

GOSPEL

Mt 17:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / A

1 MARCH 2026

GOD'S BELOVED

On the Second Sunday of Lent the focus is on Jesus' transfiguration. This speaks into the experience in Matthew's audience of suffering and even death. With Jerusalem and Jesus' imminent suffering looming, he takes Peter, James and John on to a 'high' mountain, the place of divine encounter. The reference to 'high' celebrates the mountains' divine closeness. Here, alone, they are in the presence of God who comforts Jesus before what will shortly unfold in the Sacred City.

Two Old Testament figures appear, Moses (the traditional author of the Torah—the first five books of the Bible) and Elijah (the first recognised prophet of the Old Testament). Their appearance confirms that what is about to take place for Jesus will reveal God's protective presence. That presence is confirmed by the 'cloud [that] covered them with shadow' and the heavenly voice that attests that Jesus will always be God's Beloved and delightful One. The disciples' response to this experience is palpable. They are overcome with 'fear' – a deep sense of reverential awe in what they have just witnessed and experienced with Jesus, even though Peter earlier wanted to capture it by building three tents.

The scene is not a literal 'twitter-feed' of what actually or historically happened to Jesus. It is a story of theology and religious meaning for disciples aligned with Jesus who know the experience of suffering and death in their own day. At those times, we, too, must go up on to our 'high' mountain, accompanied by faithful friends, and allow God's presence and word to accompany us. We, too, need to hear that we are God's Beloved and delightful Ones.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Gen 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:

I will curse those who slight you.

All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22. R. v. 22

**R. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

1. The word of the Lord is faithful / and
all his works to be trusted. / The Lord loves
justice and right / and fills the earth with his
love. **R.**

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him, /
on those who hope in his love, / to rescue
their souls from death, / to keep them alive in
famine. **R.**

3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. / The Lord
is our help and our shield. / May your love be
upon us, O Lord, / as we place all our hope in
you. **R.**

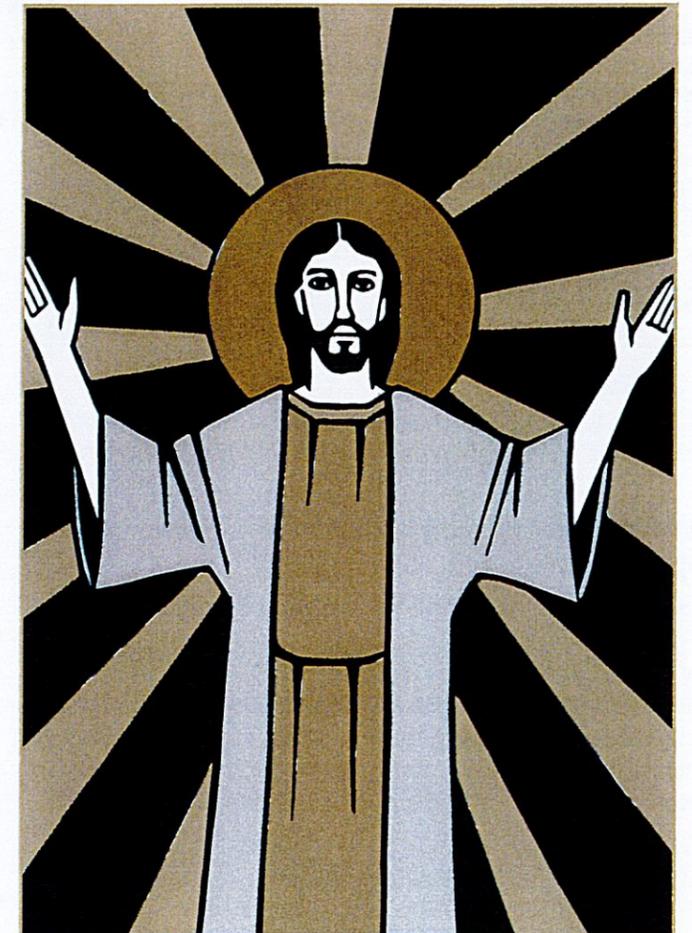
SECOND READING

2 Tim 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul
to Timothy

God has saved us, and called us to be holy.

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of
the Good News, relying on the power of God
who has saved us and called us to be holy – not



because of anything we ourselves have done
but for his own purpose and by his own grace.
This grace had already been granted to us, in
Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but
it has only been revealed by the Appearing of
our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death,
and he has proclaimed life and immortality
through the Good News.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice
is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

*Welcome to
St Nicholas' Catholic Parish,
Tamworth
for the
Second Sunday of Lent
Year A*

1st March 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 Whittton
☎ (02) 6761 0800 Students currently enrolled: 1,006

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

ENTRANCE: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

COMMUNION: This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

‘OASES ON THE JOURNEY.’ As followers of Jesus, we have nowhere to pitch our tents. We must journey with Jesus through the hardships of life to glory. There will be oases along the way – moments of consolation which reveal the presence of God among us. We cannot remain in these moments forever, but they give us refreshment. Remembering them will sustain us on our pilgrim way.

Psalter Week 2

Monday 02/03 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
Dan 9:4-10: Ps 78: 8-9, 11, 13: Lk 6:36-38:

Tuesday 03/03 St Mary's Mass 9am
Is 1:10, 16-20: Ps 49:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23: Mt 23:1-12:

Wednesday 04/03 St Mary's Mass 9am
Jer 18:18-20: Ps 30:5-6, 14-16: Mt 20:17-28

Thursday 05/03 St Mary's Mass 9am
Jer 17:5-10: Ps 1:1-4, 6: Lk 16:19-31:

Friday 06/03 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
Gen 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28: Ps 104:16-21: Mt 21:33-43, 45-46:

Saturday 07/03 St Nicholas' Mass 9am
Micah 7:14-15, 18-20: Ps 102:1-4, 9-12: Lk 15:1-3, 11-32:
Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 08/03 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.

PARISH EVENTS coming up

01 Mar Sun	FAMILY MASS	9.30am	St Nicholas'
	Morning tea hosted by St Nicholas Primary School Kinder and Year 6		
03+04 Mar	Tuesday + Wednesday CLERGY ASSEMBLY		
03+04 Mar	Tues + Wed Mass	9am	St Mary's
03 Mar Tue	'Petitions' Rosary	12.15pm	St Nicholas'
04 Mar Wed	NO ADORATION		
06 Mar Fri	WORLD DAY OF PRAYER	10am	St Nicholas'
	followed by morning tea in the Outdoor Function Area		
06 Mar Fri	STATIONS OF THE CROSS –	5.30pm	St Nicholas'
	St Nicholas Parish Catechists		
06 Mar Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm	St Nicholas'
06 Mar Fri	Youth Group – for yrs 6 to 9	7-8.45pm	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'
10 Mar Tue	St Nicholas Seniors – morning tea	10.30am	West Diggers
11 Mar Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
13 Mar Fri	STATIONS OF THE CROSS –	5.30pm	St Nicholas'
	St Vincent de Paul Society		
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		
18 Mar Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
20 Mar Fri	STATIONS OF THE CROSS –	5.30pm	St Nicholas'
	McCarthy Catholic College - staff		
20 Mar Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm	St Nicholas'
20 Mar Fri	Youth Group – for yrs 6 to 9	7-8.45pm	St Nicholas'
24 Feb Tue	St Nicholas Seniors – lunch	11.30am	West Diggers
25 Mar Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
27 Mar Fri	STATIONS OF THE CROSS –	5.30pm	St Nicholas'
	Parish Pastoral Council		
27 Mar Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm	St Nicholas'
28 Mar Sat	Men's Breakfast	7am	St Nicholas'
	Outdoor Function Area		
29 Mar Sun	PALM SUNDAY		
01 Apr Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'

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: 22nd February 2026

1st Collection \$ 1695.95
Planned Giving \$ 1748.00
Loose \$ 283.35
Total \$ 2031.35

STATIONS OF THE CROSS SCHEDULE 2026
Fridays of Lent: St Nicholas Church: 5:30pm

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

WEEKLY ROSTER – 28 February/01 March 2026

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm
C: Leonie Hansen W/R1: Kerry Ackhurst W/R2: Eil Smyth
Ex Min: Cate Allen Music: Noel Greacen
Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am
C: John Murphy W/R1: Bruce Stewart W/R2: Grant Quinn
Ex Min: Lorraine Bryant Music: Grant Quinn
Altar Servers: Will Nguyen
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am
St Nicholas Primary School Family Mass
Commentator/Welcomers/Readers: St Nicholas Primary School
Ex Min: Maria Lincoln/Robert Panchasarp
Music: St Nicholas Choir
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm
C: Cecilia Dries W/R1: Renee Dunst W/R2: Judy Campbell
Ex Min: Alison Hagley Music: Veronica Frost
Altar Servers:
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Cecilia Dries/Anne Jones
Altar Linen: Vivienne Mundy
Sacristy Cleaning: Beth & John Ryan/Bruce Stewart
Candelabrum: Cecilia & Terry Dries 01/03/26-07/03/26

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Michael Adams, Ray Bible, Clare Birrell, Heather Bourke, Matthew Bourke, Robert Bourke, Thelma Byrnes, Bernard Camden, Adelina (Del) Camilleri, David (Dudley) Chandler, Austin (Bill) Clark, John Clohessy, Jeanette Cluff, Kenneth Coles, Roger Collier, June Collins, Patricia Cook, Jack Cutcliffe, Loretta Dailey, Kathleen Davidson, Garry Davis, David Dawson, Allen Delaney, Maria Deverell, Esther Dillon, Clarice Ferguson, James (Jim) Finucane, Albert Fisher, Patricia Fisher, Cesare Furlan, Aileen Gaffney, Betty Gaffney, Clifford Galloway, Erin Greentree, Gwenda Griffiths, Raymond Hall, Marie Hayes, Storm Hayes-Taylor, Walter Hayter, James Hazel, Dianne Hodgins, Carmel Innis, Edwin (Jock) Kachel, Joyce Kerrison, Stephen Knight, Patricia Lane, Barbara Leonard, Harry Lindsay, Julie Lynch, Colin McCudden, Jean McDonnell, Jason McGoldrick, Julie McHugh, Una McIlveen, Gary McSweeney, Carmel Mackay, Terence Mathison, Henry Matthews, James Matthews, Carolyn Nihilil, Moira O'Connor, Margaret Regan, Brian Roworth, Hope Russell, Dianne Schofield, Terrence Smith, Eileen Stewart, Audrey (Joy) Sutton, Patricia Thompson, Hope van Tilburg, Kevin Walters, Donald Ward, John Wood, Jack Woolaston.

May they rest in peace

School-Age Baptism is being offered for children in Kinder to Year 6 who have not yet been baptised.
Parent Information Session: Wednesday 18th March 2026 at 5.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room.
School-Age Baptisms: Saturday 21st March 2026 at 10am at St Nicholas' Church.

World Day of Prayer - 2026

On Friday 6 March at 10am, St Nicholas' Church will be hosting the World Day of Prayer – an international movement that joins Christians in prayer and action for peace and justice. This year, the focus country is **Nigeria**, and the theme is **“I will give you rest: Come”**. Christians from a number of local churches will join together for the prayer service.



Please come and join in the service, which will be followed by morning tea in the Outdoor Function Area.

“Rest for the Weary” By Gift Amarachi Ottah

WEEKLY ROSTER – 07/08 March 2026

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm
C: Eil Smyth W/R1: Belinda Tyrrell 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: Lorraine Bryant W/R1: Judy Scott W/R2: Cheryl Higgins
Ex Min: John Wallace Music: Grant Quinn
Altar Servers: Will Nguyen
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am
C: Denise Green W/R1: Dean Rowsell W/R2: Cate Belson
Children's Liturgy: Louise/Janine/Kiera
Ex Min: Anne Bowden/Peter Prisk
Music: St Nicholas Choir
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm
C: Terry Dries W/R1: Paul Hagley W/R2: Alison Hagley
Ex Min: Claire Doherty Music: Recorded music
Altar Servers:
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Brian & Maria Lincoln
Altar Linen: Cecilia Dries
Sacristy Cleaning: Ellie Muldoon/Kerrie Bryant
Candelabrum: Brian Lincoln 08/03/26-14/03/26

BAPTISM: We pray for **Rosie Tobler** who is receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend. May God's love be with her throughout her life.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Jim Finucane** (3rd Anniversary on 5th March). May he rest in eternal peace. We also pray for God's healing for **Joseph Overlunde**.

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 Hum (Newcastle), Sullivan Hum (Singleton), Kay Mason, Julie Michell, Ken Michell, Kim Riley (Orange), Russell Smith, Adam Urquhart, Maureen White (Orange), Jan & Richard Noad, Pat & Tony Favell, Sonia Fawdry (Alstonville).

“In the Transfiguration, we see the glory that awaits all those who follow Christ to the Cross.”

— Pope Benedict XVI

