

## 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



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# Breaking Open the Word

## 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



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

18 JANUARY 2026

## 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

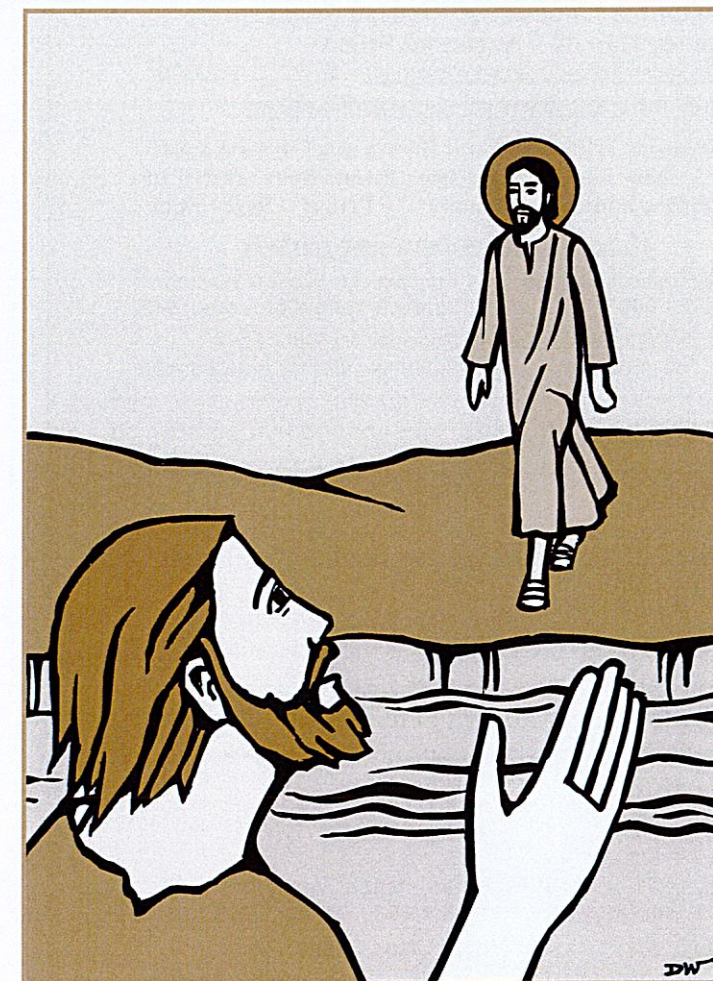
**R.** Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

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*

*18<sup>th</sup> January 2026*

**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 ☎ (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.

**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 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	<b>Australia Day Mass</b>	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	<b>+ ASH WEDNESDAY +</b>	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**

**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: 11th January 2026**

1 <sup>st</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.'