

**GOSPEL**

Mt 4:12-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.*

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! / Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, / Galilee of the nations! / The people that lived in darkness / has seen a great light; / on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death / a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

*Shorter form: 4: 12-17*

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# Breaking Open the Word



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

### REPENT

Last Sunday's Gospel from John, though critically important for our spiritual reflection, seemed unusual in this year of Matthew. So, today, we return to Matthew. In the past two Sundays, John the Baptist has been central in the Gospel selections. Today he is no longer with us, having been arrested. Our focus is squarely now on Jesus. He moves from his hometown of Nazareth to Capernaum. Both towns are on the fringe. The first, Nazareth, is the symbolic place of exile in Matthew. When Mary, Joseph and Jesus returned from Egypt they could not go back to their hometown of Bethlehem because of the vengeful ruling presence of Herod's son Archelaus. They go to live in Galilee, to Nazareth. They, like the Israelites several centuries earlier, are in exile. It is from here that the rest of Matthew unfolds.

Jesus next moves to Capernaum located geographically close to pagan and Gentile territories. It is a fishing village and a taxation collection centre at the crossroads of two major E-W and N-S highways. It is here that Jesus proclaims the great clarion cry in the Gospel: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand' (4:17). This cry 'to repent' (Greek *metanoia*) is an urge to have an openness of heart. It comes with a conviction that God is already present and active in the world ('the kingdom of heaven is close at hand').

Finally, after Jesus calls four fishermen to be his first disciples, our Gospel proclamation ends with a note about Jesus' teaching and healing ministry. The first-called disciples will model for Matthew's audience how to be repentant and live out the conviction of God's presence in their lives and world.

Fr Michael Trainor

# THE SAVING WORD

25 JANUARY 2026

Isa 8:23-9:3

**FIRST READING**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.*

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness  
has seen a great light;  
on those who live in a land of deep shadow  
a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater,  
you have made their joy increase;  
they rejoice in your presence  
as men rejoice at harvest time,  
as men are happy when they are dividing  
the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him,  
the bar across his shoulders,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
these you break as on the day of Midian.

■ The word of the Lord.

### RESP PSALM

Ps 26:1, 4,13-14. R.v.1

**R.** The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation; / whom shall I fear? / The Lord is the stronghold of my life; / before whom shall I shrink? **R.**

2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord, / for this I long, / to live in the house of the Lord, / all the days of my life, / to savour the sweetness of the Lord, / to behold his temple. **R.**

3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness / in the land of the living. / Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. / Hope in the Lord! **R.**



1 Cor 1:10-13,17

### SECOND READING

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

*I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.*

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

■ The word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:23

*Alleluia, alleluia! / Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom, / and healed all who were sick. / Alleluia!*

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

25<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Fr Christopher Onuekwusi – Parish Priest  
Fr Clarence Canafe – Assistant Priest  
[stnicholaspas@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:stnicholaspas@armidale.catholic.org.au) (02) 6766 2228  
Parish Website: <https://www.stnicholaspas.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:** O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

**COMMUNION:** I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

**'JESUS, OUR LIGHT.'** At times we can find ourselves 'walking in darkness.' We get caught up in difficulties and cannot see a way out. Today's liturgy reminds us that Jesus is our light and our salvation. As with the first disciples, he calls us to follow him. In the Gospels we have the Good News that brings light into the dark moments of our lives.

**Psalter Week 3**

**Monday 26/01** St Nicholas' Mass 9am  
**AUSTRALIA DAY**  
Is 32:15-18: Rom: 12:9-13: Mt 5:2-12:  
**Tuesday 27/01** St Mary's Mass 9am  
2 Sam 6:12-15, 17-19: Ps 23:7-10: Mk 3:31-35:  
**Wednesday 28/01** St Nicholas' Mass 7am  
**St Thomas Aquinas, priest, doctor**  
2 Sam 7:4-17: Ps: 88:4-5, 27-30: Mk 4:1-20:  
**Thursday 29/01** St Mary's Mass 9am  
2 Sam 7:18-19, 24-29: Ps: 131:1-5, 11-14: Mk 4:21-25:  
**Friday 30/01** St Nicholas' Mass 7am  
2 Sam 11:1-10, 13-17: Ps: 50:3-7, 10-11: Mk 4:26-34:  
**Saturday 31/01** St Nicholas' Mass 9am  
**St John Bosco, priest**  
2 Sam 12:1-7: Ps: 79:2-3, 5-7: Mk 3:20-21:  
Vigil Mass 6pm  
**Sunday 01/02** 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**

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'
07 Feb Sat	<b>Anointing of the sick during 9am Mass</b>	St Nicholas'	
07 Feb Sat	Silent Adoration	4-5.30pm	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'
14 Feb Sat	Silent Adoration	4-5.30pm	St Nicholas'
15 Feb Sun	Birthday blessing	All Masses	
	Morning Tea after the 9.30am Mass hosted by		
	The Parish Pastoral Council		
17 Feb Tue	St Nicholas Women Connection – dinner at the Tamworth City Bowling Club – 6pm		
18 Feb Wed	+ ASH WEDNESDAY +	7am	St Nicholas'
18 Feb Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
20 Feb Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm	St Nicholas'
21 Feb Sat	Silent Adoration	4-5.30pm	St Nicholas'
22 Feb Sun	<b>McCarthy Catholic College Family Mass</b>	9am	
	followed by morning tea		St Nicholas'
24 Feb Tue	St Nicholas Seniors – lunch 11.30am		
	West Diggers, Kable Avenue		
25 Feb Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
25 Feb Wed	The Catholic Ladies – lunch in the Russell Room at the Tamworth Services Club – 12.30pm for 1pm lunch		
27 Feb Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm	St Nicholas'
28 Feb Sat	<b>MEN'S BREAKFAST</b>	7am	St Nicholas'
	Outdoor Function Area		
28 Feb Sat	Silent Adoration	4-5.30pm	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!**

**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: 18th January 2026**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Collection</b>	S 1,922.20
<b>Planned Giving</b>	S 2,173.00
<b>Loose</b>	S 533.05
	S 2,706.05

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

**DIACONATE ORDINATION INVITATION**

Parishioners are warmly invited to attend the diaconate ordination of Mr Allem Alba and Br Maximilian Streher at the Cathedral at 10.30am on Monday 02 February 2026.

**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.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Joyce Beaven, Anna Anderson. May they rest in God's peace.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** We congratulate and warmly welcome Darren Graham into our parish community. Darren is receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist this weekend. May God be with him always.

**SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Mounir Mouawad, Bakhos, Rosa & Joe Sleiman, John Wall (Anniversary) & Mary Wall, Irene Burling (Anniversary 23 December), Michael Worldon and Brian Maher (Anniversary 26 January). May God grant them eternal rest and peace. And please keep Nadia Hurn (Newcastle) in your prayers as she battles illness.

**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).

"Cast yourself into the arms of God and be very sure that if He wants anything of you, He will fit you for the work and give you strength."

~ St. Philip Neri

