

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 1: 14, 12

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.

He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 1: 29-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2026. No 2126. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

18 JANUARY 2026

THE LAMB OF GOD

The historical memory between John the Baptist and Jesus identified in last Sunday's Gospel from Matthew continues in today's Gospel from John. Themes from last week continue: John the Baptist declares Jesus' pre-existence (1:30), a central theological motif in the Gospel, as God's chosen one, and as the bearer of God's Spirit (1:33). The Baptist also publicly attests to Jesus' holiness using Jewish expressions drawn out of the Passover and Exodus story. Jesus is called 'the lamb of God' (1:29). This evokes the memory of the Passover lamb. This was the lamb sacrificed in the Exodus event (Exodus 12:1-13) whose blood daubed the lintels of the doors identifying its Jewish residents as God's protected ones as the Angel of Death passed over them.

In John's Gospel, Jesus' blood will also become the life-giving and liberating agent that creates the new community formed around the Mother of Jesus and the Beloved Disciple at Jesus' death (19:26-35). At the beginning of this Gospel and in today's reading, John the Baptist becomes the Gospel's witness to the holy and elevated status of Jesus as God's representative who can 'take away the sin of the world' (1:29). In other words and again drawing on a Jewish atonement ritual performed on one of the holiest days in the Jewish Calendar, *Yom Kippur* (literally, 'the Day of Atonement'), Jesus becomes the scapegoat for people's sins to release them from the burdens they carry and bring them to life and freedom—another theme of John's Gospel. All these insights associated with today's Gospel are key for us: we look to one who can represent us before God, release us of sins that weigh us down, and offer us life and spiritual agency.

Fr Michael Trainor**FIRST READING**

Isa 49: 3, 5-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 39: 2, 4, 7-10. R. vv. 8, 9

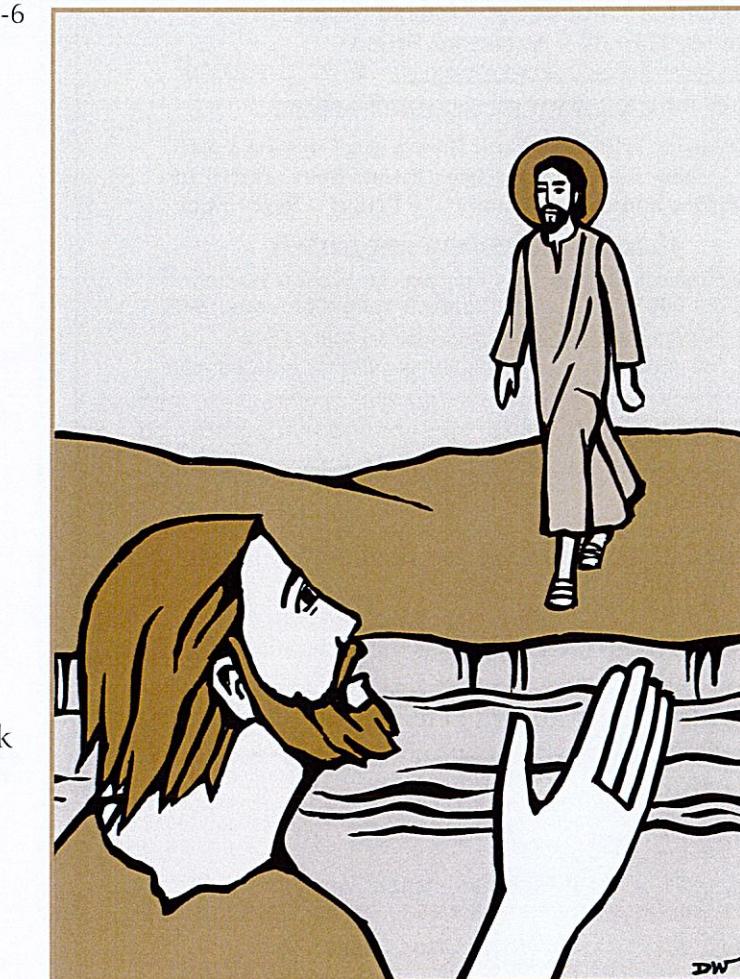
R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord / and he stooped down to me; / he heard my cry. / He put a new song into my mouth, / praise of our God. **R.**

2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, / but an open ear. / You do not ask for holocaust and victim. / Instead, here am I. **R.**

3. In the scroll of the book it stands written / that I should do your will. / My God, I delight in your law / in the depth of my heart. **R.**

4. Your justice I have proclaimed / in the great assembly. / My lips I have not sealed; / you know it, O Lord. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

1 Cor 1: 1-3

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

■ The word of the Lord.

Welcome to
St Nicholas' Catholic Parish,
Tamworth
for the
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A

18th January 2026

Fr Christopher Onuekwusi – Parish Priest

Fr Clarence Canafe – Assistant Priest

stnicholasparrish@armidale.catholic.org.au (02) 6766 2228

Parish Website: <https://www.stnicholasparrish.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: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

COMMUNION: You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

'THE LAMB OF GOD.' Jesus is the servant of God who brings salvation to the ends of the earth. He is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He reveals the compassion of God who stoops down to hear the cries of those in distress.

Psalter Week 2

Monday 19/01 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
1 Sam 15:16-23: Ps: 49:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23: Mk 2:18-22:

Tuesday 20/01 St Mary's Mass 9am
1 Sam 16:1-13 Ps 88:20-22, 27-28: Mk 2:23-28:

Wednesday 21/01 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
St Agnes, virgin, martyr
1 Sam 17:32-33, 37, 40-51: Ps: 143:1-2, 9-10: Mk 3:1-6:

Thursday 22/01 St Mary's Mass 9am
1 Sam 18:6-9, 19:1-7: Ps: 55:2-3, 9-14: Mk 3:7-12:

Friday 23/01 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
1 Sam 24:3-21: Ps: 56:2-4, 6, 11: Mk 3:13-19:

Saturday 24/01 St Nicholas' Mass 9am
St Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor
2 Sam 1:1-4, 11-12, 17, 19, 23-27: Ps: 79:2-3, 5-7: Mk 3:20-21:
Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 25/01 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.

PRAAYERFUL 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 coming up

14 Jan	Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
16 Jan	Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm	St Nicholas'
18 Jan	Sun	Birthday blessing	All Masses	
		Morning Tea after the 9.30am Mass hosted by The Ignite Parish Group – range of Catholic goods for sale		
21 Jan	Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
23 Jan	Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm	St Nicholas'
26 Jan	Mon	Australia Day Mass	9am	St Nicholas'
		- followed by a 'cuppa' in the Outdoor Function Area		
28 Jan	Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
30 Jan	Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm	St Nicholas'
03 Feb	Tue	'Petitions' Rosary	12.15pm	St Nicholas'
04 Feb	Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
06 Feb	Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm	St Nicholas'
10 Feb	Tue	SN Seniors – Morning Tea -	10.30am –	West Diggers
11 Feb	Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
13 Feb	Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm	St Nicholas'
15 Feb	Sun	Birthday blessing	All Masses	
		Morning Tea after the 9.30am Mass hosted by The Parish Pastoral Council		
18 Feb	Wed	+ ASH WEDNESDAY +	7am	St Nicholas'
18 Feb	Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'



Celebrate **Australia Day** with **9am Mass** at St Nicholas' Church **Monday 26 January** – this is an opportunity to pray for our country.



The Australia Day Committee will be providing an 'Aussie' Morning Tea after Mass in the Outdoor Function Area.
All Welcome!

The Rosters for 2026 will be sent out at the end of January.

If you would like to volunteer to serve on any of the rosters within our parish, please advise the parish office by email or phone as soon as possible.

Likewise, if you were on the roster during 2025, and no longer wish to be, or you wish to advise of a change in circumstances (eg, you are now attending a different Mass etc), please also let us know.

For those currently on the roster, we will continue to roster you on the same roster/s during 2026, unless we are advised otherwise.

Thank you - your dedication to, and participation on our rosters & in our parish ministries, is very much appreciated!

Roster – 24/25 January 2026

Counting Team: Brian Thompson/Bill Higgins

Altar Linen: Kate Stewart

Sacristy Cleaning: Beth & John Ryan/ Bruce Stewart

Candelabrum: Brian Lincoln 25/01/26 – 31/01/26

During January, please volunteer to help out at Masses wherever you see a need. Thankyou!

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: 11th January 2026

1st Collection \$ 1,643.15

Planned Giving \$ 2,618.00

Loose \$ 401.85

\$ 3,019.85



Welcome to all visitors who are here for the Tamworth Country Music Festival. We hope you enjoy your stay in our city.

If you have a 'flair with flowers', we are in need of a volunteer (male or female) to look after the 'arrangement' of the flowers at St Mary's Church. If you are interested, please let us know at the Parish office, or let Grant know on Sunday morning – thank you!



If you are interested in hosting a Lenten group this year, please let us know at the Parish office by Friday 23rd January advising of venue, weekday and time. These groups commence during the week of Ash Wednesday (18 February in 2026). Clipboards will then be available in our churches to register your intention to attend the group of your choice. Thank you!



CONGRATULATIONS: We warmly welcome Alex Crayn, who received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist last weekend. May God bless him abundantly.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Please pray for the repose of the souls of John Coyle, Sr Margaret Hill (Camberwell) recently deceased, and Mounir Mouawad, Bakhos, Rosa & Joe Sleiman. 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

Maddy Anderson (Sydney), Carmel Bennett (Gladstone), Colin Bryant, Michael Bryant, Rev. Fr Tony Castelli, Brindley Cavallaro (Sydney), Elizabeth Coroneos (Toowoomba), Dan Daly, Bill Dennis, Kath Donoghue, Cormac Downes (Uralla), Nicholas Doyle (Sydney), Richard Doyle (Sydney), Doreen Eunson, Pat & Tony Favell, Joan Goodridge, Darren Graham, Sherree Haylock, Nadia Hurn (Newcastle), Sullivan Hurn (Singleton), Kay Mason, Julie Michell, Ken Michell, Judy Murphy, Richard Noad, Suzanne Perfrement, Kim Riley (Orange), Russell Smith, Steve Tierney, Kay Tucker, Adam Urquhart, Maureen White (Orange).

"Pray, hope, and don't worry.
Worry is useless.
God is merciful
and will hear
your prayer."

~ Saint Padre Pio



Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me.'