

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven
and earth;you have revealed to little ones the
mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5:20-22, 27-28, 33-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.*Such was said to your ancestors; but I say to you.*Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your
virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes
and Pharisees, you will never get into the
kingdom of heaven.‘You have learnt how it was said to our
ancestors; You must not kill; and if anyone does
kill he must answer for it before the court. But
I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his
brother will answer for it before the court;‘You have learnt how it was said: You must
not commit adultery. But I say to you: if a
man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already
committed adultery with her in his heart.‘Again, you have learnt how it was said to our
ancestors: You must not break your oath, but
must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say
this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say
is “Yes” if you mean yes, “No” if you mean no;
anything more than this comes from the evil
one.’■ **The Gospel of the Lord.***Longer form 5:17-37***A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

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**Breaking Open
the Word****HONOURING THE TORAH**

As we continue to hear Jesus’ teaching in
Matthew’s ‘Sermon on the Mount’, we now
move into a very Jewish-oriented section.
Matthew’s audience were Jewish followers
of Jesus. They were very familiar with the
teachings of the Old Testament, from the
Torah (the ‘Law’) and the Prophets. Jesus now
reflects on these teachings stressing that he has
come, not to abolish them, but to ‘complete
them’. In other words, Matthew is not
rejecting the Jewish teaching heritage of the
audience but deepening it. This preservation
and honouring of the Torah is central in Jesus’
teaching.

In fact, the one who keeps and teaches others
the injunctions of the Torah will be regarded as
‘great’ in God’s Kingdom. Matthew moves to
explicate some of the key moral injunctions of
the Torah. Each begins with the same formula:
‘You have learnt how it was said to our
ancestors...’ Then follows Jesus’ interpretation
of the Torah for Matthew’s Jewish listeners.
It is important to note how this teaching is
presented. The usual translation has ‘...But I
say to you...’ This is not what the Greek text
has. There is no contrast, no ‘but’, between
what the ancients said and what Jesus teaches.
There is no contrast between the old (the
Torah) and the new (Jesus’ teaching), and no
rejection of Judaism or its ancient wisdom
summed up on the Torah.

Jesus deepens the meaning behind these
different aspects of Jewish law concerning
murder, adultery and oath-breaking, getting
to the heart of each. Undergirding each is
the invitation to integrity of relationships.
This, too, is the invitation to us, to live with
a wholeness of being to others, God and the
world.

Fr Michael Trainor



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

15 FEBRUARY 2026

FIRST READING

Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Sirach

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
Man has life and death before him;
whichever a man likes better will be given him.
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is almighty and all-seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him,
he notes every action of man.
He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.

■ **The word of the Lord.****RESP PSALM** Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34. R. v. 1**R. Happy are they who follow the law of
the Lord!**

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, /
who follow God’s law! / They are happy those
who do his will, / seeking him with all their
hearts. **R.**
2. You have laid down your precepts / to be
obeyed with care. / May my footsteps be firm /
to obey your statutes. **R.**
3. Bless your servant and I shall live / and
obey your word. / Open my eyes that I may
consider / the wonders of your law. **R.**
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes /
and I will keep them to the end. / Train me
to observe your law, / to keep it with my
heart. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 2:6-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to
the Corinthians*God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the
ages began.*We have a wisdom to offer those who have
reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age,

it is true, still less of the masters of our age,
which are coming to their end. The hidden
wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries
is the wisdom that God predestined to be for
our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom
that none of the masters of this age have ever
known, or they would not have crucified the
Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls:
the things that no eye has seen and no ear has
heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that
God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has
revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit
reaches the depths of everything, even the
depths of God.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

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

15th February 2026

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
Administration: 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: 1,006
St Nicholas Primary School Principal: Mr Peter Flynn
☎ (02) 6766 1500 Students currently enrolled: 576

ENTRANCE: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

COMMUNION: They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

'FOLLOW GOD'S LAW.' The vast wisdom of God is revealed in the law God has given to us, a law designed to lead us to the fullness of life and happiness. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that law is not only about external behaviour. Our inner attitudes are also important. It is from within, from the attitudes of our hearts, that good or evil actions flow.

Psalter Week 2

Monday 16/02 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
James 1:1-11: Ps 118: 67-68, 71-72, 75-76: Mk 8:11-13:

Tuesday 17/02 St Mary's Mass 9am
James 1:12-18: Ps 93: 12-15, 18-19: Mk 8:14-21:

Wednesday 18/02 St Nicholas' Masses 7am and 6pm
ASH WEDNESDAY
Joel 2:12-18: Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17:
2 Cor 5:20 – 6:2: Mk 6:1-6, 16-18:

Thursday 19/02 St Mary's Mass 9am
Deut 30:15-20: Ps 1:1-4, 6: Lk 9:22-25:

Friday 20/02 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
Is 58:1-9: Ps 50:3-6, 18-19: Mk 9:14-15:

Saturday 21/02 St Nicholas' Mass 9am
Is 58:9-14: Ps 85:1-6: Lk 5:27-32:
Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 22/02 St Mary's 7.30am Mass
St Nicholas' 9.30am & 5.30pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4pm – 5.30pm

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.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: If you wish to have a notice or prayer intention included in the Bulletin, please contact the parish office by no later than **3pm Wednesday** or it will not be included until the following weekend. Thank you!

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. Candidate for Baptism Forms can also be completed and 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.

PRAYERFUL REFLECTION on the readings is always included in this Bulletin, after the Communion Antiphon. You are encouraged to reflect on this every week.

McCARTHY CATHOLIC COLLEGE FAMILY MASS

Coming up on **Sunday 22nd February at 9.30am** at St Nicholas' Church. McCarthy will also host Morning Tea in the Outdoor Function Area immediately after Mass. All welcome!

PARISH EVENTS coming up

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 Connecting – dinner at the Tamworth City Bowling Club – 6pm	
18 Feb Wed	+ ASH WEDNESDAY + 7am and 6pm	St Nicholas'
	Day of Fast and abstinence	
	LENT BEGINS	
18 Feb Wed	Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
20 Feb Fri	Stations: St Nicholas Women Connecting	5.30pm
20 Feb Fri	Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm	St Nicholas'
22 Feb Sun	McCarthy Catholic College Family Mass followed by morning tea	9.30am 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	MEN'S BREAKFAST 7am	St Nicholas'
	Outdoor Function Area	
01 Mar Sun	FAMILY MASS followed by Morning tea hosted by St Nicholas Primary School Kinder and Year 6	9.30am St Nicholas'
02-03 March	CLERGY ASSEMBLY	
03 Mar Tue	'Petitions' Rosary 12.15pm	St Nicholas'
04 Mar Wed	NO ADORATION	
06 Mar Fri	Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm	St Nicholas'
07 Mar Sat	Anointing of the sick during the 9am Mass	St Nicholas'
07 Mar Sat	Silent Adoration 4-5.30pm	St Nicholas'
11 Mar Wed	Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
13 Mar Fri	Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm	St Nicholas'
15 Mar Sun	Birthday blessing	All Masses
	Morning Tea after the 9.30am Mass hosted by The Frassati prayer group	

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: 8th February 2026

1 st Collection	\$ 1,635.55
Planned Giving	\$ 1,918.00
Loose	\$ 663.30
	\$ 2,581.30

LENTEN GROUPS 2026

1: 33 Napier Street Wednesdays 6.30pm + Starting 18.02.26	2: McCarthy Catholic College Thursdays 3.30pm + Starting 19.02.26
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WEEKLY ROSTER – 14/15 February 2026

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm
C: Kerry Ackhurst Welcomer /R1: Sr of Nazareth
W /R2: Cate Allen
Ex Min: Paul McDougall Music: Noel Greacen
Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am
C: Julie McGuirk Welcomer /R1: Lorraine Bryant
W/R2: Katrina Krogh
Ex Min: Karen King Music: Grant Quinn
Altar Servers: Will Nguyen
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am
C: Brian Lincoln Welcomer /R1: Peter Prisk /R2: Patrick Mahony
Children's Liturgy:
Ex Min: Laura Hughes/Jennifer Hatfield Music: St Nicholas Choir
Altar Servers:
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm
C: Henry Buckman Welcomer /R1: Carol Wheaton
W/R2: Halley Buckman
Ex Min: Paul Hagley Music: Henry Buckman
Altar Servers:
Collection: Volunteers
Counting Team: Bill Higgins/Pauline Skewes
Altar Linen: Kerrie Bryant
Sacristy Cleaning: Marie Rice/Gemma & Michael Moy
Candelabrum: Peter Virgen 15/02/25-21/02/26

LENT 2026 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY, Bruce Downes

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed! For 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is **FREE** and you can sign up at: <https://brucedownes.org/lent-2026-sign-up/>

STATIONS OF THE CROSS SCHEDULE 2026

Fridays of Lent: St Nicholas Church: 5:30pm

20 Feb	St Nicholas Women Connecting
27 Feb	St Nicholas School - Staff
06 Mar	St Nicholas Parish Catechists
13 Mar	St Vincent de Paul Society
20 Mar	McCarthy Catholic College - Staff
27 Mar	St Nicholas Parish Pastoral Council

Palms – Volunteer with IMPACT

Develop sustained self-reliant futures

in overseas communities!

Join Palms International Volunteering [online](https://palms.org.au/events) in this special session where you'll learn about our [diverse assignments](https://palms.org.au/events) suited to your qualifications. Hear from past Palms volunteers how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact in communities and changes lives
Venue: Online- Scan the QR or register at palms.org.au/events
Date: Thursday 19 February 2026
Time: 7 pm – 8:30 pm AEDT



School-Age Baptism is being offered for children in Kinder to Year 6 who have not yet been baptised.

Parent Information Session: Wednesday 18 March 2026 at 5.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

School-Age Baptisms: Saturday 21st March 2026 at 10am at St Nicholas' Church.

If you have any palms (at home) from Palm Sunday last year, or from previous years, would you like to drop them into the box outside the Presbytery door – they will be burned for Ash Wednesday this year. Thank you!

WEEKLY ROSTER – 21/22 February 2026

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm
C: Paul McDougall Welcomer /R1: Leonie Hansen
W /R2: Giovanna McDougall
Ex Min: Eil Smyth Music: Noel Greacen
Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am
C: Sue O'Halloran Welcomer /R1: Joan Newley
W/R2: Bernadette Virgen
Ex Min: Kevin McMahan Music: Grant Quinn
Altar Servers: Will Nguyen
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am
Commentator/Welcomers/Readers: McCarthy Catholic College
Children's Liturgy: Linda/Marielle
Ex Min: Fiona Downey/Brian Lincoln Music: St Nicholas Choir
Altar Servers:
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm **YOUTH.MASS**
Commentator/Welcomers/Readers: Young people
Ex Min: volunteer Music: Henry Buckman
Altar Servers:
Collection: Volunteers
Counting Team: Gary Bryant/Andrew McGuirk
Altar Linen: Rosemary Kinsela
Sacristy Cleaning: St Nicholas Women Connecting
Candelabrum: Cecilia & Terry Dries 22/02/25-28/02/26

CONGRATULATIONS to Shannon & Christy D'Costa, who are receiving Confirmation and First Eucharist this weekend. May God always be with them.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Louise O'Halloran (Sydney).

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Mounir Mouawad, and Bakhos, Rosa and Joe Sleiman and Anna Anderson. May they rest in God's peace.

ANNIVERSARY: Kevin (Kim) Slattery, 2nd Anniversary 24 Feb

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, Joan Goodridge, Darren Graham, Sherree Haylock, Nadia Hurn (Newcastle), Sullivan Hurn (Singleton), Kay Mason, Julie Michell, Ken Michell, Kim Riley (Orange), Russell Smith, Adam Urquhart, Maureen White (Orange), Jan & Richard Noad, Pat & Tony Favell.

**“Lent is a time of grace,
a time for conversion,
a time to come home to God.”**

~ St. Maximilian Kolbe

NAZARETH CARE IS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS to assist with reading to groups of residents, crafts, visiting residents, and being a friendly face. If interested, you will need to undertake a [police](#) and [NDIS](#) check. Please contact Nazareth Care for more information - phone: 67 618 755. Thank you!

Jesus reminds us that law is not only about external behaviour. Our inner attitudes are also important. It is from within, from the attitudes of our hearts, that good or evil actions flow.

