

will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.’ And they put to him this question: ‘Master’, they said ‘when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?’

‘Take care not to be deceived’, he said ‘because many will come using my name and saying, “I am he”, and, “The time is near at hand.” Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not so soon.’ Then he said to them, ‘Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

‘But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name – and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

GOD’S PROTECTIVE PROMISE

Last Sunday we commemorated the *Dedication of the Lateran Basilica*. The Gospel then was from John with Jesus cleansing the Temple and its precincts, restoring it as the rightful abode of God’s presence and holiness. Today’s Gospel, continuing our liturgical journey with Luke, touches again on the theme of the Temple. But this time, Jesus anticipates its destruction and then springboards Gospel listeners into a sermon on the end-time. The Gospel theme prepares us for the final Sundays of the year before the new liturgical year, Year A and Matthew’s Gospel, commences in two weeks’ time with the beginning of Advent.

Today’s Gospel is complex and often misunderstood. It requires careful explanation. Our selection comes from Luke’s ‘apocalyptic’ chapter. Here the evangelist draws on Mk 13 but reshapes it in the light of the audience’s experience and memory of Jerusalem’s destruction by Rome in 70 CE. This experience is retrojected on to Jesus’ teaching seeming to prophesy its destruction. In Jesus’ day the Temple was still standing; by the time Luke writes, Jerusalem and its Temple are already destroyed.

Luke’s apocalyptic teaching acknowledges the struggle of Jesus’ faithful followers living generations after Jesus’ public ministry, assuring them of God’s comforting presence, warning them not to be carried away by messianic pretenders, and encouraging their patient endurance in all that unfolds. The last words of the Gospel contain the essence of God’s protective promise: ‘...not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.’ We, too, lean into these words amid our struggles today.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

16 NOVEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Mal 3:19-20

A reading from the prophet Malachi
The sun of righteousness will shine on you.

The day is coming now, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and the evil-doers will be like stubble. The day that is coming is going to burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, leaving them neither root nor stalk. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 97:5-9. R. cf. v. 9

R. The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

1. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp / with the sound of music. / With trumpets and the sound of the horn / acclaim the King, the Lord. **R.**

2. Let the sea and all within it, thunder; / the world, and all its peoples. / Let the rivers clap their hands / and the hills ring out their joy / at the presence of the Lord. **R.**

3. For the Lord comes, / he comes to rule the earth. / He will rule the world with justice / and the peoples with fairness. **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Thess 3:7-12

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Do not give anyone food who refuses to work.

You know how you are supposed to imitate us: now we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we ever have our meals at anyone’s table without paying for them; no, we worked night and day, slaving and straining, so as not to be a burden on any of you. This was not because we had no right to be, but in order to make ourselves an example for you to follow.



We gave you a rule when we were with you: not to let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work. Now we hear that there are some of you who are living in idleness, doing no work themselves but interfering with everyone else’s. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we order and call on people of this kind to go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 21:28

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lift up your heads and see;
your redemption is near at hand.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 21:5-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Your endurance will win you your life.

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, ‘All these things you are staring at now – the time

*Welcome to
St Nicholas' Catholic Parish,
Tamworth
for
The Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
World Day of the Poor
Year C*

16th November 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 Whittton
 ☎ (02) 6761 0800 Students currently enrolled: 945
 St Nicholas Primary School Principal: Mr Peter Flynn
 ☎ (02) 6766 1500 Students currently enrolled: 590

ENTRANCE: The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

COMMUNION: To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

‘THE END IS NOT SO SOON.’ Members of the early Church expected the Lord to return in glory very soon. Some people even stopped working in the belief that the end was nigh. St Paul, however, urged the members of the community to go on working, quietly earning their food. And in today's Gospel, Jesus stresses that the end is not so soon. We, his followers, will first have to persevere faithfully through many trials.

Psalter Week 1 Fr John will be celebrating all Masses this week
Monday 17/11 St Nicholas' Mass 7am

St Elizabeth of Hungary, religious
 1 Macc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-64:
 Ps 118:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158: Lk 18:35-43:

Tuesday 18/11 St Mary's Mass 9am
 2 Macc 6:18-31: Ps 3:2-7: Lk 19:1-10:

Wednesday 19/11 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
 2 Macc 7:1, 20-31: Ps 16:1, 5-6, 8, 15: Lk 19:11-28:

Thursday 20/11 St Mary's Mass 9am
 1 Macc 2:15-29: Ps 49:1-2, 5-6, 14-15: Lk 19:41-44:

Friday 21/11 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 1 Macc 4:36-37, 52-59: 1 Chron 29:10-12: Lk 19:45-48:

Saturday 22/11 St Nicholas' Mass 9am
St Cecilia, virgin, martyr
 1 Macc 6:1-13: Ps 9:2-4, 6, 16, 19: Lk 20:27-40:

Vigil Mass 6pm
Sunday 23/11 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: Midday Wednesday – The Bulletin is printed on Thursday morning.

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

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
 Christmas dinner in the Dining Room at 6pm,
 Tamworth City Bowling Club

19 Nov Wed No Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'
 21 Nov Fri No Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St Nicholas'

21 Nov Fri Youth Group - Outdoor Function Area 7-8.45pm
 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 at St Nicholas School Hall, Carthage St. BYO drinks

27 Nov Thu St Nicholas Novena commences
 28 Nov Fri Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St Nicholas'
 followed by a light supper in the Parish Meeting Room

29 Nov Sat Men's Breakfast 7am St Nicholas'
 Outdoor Function Area

02 Dec Tue 'Petitions' Rosary 12.15pm St Nicholas'
 03 Dec Wed Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'
 05 Dec Fri Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St Nicholas'
 06 Dec Sat St Nicholas's Feast Day
 06 Dec Sat Anointing of the Sick during the 9am Mass St Nicholas'
 06 Dec Wed Silent Adoration 4pm-5.30pm St Nicholas'
 07 Dec Sun FAMILY MASS 9.30am St Nicholas'
 (no Morning Tea after Mass)

07 Dec Sun PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY 12 MD
School Hall, McCarthy Catholic College

08 Dec Mon The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 10 Dec Wed Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'
 12 Dec Fri Anniversary of the Dedication of
 Sts Mary & Joseph Cathedral

12 Dec Fri Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St Nicholas'
 19 Dec Fri End of School Term 4

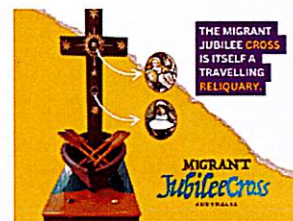


Parish Christmas Working Bee

Saturday 13 December at 10am
 The main focus will be both inside
 & outside St Nicholas' Church.
 Your help will be greatly appreciated!

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.



The Migrant Jubilee Cross is journeying around Australia. The Cross represents the journey of migrants, and the boat represents the Church as a pilgrimage toward a safe harbour. At its centre are the Southern Cross constellation & relics of the Holy Family & St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, reflecting the faith that unites communities across generations. The pilgrimage recognises the contributions of Australia's migrant & refugee communities. Our multicultural parishioners are invited to wear traditional dress to our 9.30am Mass on **Sunday 7th December**, and process into St Nicholas' church with the Jubilee Cross. The cross is a symbol of faith, hope & unity among all people of Australia. Photos of the Procession will be taken, to mark the occasion.

WEEKLY ROSTER – 15/16 November 2025

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm
 C: Leonie Hansen G/R1: Belinda Tyrrell
 G/R2: Paul McDougall
 Ex Min: Cate Allen Music: Noel Greacen
 Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am
 C: Cheryl Higgins G/R1: Lorraine Bryant
 G/R2: Grant Quinn
 Ex Min: Kevin McMahon Music: Grant Quinn
 Altar Servers: Will Nguyen
 Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am
 C: Maria Gruer G/R1: Esther Nweke G/R2: Michael Moy
 Children's Liturgy: Linda/Janine
 Ex Min: Volunteer/Volunteer
 Altar Servers: Sophie Dowsett/Amanda Nweke
 Music: St Nicholas Choir
 Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm
 C: Miriam Redolfi G/R1: Cecilia Dries G/R2: Terry Dries
 Ex Min: Claire Doherty Music: Henry Buckman
 Altar Servers: Halley Buckman/Kyra Akers-Gibbons
 Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Pauline Skewes/Andrew Tighe
 Altar Linen: Vivienne Mundy
 Sacristy Cleaning: Lynne & Peter Prisk
 Candelabrum: Bruce Stewart 16/11/25-22/11/25

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: 9th November 2025
 1st Collection \$ 1,551.65
 Planned Giving \$ 2,063.00
 Loose \$ 530.85
 \$ 2,593.85

We warmly congratulate Bruce & Kate Stewart as they celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary. They have a shared lifetime of faith, love & commitment to each other, their family, and our parish of St Nicholas'. We wish them many more years of lovely memories, happiness and contentment in the years to come. Congratulations!!

Catholic Theological College

2026 Enrolments are open

Face-to-face or online modes available

For more information: view our [2026 Prospectus](https://www.ctc.edu.au/2026-prospectus) or contact:
registrar@ctc.edu.au contact: registrar@ctc.edu.au

SEVENHILL CELLARS MISSION APPEAL 2025

Sevenhill Cellars was founded by the Jesuits in 1851. They are offering an exclusive discount on their premium table wines (until 10/12/25). Their award-winning Inigo and Saints Range wines are being offered with up to 50% discount, inclusive of complimentary freight. To access the sale, please purchase through the link: www.sevenhill.com.au/missionappeal and use the code PARISH25 at checkout.



Pray for Ukraine

WEEKLY ROSTER – 22/23 November 2025

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm CHRIST THE KING
 C: Cate Allen G/R1: Sr of Nazareth G/R2: Halley Buckman
 Ex Min: Leonie Hansen Music: Noel Greacen
 Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am
 C: John Murphy G/R1: Sue O'Halloran
 G/R2: Bernadette Virgen
 Ex Min: John Wallace Music: Grant Quinn
 Altar Servers: Will Nguyen
 Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am
 C: Lucy Roberts G/R1: Gina Mahony G/R2: Brian Lincoln
 Children's Liturgy: Louise/Marielle
 Ex Min: Maria Lincoln/Alison Hamilton
 Altar Servers: Dominic Vinod/Jason Igbenije
 Music: St Nicholas Choir
 Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm
 C: Paul Hagley G/R1: Merrilyn Gaffney
 G/R2: Claire Doherty
 Ex Min: Terry Dries Music: Veronica Frost
 Altar Servers: Callum Buckman/Emmett Buckman
 Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Ted Heazlett/Bruce Stewart
 Altar Linen: Cecilia Dries
 Sacristy Cleaning: St Nicholas Women Connecting
 Candelabrum: Cecilia & Terry Dries 23/11/25-29/11/25

BAPTISMS: Please pray for Archie De Filippis, Zara Tinker and Ethan McLaughlin who are receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend. May God's love be with them always.

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.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Please pray for the repose of the souls of the deceased relatives and friends of **Trevor Perry, Mounir Mouawad, Bakhos, Rosa and Joe Sleiman**. May God grant them eternal rest and peace.

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.

“Whatever troubles may be before you, accept them bravely remembering Whom you are trying to follow. Do not be afraid. Love one another, bear with one another, and let charity guide you all your life.”
 ~ St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

