grant Quinn
 Altar Servers: Will Nguyen
 Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas’ Sunday 9.30am
 C: Maria Lincoln G/R1: Cate Belson G/R2 Lynne Prisk
 Ex Min: Fiona Downey/Volunteer
 Altar Servers: Charles/Jason Igbenije
 Music: St Nicholas Choir
 Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas’ Sunday 5.30pm YOUTH MASS
 C: Youth G/R1: Youth G/R2 Youth
 Ex Min: Volunteer Music: Henry Buckman
 Altar Servers: Evangelyn Nijo/Emmett Buckman
 Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Garry Bryant/Andrew McGuirk
 Altar Linen: Cecilia Dries
 Sacristy Cleaning: Beth & John Ryan/Bruce Stewart
 Candelabrum: Brian Thompson 26/10/25-01/11/25

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: 19th October 2025

1 st Collection	\$ 1,664.75
Planned Giving	\$ 1,738.00
Loose	\$ 271.90
	\$ 2,009.90

NOVEMBER MASS OFFERINGS

The month of November is a dedicated time to pray for the faithful departed. Envelopes are available at the Church entrances, and in the pews, if you would like to offer a Mass for a loved one during the month of November.

If you would like to participate in an **ADIG Feedback Survey**, please click on the QR code – 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.

WEEKLY ROSTER – 01/02 November 2025

St Nicholas’ Saturday 6pm ALL SAINTS DAY
 C: Kerrie Ackhurst G/R1: Pauline Skewes
 G/R2: Halley Buckman
 Ex Min: Paul McDougall Music: Noel Greacen
 Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary’s Sunday 7.30am ALL SOUL’S DAY
 C: Grant Quinn G/R1: Bruce Stewart G/R2 John Wallace
 Ex Min: Kevin McMahon Music: Grant Quinn
 Altar Servers: Will Nguyen
 Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas’ Sunday 9.30am FAMILY MASS
 C: Peter Flynn G/R1: Renee Dunst G/R2 Anne Bowden
 Ex Min: Fiona Downey/Volunteer
 Altar Servers: Charlie Dunst/Harry Dowsett
 Music: St Nicholas Choir
 Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas’ Sunday 5.30pm
 C: Merrilyn Gaffney G/R1: Henry Buckman
 G/R2: John Clery
 Ex Min: Alison Hagley Music: Veronica Frost
 Altar Servers: Callum Buckman/Ethan Nijo
 Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Cecilia Dries/Anne Jones
 Altar Linen: Lynne Prisk
 Sacristy Cleaning: Elspeth Muldoon/Kerrie Bryant
 Candelabrum: John Wallace 02/11/25-08/11/25

BAPTISMS: Please pray for **Charlotte Ford, Matilda Hillenberg and Jarrod McCluand and his daughter Aubree**, who are receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend. May God always bless and watch over them.

CONGRATULATIONS: We warmly welcome **Sarah McCluand**, who is being received into the Catholic Church this weekend. May God be with her always.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Margaret Hudson, Shirley Colomb and Don Davidson**. 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, Maddy Anderson (Sydney), Sherree Haylock, Russell Smith.

“Our hearts were made for You, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in You.”
 ~ St. Augustine of Hippo



“God, be merciful to me, a sinner.”