

He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him'. The man himself said, 'I am the man'.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see'. Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you'. The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Longer form, 9:1-41

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Breaking Open the Word



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

15 MARCH 2026

'WE ARE NOT BLIND!'

The rich theological symbolism evident from last Sunday's Gospel of John continues in today's drama between light and darkness. Jesus meets a man born blind and tells him to wash in the sanctified pool of Siloam south of the temple. The blind man returns able to see. Over several scenes in one of the most dramatic and engaging stories in all the Gospels, the man who now has vision is consistently interrogated by the religious authorities who, though they are supposed 'to see', move into spiritual blindness.

The dynamic evident in the story is that each time the man is interrogated, he goes back to his experience of being healed by Jesus. Each reflection moves him to a deeper realisation of what has happened and who Jesus is: at first he calls Jesus simply 'a man', then later, that Jesus is 'from God', until finally, the man worships him. This movement of faith into light is accompanied by a similar movement into darkness by the religious leaders. They fail to see that they have become blind to Jesus and his deeds of healing (which John calls 'signs'). 'We are not blind, surely?' they retort.

This drama is acted out in our day. Jesus' final words to his antagonists and John's audience are forever relevant. 'Blind?' questions Jesus, 'If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.' This clarity of understanding and insight is important in a world where truth is camouflaged as falsehood and lies proclaimed as truth. We need to journey with the man born blind, to reflect on our experiences, to be with Jesus and 'see'.



Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING 1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel
In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 22. R. v. 1

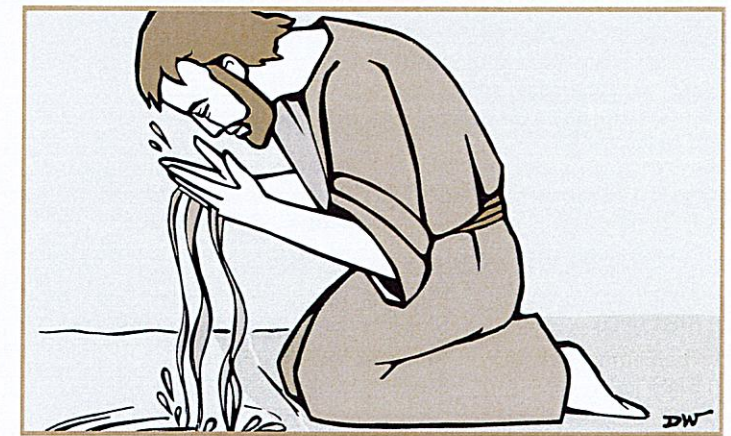
R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; / there is nothing I shall want. / Fresh and green are the pastures / where he gives me repose. / Near restful waters he leads me, / to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

2. He guides me along the right path; / he is true to his name. / If I should walk in the valley of darkness / no evil would I fear. / You are there with your crook and your staff; / with these you give me comfort. **R.**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me / in the sight of my foes. / My head you have anointed with oil; / my cup is overflowing. **R.**

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me / all the days of my life. / In the Lord's own house shall I dwell / for ever and ever. **R.**



SECOND READING Eph 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth.

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

15th 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 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: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

COMMUNION: The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

‘NO, I CAN SEE.’ In today’s Gospel, it is the man born blind who gradually comes to see that Jesus is Lord. Meanwhile the Pharisees, the custodians of the traditional faith, fall steadily into blindness. Self-confident in their own knowledge, the Pharisees refuse to see the workings of God in Jesus. Let us humbly ask Christ to open our eyes that we may see his presence in our Eucharistic community and in our world.

Psalter Week 4

Monday 16/03 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
Is 65:17-21: Ps 29:2, 4-6, 11-13: Jn 4:43-54:

Tuesday 17/03 St Mary’s Mass 9am
St Patrick, bishop
Jer 1:4-9: Ps 116: Acts 13:46-49: Lk 10:1-12, 17-20:

Wednesday 18/03 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
Is 49:8-15: Ps 144:8-9, 13-14, 17-18: Jn 5:17-30:

Thursday 19/03 St Mary’s Mass 9am
ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
2 Sam 7:4-5, 12-14, 16: Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29: Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22:
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24: or Lk 2:41-51

Friday 20/03 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
Wis 2:1, 12-22: Ps 33:16, 18, 19-21, 23: Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30:

Saturday 21/03 St Nicholas’ Mass 9am
Jer 11:18-20: Ps 7:2-3, 9-12: Jn 7:40-52:
Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 22/03 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.

Please note: Any inclusions for the Parish newsletter must be received by the parish office no later than 3pm Wednesdays. 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.

Diary Dates

15 Mar Sun	Birth Day Blessing	All Masses
	Morning tea after the 9.30am Mass hosted by The Frassati prayer group- Catholic goods for sale – proceeds to fund youth attending Ignite Conference	
17 Mar Tue	✱ St Patrick’s Day ✱	
17 Mar Tue	St Nicholas Women Connecting 5.30pm	
	Dinner at Tamworth City Bowling Club	
18 Mar Wed	Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas’
19 Mar Thu	† St Joseph’s Feast Day †	
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 Yr 6 – Yr 9 7-8.45pm	St Nicholas’
	- meet in the Outdoor Function Area	
24 Feb Tue	St Nicholas Seniors – lunch 11.30am	West Diggers
25 Mar Wed	Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas’
25 Mar Wed	The Catholic Ladies – lunch at the Services Club – meet at 12.30pm for 1pm lunch	
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	
28 Mar Sat	Parish Working Bee for Easter 9.30am	St Nicholas’
29 Mar Sun	PALM SUNDAY	
31 Mar Tue	Chrism Mass & lunch with parishioners, Armidale	
01 Apr Wed	Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas’
01 Apr Wed	Lenten Reconciliation 6pm	St Nicholas’
02 Apr Thu	Holy Thursday – No 9am Mass at St Mary’s	
02 Apr Thu	School Term 1 ends	
02 Apr Thu	Mass of the Lord’s Supper 6pm	St Nicholas’
03 Apr Fri	☩ Good Friday – Stations of the Cross 10am	St Nicholas’
03 Apr Fri	The Passion of the Lord 3pm	St Nicholas’
03 Apr Fri	SPECIAL COLLECTION – Holy Places – 3pm	
04 Apr Sat	Holy Saturday – No 9am Mass at St Nicholas’	
04 Apr Sat	EASTER VIGIL 6pm	St Nicholas’
05 Apr Sun	Daylight Saving ends – clocks back one hour.	
05 Apr Sun	EASTER SUNDAY – 9.30am + 5.30pm Masses – SN	
	Mass at St Mary’s at 7.30am	
06 Apr Mon	Public Holiday – morning Mass 9am	St Nicholas’
07 Apr Tue	Petitions Rosary 12.15pm	St Nicholas’
08 Apr Wed	Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas’
10 Apr Fri	Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm	St Nicholas’
15 Apr Wed	Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas’

SAVE THE DATES:



Working Bee for Easter – Saturday 28th March 9.30am – church & presbytery grounds.
Parish Mission & St Carlo Acutis Exhibition – after Eucharistic Adoration on Friday evening 19th June 7pm – Midnight – Outdoor Function Area.

The Immaculata Nuns are holding a Family Retreat this Sunday (15th) in Armidale at 12pm. A picnic lunch will be followed by Children’s Adoration, Parent’s Adoration/Children’s catechesis. Parent’s talk with Fr Paul Chandler/children’s activities. Followed by Afternoon Tea at 4pm, and then home. Please RSVP to 0406372608. Please also mention what food you can contribute to the lunch. Thank you!

WEEKLY ROSTER – 14/15 March 2026

St Nicholas’ Saturday 6pm
C: Pauline Skewes W/R1: Paul McDougall W/R2: Leonie Hansen
Ex Min: Cate Allen Music: Noel Greacen
Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary’s Sunday 7.30am
C: Bernadette Virgen W/R1: John Murphy W/R2: Matt Pawsey
Ex Min: Deb Pawsey Music: Grant Quinn
Altar Servers: Will Nguyen
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas’ Sunday 9.30am
C: Esther Nweke W/R1: Helen Rowsell W/R2: Michael Moy
Children’s Liturgy: Linda/Felicita
Ex Min: Alison Hamilton/Brian Lincoln
Music: St Nicholas Choir
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas’ Sunday 5.30pm
C: Halley Buckman W/R1: Henry Buckman W/R2: Claire Doherty
Ex Min: Terry Dries Music: Recorded music
Altar Servers:
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Ted Heazlett/Bruce Stewart
Altar Linen: Kate Stewart
Sacristy Cleaning: Marie Rice/Gemma & Michael Moy
Candelabrum: not necessary – cleaned every 2nd week

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 March 2026
1st Collection \$ 1,658.65
Planned Giving \$ 2,233.00
Loose \$ 339.60
\$ 2,572.60

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

20 Mar McCarthy Catholic College - Staff
27 Mar St Nicholas Parish Pastoral Council



Lenten Reconciliation
St Nicholas’ Church
Wednesday 01 April
6pm

FIRST EUCHARIST SCHEDULE 2026

Parent/Carer Information Session in St Nicholas’ Church:
Wed 25 March 5.30pm or Sat 28 March 2pm
1st Reconciliation: Wed 10 June 5.30pm
1st Eucharist Masses: Sat 13 June 6pm or Sun 14 June at 9.30am

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE 2026

Confirmation Masses: Sat 19 Sep 6pm or Sun 20 Sep 9.30am

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. Please bring a copy of your child’s Birth Certificate to this meeting!
School-Age Baptisms: Saturday 21st March 2026 at 10am at St Nicholas’ Church.

WEEKLY ROSTER – 21/22 March 2026

St Nicholas’ Saturday 6pm
C: Belinda Tyrrell W/R1: Cate Allen W/R2: Pauline Skewes
Ex Min: Leonie Hansen Music: Noel Greacen
Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary’s Sunday 7.30am
C: Joan Newley W/R1: Bernadette Virgen W/R2: John Wallace
Ex Min: Lorraine Bryant Music: Grant Quinn
Altar Servers: Will Nguyen
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas’ Sunday 9.30am
C: Gemma Moy W/R1: Lucy Roberts W/R2: Maria Lincoln
Children’s Liturgy: Steph/Danae
Ex Min: Laura Hughes/Jennifer Hatfield
Music: St Nicholas Choir
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas’ Sunday 5.30pm
C: Claire Doherty W/R1: Terry Dries W/R2: Cecilia Dries
Ex Min: Judy Campbell Music: Veronica Frost
Altar Servers:
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Paul & Giovanna McDougall
Altar Linen: Rosemary Kinsela
Sacristy Cleaning: St Nicholas Women Connecting
Candelabrum: Anne Jones 22/03/26-28/03/26

BAPTISMS: We pray for Heidi Wilson and Lucy & Lily Havet who are receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend. May God bless them abundantly.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ken Mundy. May he rest in peace eternal.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Wendy Hetherington (Anniversary) and Lorraine Guyer, recently deceased.

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, Sonia Fawdry (Alstonville), Joan Goodridge, Darren Graham, Paul Hayes, Sherree Haylock, Nadia Hum (Newcastle), Sullivan Hurn (Singleton), Kay Mason, Julie Michell, Ken Michell, Jan & Richard Noad, Penny Pavlakis (Sydney), Kim Riley (Orange), Russell Smith, Adam Urquhart, Maureen White (Orange).

*“The less we have, the more we give.
Seems absurd, but it’s the logic of love.”*
~ Mother Teresa

