

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mt 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Stay awake, you must be ready.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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



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# Breaking Open the Word

**STAY AWAKE!**

Happy New Year! Today we listen to the Gospel according to Matthew for the first time on this first day of the new liturgical year, Year A. Matthew writes for Jewish followers of Jesus living in the mid-80s of the first century. We shall listen to this Gospel aware that Israelite-Jewish concepts permeate its presentation of the Jewish Jesus, so different from Mark or Luke.

The language of today's Gospel is very Jewish. It is drawn from imagery of the Old Testament—typical, as we shall see, of Matthew—and from a particular style of biblical writing called 'apocalyptic'. Tempted to take our selection literally, it is better and to think of it as 'theological-poetry'. The evangelist uses a familiar Jewish literary style of writing. Its basic theme is that, despite the evil and tragedies that surround people, God will save and protect those who are faithful, especially at that definitive moment of divine judgement at the end of time.

Jesus' injunction is to 'stay awake' to this moment—not to fall asleep or become disheartened by its delay. God will definitively act against evil and vindicate the faithful. Today's Gospel is a sobering reminder. We, too, must 'stay awake' and 'stand ready' to what will unfold in the year ahead and not be dispirited by all that seems negative, fruitless and disheartening. God's presence, the God who 'will be with us' will be revealed in the figure of the 'Son of Man'. This is a recurring theme in the Gospel and throughout this new liturgical year.

**Fr Michael Trainor**

# THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

30 NOVEMBER 2025

**FIRST READING**

Isa 2:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.*

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come  
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord  
shall tower above the mountains  
and be lifted higher than the hills.  
All the nations will stream to it,  
peoples without number will come to it; and  
they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of  
the Lord,  
to the Temple of the God of Jacob  
that he may teach us his ways  
so that we may walk in his paths;  
since the Law will go out from Zion,  
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations  
and adjudicate between many peoples;  
these will hammer their swords into  
ploughshares,  
their spears into sickles.

Nation will not lift sword against nation,  
there will be no more training for war.  
O House of Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**RESP PSALM**

Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9. R. cf. v. 1

**R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: / Let us  
go to God's house. / And now our feet are  
standing / within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**



2. It is there that the tribes go up, / the tribes  
of the Lord. / For Israel's law it is, / there  
to praise the Lord's name. / There were set  
the thrones of judgement / of the house of  
David. **R.**

3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray: / Peace  
be to your homes! / May peace reign in your  
walls, / in your palaces, peace! **R.**

4. For love of my brethren and friends / I say:  
'Peace upon you!' / For love of the house of  
the Lord / I will ask for your good. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

Rom 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The time has come, our salvation is near.*

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake  
up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was  
when we were converted. The night is almost  
over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up  
all the things we prefer to do under cover of  
the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in  
the light. Let us live decently as people do in  
the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity  
or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy.  
Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

■ **The word of the Lord.**



*Welcome to*  
**St Nicholas' Catholic Parish,**  
**Tamworth**  
*for*  
**The First Sunday of Advent**  
**Year A**

*30<sup>th</sup> November 2025*

**Fr Christopher Onuekwusi – Parish Priest**  
**Fr Clarence Canafe – Assistant Priest**  
[stnicholasparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto: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:** To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

**COMMUNION:** The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

**‘WALK IN GOD’S LIGHT.’** We do not know when Christ will come again in glory. Nor do we know the day of our death. This should not worry us. What is important is to live this day well by being respectful and loving towards each other and seeking to walk in God’s light. If we do this, we will be ready whenever God calls us to eternal life.

***Psalter Week 1***

<b>Monday 01/12</b>	<b>St Nicholas’ Mass 7am</b> Is 4:2-6 Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9 Mt 8:5-11
<b>Tuesday 02/12</b>	<b>St Mary’s Mass 9am</b> Is 11:1-10 Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Lk 10:21-24
<b>Wednesday 03/12</b>	<b>St Nicholas’ Mass 7am</b> <i>St Francis Xavier, priest</i> Is 25:6-10 Ps 22 Mt 15:29-37
<b>Thursday 04/12</b>	<b>St Mary’s Mass 9am</b> Is 26:1-6 Ps 117:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27 Mt 7:21, 24-27
<b>Friday 05/12</b>	<b>St Nicholas’ Mass 7am</b> Is 29:17-24 Ps 26:1, 4, 13-14 Mt 9:27-31
<b>Saturday 06/12</b>	<b>St Nicholas’ Mass 9am</b> Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Ps 146:1-6 Mt 9:35 – 10:1, 6-8 <b>Vigil Mass 6pm</b>
<b>Sunday 07/12</b>	<b>St Mary’s 7.30am Mass</b> <b>St Nicholas’ 9.30am &amp; 5.30pm</b>

**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.

A warm welcome to all new parishioners! To help you feel at home in our parish, we encourage you to introduce yourself to Father after Mass, or you might also consider exploring opportunities to get involved in parish life through various ministries and activities. If so, please see our Parish Notice Board or contact the Parish Office.

**PARISH EVENTS – for the month ahead**

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’
05 Dec	Fri	Youth Group	7-8.30pm	St Nicholas’
06 Dec	Sat	<b>St Nicholas’ Feast Day</b>		
06 Dec	Sat	<b>Anointing of the Sick during the 9am Mass</b>		<b>St Nicholas’</b>
06 Dec	Wed	Silent Adoration	4pm-5.30pm	St Nicholas’
07 Dec	Sun	<b>FAMILY MASS</b>	9.30am	St Nicholas’
		<b>Migrant Jubilee Cross Procession into St Nicholas’</b> (no Morning Tea after Mass)		
07 Dec	Sun	<b>PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY</b>	12 MD	
		<b>School Hall, McCarthy Catholic College</b>		
08 Dec	Mon	<b>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>		
10 Dec	Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas’
12 Dec	Fri	<b>Anniversary of the Dedication of Sts Mary &amp; Joseph Cathedral</b>		
12 Dec	Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm	St Nicholas’
13 Dec	Sat	<b>Parish Christmas Working Bee</b>	10am	<b>St Nicholas’</b>
17 Dec	Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas’
17 Dec	Wed	<b>Advent Reconciliation</b>	6pm	<b>St Nicholas’</b>
19 Dec	Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm	St Nicholas’
19 Dec	Fri	End of School Term 4		
21 Dec	Sun	Birthday Blessing – All Masses		
21 Dec	Sun	The St Nicholas Choir to host Morning tea after Mass this morning.	9.30am	St Nicholas’
25 Dec	Thu	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>		
26 Dec	Fri	<b>BOXING DAY</b>		
26 Dec	Fri	<b>FAMILY Eucharistic Adoration</b>	6-7pm	St Nicholas’
		Followed by a light supper in the Parish Meeting Room		



From the First Sunday in Advent, there will be a Christmas Tree in both of our Parish Churches. Baubles can be purchased for \$2 each and placed on the Tree – the proceeds go toward buying Christmas Cards for all residents of the local Nursing Homes.

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm at St Nicholas’ Church. An opportunity to prepare ourselves for the NATIVITY of the LORD.



Parish Christmas Working Bee



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

Immaculata Mission School January 2026

What is it? A wonderful opportunity to grow in faith through daily Mass, Adoration and times of prayer, fantastic Catholic speakers (including international speakers Steve and Katey Norman from Renewal Ministries) share groups, fun activities, friendship and lots more.

**What is the theme?** “Our Father” - join us and go deeper in God’s goodness and love!

**When is it?** 1-7 Jan for youth and young adults (14 years and up); 1-5 Jan for married couples and families (includes children’s ministry)

**Where is it?** Armidale, NSW

**For more info and to register visit** [www.immaculata.org.au/ims](http://www.immaculata.org.au/ims)  
Registrations close 23 Dec / early-bird prices finish 30 Nov.

Please write your name on the clipboard at the back of the church if you wish to be rostered on for any of the Christmas Masses. Thank you!

**WEEKLY ROSTER – 29/30 November 2025**

**St Nicholas’ Saturday 6pm** **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
C: Pauline Skewes G/R1: Leonie Hansen  
G/R2: Giovanna McDougall  
Ex Min: Kerry Ackhurst Music: Noel Greacen  
Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

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

**St Nicholas’ Sunday 9.30am**  
C: Michael Moy G/R1: Mick Larkin G/R2: Maria Lincoln  
Children’s Liturgy: Steph/Alison  
Ex Min: Laura Hughes/Jennifer Hatfield  
Altar Servers: Charles Igbenije/Harry Dowsett  
Music: St Nicholas Choir  
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

**St Nicholas’ Sunday 5.30pm** **YOUTH MASS**  
C: Halley Buckman G/R1: Youth G/R2: Youth  
Ex Min: Volunteer Music: Henry Buckman  
Altar Servers: Ethan Nijo/Kyra Akers-Gibbons  
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Gio & Paul McDougall  
Altar Linen: Kate Stewart  
Sacristy Cleaning: Beth & John Ryan/Bruce Stewart  
Candelabrum: Brian Lincoln 30/11/25-06/12/25

**PLANNED GIVING: SUPPORTING OUR PRIESTS & PARISH**

**1<sup>ST</sup> Collection (supports the clergy)**

BSB: 082 105 A/C No: 001 023 584  
A/C Name: St Nicholas Presbytery

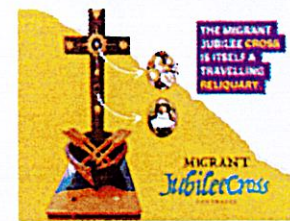
**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection (Planned Giving for Parish maintenance)**

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: 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025**

1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	\$ 1582.85
Planned Giving	\$ 1478.00
Loose	\$ 374.10
	<b>\$ 1852.10</b>



**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 and relics of the Holy Family and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, reflecting the faith that unites communities across generations. The pilgrimage recognises the contributions of Australia’s migrant and refugee communities. Our multicultural parishioners are invited to wear traditional dress to our 9.30am Mass on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December, and process into St Nicholas’ Church with the Jubilee Cross. The Cross is a symbol of faith, hope and unity among all people of Australia. Photos of the procession will be taken to mark the occasion.

**ADVENT 2025 with The Catholic Guy Bruce Downes**

**Jesus is Coming - Time to Get Ready**  
Experience the life-changing love of Christ and be strengthened in your faith journey this Advent alongside many people from around the world with The Catholic Guy, Bruce Downes. To help you go deeper in your prayer life and spiritual journey, you are invited to attend the **Advent Mission Event Retreat** online available from 29 November with unlimited streaming until the end of Advent. To find out more and register, go to: <https://TheCatholicGuy.com/missionevent>

**WEEKLY ROSTER – 06/07 December 2025**

**St Nicholas’ Saturday 6pm** **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
C: Belinda Tyrrell G/R1: Kerrie 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: Bernadette Virgen G/R1: Cheryl Higgins G/R2: Judy Scott  
Ex Min: Kevin McMahon Music: Grant Quinn  
Altar Servers: Will Nguyen  
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

**St Nicholas’ Sunday 9.30am** **FAMILY MASS**  
C: Brian Lincoln G/R1: Gemma Moy G/R2: Michael Moy  
Ex Min: Alison Hamilton/Anne Bowden  
Altar Servers: Charles/Jason Igbenije  
Music: St Nicholas Choir  
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

**St Nicholas’ Sunday 5.30pm**  
C: Alison Hagley G/R1: Paul Hagley G/R2: Renee Dunst  
Ex Min: John Clery Music: Veronica Frost  
Altar Servers: Emmett Buckman/Charlie Dunst  
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Brian Thompson/Bill Higgins  
Altar Linen: Denise Green  
Sacristy Cleaning: Elspeth Muldoon/Kerrie Bryant  
Candelabrum: Cecilia & Terry Dries 7/12/25 – 13/12/25

**SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** We pray for the peaceful repose of **Peter Ha**, whose 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary was on 22/11/25. We also pray for the repose of the souls of **Mounir Mouawad, Bakhos, Rosa and Joe Sleiman**. May God grant them all eternal rest and peace.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** We pray for the repose of the souls of **Brian Green and Julia Pennell**. 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, 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.

*It is impossible to find a saint who did not take the 'two P's' seriously: prayer and penance – St Francis Xavier*



**St Nicholas Feast Day 6<sup>th</sup> December**

**Novena Prayer (from 27/11/25 – 05/12/25)**

Glorious St Nicholas, my special Patron from your throne in glory; you who enjoy the presence of God, turn your eyes in pity upon me and attain for me from our Lord the graces and help that I need in my spiritual and temporal necessities and especially this favour (*mention your favour here*): provided that it be profitable to my salvation. Be mindful likewise, O Glorious & Sainly Bishop, of our Sovereign Pontiff and of all Christian people. Bring back to the right way of salvation all those who are living in sin, blinded by darkness of ignorance, error and heresy. Comfort the afflicted; provide for the needy; strengthen the fearful; defend the oppressed; give health to the infirmed. Cause all people to experience the effects of your powerful intercession with the supreme giver of every good and perfect gift. Amen. St. Nicholas pray for us.  
**Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory Be**