

his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him;

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY) / A

12 APRIL 2026

## THE GIFT OF PEACE

Today is the extension of Easter Sunday. It is such an important and central feast in our Liturgical calendar that we celebrate it for a whole week, and Easter itself, over six weeks. Today's Gospel from John is the appearance of the Risen Jesus to his frightened disciples. They have locked themselves in a room for fear of the religious authorities, that what happened to Jesus might also happen to them. To their surprise, the Risen One stands in their midst.

Three things now take place. First, Jesus speaks. His first words are 'Peace be with you.' These words gifted to John's audience are also gifted to us: the gift of peace, of 'shalom', heals all division. Second, Jesus sends his frightened disciples, now filled with joy, John notes, on mission. Their mission is the same as that of Jesus, 'As the Father sent me, so I send you.' And third, he breathes on the disciples. Jesus' breath, the symbolic presence of God's life and Holy Spirit, empowers the disciples to accomplish their Easter mission.

The final part of the Gospel is taken up with Thomas, his incredulity at the presence of the Risen Jesus reported to him by the others. When he is finally reconnected to the community of disciples—and this is the point of the story—Thomas, too, comes to Easter faith, declaring Jesus, 'My Lord and my God'. This beautiful Gospel underscores for us the presence of the Risen One amid our fears, his empowering of us, and our need to be always connected to our discipleship communities.

Fr Michael Trainor

## FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.*

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

**R.** Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. (or **Alleluia!**)

1. Let the sons of Israel say: / 'His love has no end.' / Let the sons of Aaron say: / 'His love has no end,' / Let those who fear the Lord say: / 'His love has no end.' **R.**

2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling / but the Lord was my helper. / The Lord is my strength and my song; / he was my saviour. / There are shouts of joy and victory / in the tents of the just. **R.**

3. The stone which the builders rejected / has become the corner stone. / This is the work of the Lord, / a marvel in our eyes. / This day was made by the Lord; / we rejoice and are glad. **R.**

## SECOND READING

1 Pet 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.*

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and



the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which had been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 20:29

**Alleluia, alleluia! / You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; / happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! / Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Jn 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them.*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them

*Welcome to St Nicholas' Catholic Parish, Tamworth  
for the Second Sunday of Easter  
of Divine Mercy  
Year A  
12<sup>th</sup> April 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  
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:** Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

**COMMUNION:** Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

**'I AM SENDING YOU!'** When we gather for Eucharist each Sunday the risen Christ comes among us and offers us his gift of peace. Our celebration gives us joy and strengthens our faith. But we cannot stay inside the church with its doors locked. At the end of Mass we are sent out, commissioned to bring the love and mercy of Christ to all who continue to bear in their bodies the wounds of crucifixion.

*Psalter Week 2*

**Monday 13/04 St Nicholas' Mass 7am**  
Acts 4:23-31: Ps 2:1-9: Jn 3:1-8:  
**Tuesday 14/04 St Mary's Mass 9am**  
Acts 4:32-37: Ps 91:1-2, 5: Jn 3:7-15:  
**Wednesday 15/04 St Nicholas' Mass 7am**  
Acts 5:17-26: Ps 33:2-9: Jn 3:16-21:  
**Thursday 16/04 St Mary's Mass 9am**  
Acts 5:27-33: Ps 33:2, 9, 17-20: Jn 3:31-36:  
**Friday 17/04 St Nicholas' Mass 7am**  
Acts 5:34-42: Ps 26:1-4, 13-14: Jn 6:1-15:  
**Saturday 18/04 St Nicholas' Mass 9am**  
Acts 6:1-7: Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19: Jn 6:16-21:  
Vigil Mass 6pm  
**Sunday 19/04 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.

*Our faith community acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional custodians of the land on which we worship, The People of the Plains, The Kamilaroi people. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and emerging. May we, too, be good stewards of this land on which we live.*

**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.

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

**Parish toilet** is 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**

12 Apr Sun	DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 3-4pm	St Nicholas'
14 Apr Tue	St Nicholas Seniors, morning tea 10.30am	West Diggers
14 Apr Tue	'Petitions' Rosary – 12.15pm	St Nicholas'
15 Apr Wed	Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
17 Apr Fri	Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm	St Nicholas'
19 Apr Sun	Birthday Blessing	All Masses
	Morning tea after the 9.30am Mass hosted by St Nicholas Women Connecting	
21 Apr Tue	St Nicholas Women Connecting – dinner at Tamworth City Bowling Club – meet at 5.30pm.	
22 Apr Wed	Start of School Term 2	
22 Apr Wed	Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
22 Apr Wed	The Catholic Ladies – lunch at the Services Club – meet at 1pm for 1.20pm lunch	
24 Apr Fri	Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm	St Nicholas'
24 Apr Fri	<b>YOUTH GROUP 7-8.45pm</b>	<b>St Nicholas'</b>
25 Apr Sat	<b>ANZAC DAY – Commemorative Mass 8am</b>	<b>St Nicholas'</b>
26 Apr Sun	World Day of Prayer for Vocations	
27 Apr Mon	Public Holiday – Mass at 9am	St Nicholas'
28 Apr Tue	St Nicholas Seniors, lunch 11.30am	West Diggers
29 Apr Wed	Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
01 May Fri	Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm	St Nicholas'
02 May Sat	Anointing of the sick during the 9am Mass	St Nicholas'
02 May Sat	Silent Adoration 4-5.30pm	St Nicholas'
03 May Sun	<b>FAMILY MASS 9.30am</b>	St Nicholas'
	with morning tea hosted by the First Eucharist Candidates & Yr 2 students	
05 May Tue	'Petitions' Rosary – 12.15pm	St Nicholas'
06 May Wed	Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
08 May Fri	Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm	St Nicholas'
24 Apr Fri	<b>YOUTH GROUP 7-8.45pm</b>	<b>St Nicholas'</b>
10 May Sun	<i>Mother's Day</i>	



**Bev Heazlett** was a dedicated, longstanding member of St Nicholas' Parish. Bev became a dedicated nurse in Sydney & from 1964 spent the next 2 years in London, specialising in midwifery. Later, in Tamworth, besides nursing, Bev gave an extraordinary life of service to her parish, her community and further afield. She counselled couples for Marriage and natural family planning, was a Lifeline telephone counsellor & trainer for 16 years, and with Ted, conducted the parish pre-Marriage courses for over 10 years. She was a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society & did hospital visitation. She contributed to Dominican Tertiaries & Lenten prayer groups and sang in the choir. With Ted, she was an active catechist for over 30 years and was also associated with a number of theological groups. She possessed an intelligence, warmth, energy and spirit that drew her to connect with others. Her life was one of devotion to God, her family, her parish and her community. Bev's funeral service will be held at St Nicholas' Church on Thursday 16 April at 2.30pm. May she enjoy eternal rest.

**WEEKLY ROSTER – 11/12 April 2026**

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

**St Mary's Sunday 7.30am**  
C: Cheryl Higgins W/R1: Bruce Stewart W/R2: Katrina Krogh  
Ex Min: Karen King Music: Anne Jones  
Altar Servers: Will Nguyen  
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

**St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am**  
C: Charli Manning W/R1: Jo Manalastas W/R2: Denise Green  
Ex Min: Anne Bowden/Peter Prisk Music: St Nicholas Choir  
Altar Servers: Dominic Vinod  
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

**St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm**  
C: Paul Hagley W/R1: Merrilyn Gaffney W/R2: Renee Dunst  
Ex Min: Cecilia Dries Music: Henry Buckman  
Altar Servers:  
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Cecilia Dries/Anne Jones  
Altar Linen: Vivienne Mundy  
Sacristy Cleaning: Marie Rice/Gemma & Michael Moy  
Candelabrum: every 2<sup>nd</sup> week

**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: 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$ 3,012.45  
Planned Giving \$ 2,623.00  
Loose \$ 631.55  
Total \$ 3,254.55

**FIRST EUCHARIST SCHEDULE 2026**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation: Wed 10 June 5.30pm**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist Masses: Sat 13 June 6pm or Sun 14 June at 9.30am**

**CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE 2026**

**Information Session for Parents/and or Guardians:**  
**Wed 29 July 5.30pm or Sat 01 Aug 2pm (St Nicholas' Church)**

**Enrolment Masses: Sat 01 Aug 6pm or Sun 02 Aug 9.30am or 5.30pm**

**CONFIRMATION MASSES: Sat 19 Sep 6pm or Sun 20 Sep 9.30am**

The Nazareth Care Nuns would dearly love your help as a volunteer at Nazareth Care – they are in need of Extraordinary Ministers to take Holy Communion to their residents, Sacristans to assist with Masses, and volunteers to visit the residents.

Anyone interested, please contact Sr Trang directly on 0400 147 342 or email her at [rsuperior.tamworth@nazarethcare.com](mailto:rsuperior.tamworth@nazarethcare.com)

Thank you – there are only three nuns at Nazareth Care now, and the demands far exceed their numbers - they would really appreciate your help at this present time. Thank you.

The recipients of our used/unused stamps in Sydney, have sent a special thank you for all the great stamps St Nicholas' Parish has been sending their way – due in large part to Karen King and Jeanette Gall – *thank you* – please know your generous donations of old and rare stamps have been very much appreciated, and will help to raise much needed money for their mission effort!

**WEEKLY ROSTER – 18/19 April 2026**

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

**St Mary's Sunday 7.30am**  
C: Bernadette Virgen W/R1: Julie McGuirk  
W/R2: Sue O'Halloran  
Ex Min: Lorraine Bryant Music: Anne Jones  
Altar Servers: Will Nguyen  
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

**St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am**  
C: Alison Hamilton W/R1: Michael Larkin W/R2: Maria Gruer  
Ex Min: Laura Hughes/Jennifer Hatfield Music: St Nicholas Choir  
Altar Servers: Dominic Vinod  
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

**St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm**  
C: Renee Dunst W/R1: Alison Hagley W/R2: Halley Buckman  
Ex Min: Henry Buckman Music: Henry Buckman  
Altar Servers:  
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Brian & Maria Lincoln  
Altar Linen: Cecilia Dries  
Sacristy Cleaning: St Nicholas Women Connecting  
Candelabrum: Cecilia & Terry Dries

**BAPTISMS:** We pray for **Estelle, Bill and Lewis Leyden** who were baptised during the week. May God's love and protection be with them always.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** **Kerry York and Beverley (Bev) Heazlett.** May they rest in God's peace and love.

**SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Shane Coote** (Anniversary 15<sup>th</sup> April), **Sr Arcadius Guthrie** and **Irene (Zelle) Border** (Port Macquarie), both recently deceased. May God grant them eternal rest.

**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, Sherree Haylock, Nadia Hurn (Newcastle), Sullivan Hurn (Singleton), Kay Mason, Julie Michell, Ken Michell, Jan & Richard Noad, Penny Pavlakis (Sydney), Richard Panchasarp (USA), Kim Riley (Orange), Russell Smith, Adam Urquhart, Maureen White (Orange), Elizabeth Williams, Enid Wright.

**"Those who sincerely say 'Jesus, I trust in You' will find comfort in all their anxieties and fears. There is nothing that man needs more than Divine Mercy – that love which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises man above his weakness to the infinite heights of the holiness of God"**

*~ Pope John Paul I*

