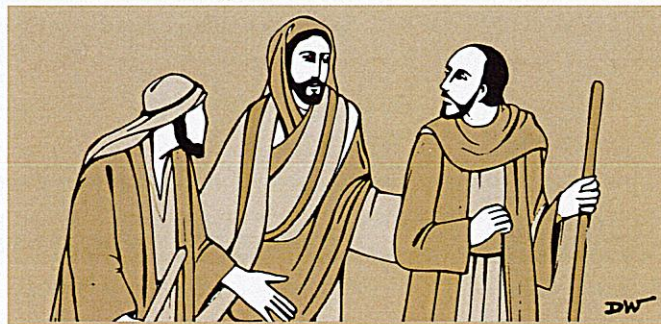


A SYDNODAL JOURNEY

Last Sunday we encountered the Risen Jesus breathing his gift of peace and Spirit on to his fearful disciples. As we continue our celebration of Easter, our attention turns to Luke's story of the Risen Jesus accompanying two frightened disciples on their journey towards a small village, Emmaus, several kilometres from Jerusalem. For Luke, Jerusalem is the centre and birthplace of discipleship. The two are walking away from Jerusalem, their conviction of Jesus' rescue of them shattered by the events that have unfolded, especially his crucifixion by the political and religious leaders. Unbeknown to them, the Risen Jesus walks with them on their journey and asks them what they are talking about. They are confused by the story being circulated about the emptiness of Jesus' tomb.

This is such a rich story and space prevents its detailed examination. What is clear is that this is the Gospel for the synodal journey of the Church: The Risen One walks with us in the midst of our confusions and struggles, wanting to listen to us, as we each tell our stories. And, just as the two struggling disciples come to recognise Jesus in the 'breaking of bread' (Luke's favourite expression for the Eucharist), we, too, come to realise the presence of the Risen Jesus in our weekly celebration of our local Eucharist.

This realisation for the two at Emmaus empowers them to return to Jerusalem, take up again the mission of discipleship, and reconnect to those assembled. What happens next provides the impetus for Luke's second volume, the Acts of the Apostles and the story of the spread of the Good News throughout the Roman Empire.



Fr Michael Trainor

Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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FIRST READING

Acts 2:14, 22-33

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always, / for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. / So my heart was glad / and my tongue cried out with joy: / my body, too, will rest in the hope / that you will not abandon my soul to Hades / nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. / You have made known the way of life to me, / you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11. R. v. 11

R. Lord, you will show us the path of life. (or Alleluia!)

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. / I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.' / O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; / it is you yourself who are my prize. **R.**

2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, / who even at night directs my heart. / I keep the Lord ever in my sight: / since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R.**

3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; / even my body shall rest in safety. / For you will not leave my soul among the dead, / nor let your beloved know decay. **R.**

4. You will show me the path of life, / the fullness of joy in your presence, / at your right hand happiness for ever. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Pet 1:17-21

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Lk 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia! / Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: / make our hearts burn with love when you speak. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 24:13-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of

*Welcome to St Nicholas' Catholic Parish, Tamworth
for The Third Sunday of Easter
Year A*

19th April 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: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

COMMUNION: The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

'HE WALKED BY THEIR SIDE.' In today's Gospel we meet a person who walks with us, and talks with us, even when we walk away from him. Jesus will never abandon us. Let us invite him to eat with us. He will bring us joy and give us the enthusiasm we need to continue to proclaim our faith in the resurrection.

Psalter Week 3

Monday 20/04 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
Acts 6:8-15: Ps 118:23-24, 26-27, 29-30: Jn 6:22-29:

Tuesday 21/04 St Mary's Mass 9am
Acts 7:51-8:1: Ps 30:3-4, 6-8, 17, 21: Jn 6:30-35:

Wednesday 22/04 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
Acts 8:1-8: Ps 65:1-7: Jn 6:35-40:

Thursday 23/04 St Mary's Mass 9am
Acts 8:26-40: Ps 65:8-9, 16-17, 20: Jn 6:44-51:

Friday 24/04 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
Acts 9:1-20: Ps 116: Jn 6:52-59:

Saturday 25/04 St Nicholas' ANZAC DAY Mass 8am
Wis 3:1-9: Ps 114:5-6, 115:10-11, 15-16: 1 Cor 1:18-25 Jn 12:23-28:
Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 26/04 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.

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.

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.

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 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.

Diary Dates

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	YOUTH GROUP 7-8.45pm	St Nicholas'
25 Apr Sat	ANZAC DAY – Commemorative Mass 8am	St Nicholas'
26 Apr Sun	World Day of Prayer for Vocations	
27 Apr Mon	ANZAC DAY 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	Men's Breakfast 7am	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	FAMILY MASS 9.30am	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'
08 May Fri	YOUTH GROUP 7-8.45pm	St Nicholas'
10 May Sun	Mother's Day	
13 May Wed	Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
15 May Fri	Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm	St Nicholas'
17 May Sun	Birthday Blessing	All Masses
	Morning tea after the 9.30am Mass hosted by Legion of Mary & Rosary groups	

Save the Date

St Nicholas' Parish Mission & St Carlo Acutis Exhibition – after Eucharistic Adoration on Friday evening 19 June 7pm – Midnight in the St Nicholas' Outdoor Function Area.

Are you able to help as a volunteer at Nazareth Care? If you are interested in volunteering in Pastoral Care or any other area, please contact Sr Trang directly on 0400 147 342 or by email at: srsuperior.tamworth@nazarethcare.com Thank you!

Ignite Conference 2026 – Sydney, 9-12 July. Cost is \$320 per person. Donations to defray costs for those wishing to attend would be gratefully appreciated by the Ignite Parish group. Thank you!



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:
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

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: 12th April 2026

1st Collection \$ 1,951.35
Planned Giving \$ 1,978.00
Loose \$ 493.75
Total \$ 2,471.75

FIRST EUCHARIST SCHEDULE

1st Reconciliation: Wed 10 June 5.30pm 2026
1st 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 2026
or Sun 02 Aug 9.30am or 5.30pm

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

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.

WEEKLY ROSTER – 25/26 April 2026

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm
C: Kerry Ackhurst W/R1: Giovanna McDougall
W/R2: Sister of Nazareth
Ex Min: Leonie Hansen Music: Noel Greacen
Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am
C: John Murphy W/R1: Lorraine Bryant
W/R2: John Wallace
Ex Min: Cheryl Higgins Music: Anne Jones
Altar Servers: Will Nguyen
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am
C: Lucy Roberts W/R1: Gina Mahony W/R2: Ben Lamey
Ex Min: Alison Hamilton/Michael Moy Music: St Nicholas Choir
Altar Servers
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm
C: Alison Hagley W/R1: Judy Campbell W/R2: Paul Hagley
Ex Min: Tania Roberts Music: Henry Buckman
Altar Servers:
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Paul & Giovanna McDougall
Altar Linen: Maria Lincoln
Sacristy Cleaning: Ellie Muldoon/Kerrie Bryant
Candelabrum: every 2nd week

BAPTISMS: We pray for **Elijah Kerr** who is being baptised this weekend. May God bless him abundantly.

RECENTLY DECEASED: **Maureen Ortlipp.** May she rest in God's peace.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Shane Coote, Sr Arcadius Guthrie and Bev Heazlett.** 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 Hum (Newcastle), Sullivan Hum (Singleton), Kay Mason, Julie Michell, Jan & Richard Noad, Penny Pavlakis (Sydney), Richard Panchasarp (USA), Kim Riley (Orange), Russell Smith, Adam Urquhart, Maureen White (Orange), Elizabeth Williams, Enid Wright.

"We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become."

~ St Clare of Assisi

