

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 10:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,
I am the gate of the sheepfold.
All others who have come
are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.
I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:
he will go freely in and out
and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come
so that they may have life
and have it to the full.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

26 APRIL 2026

THE BEAUTIFUL SHEPHERD

The Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally from John 10, about the 'Good (or, literally, 'beautiful') shepherd'. Today's selection focuses on the image of the *gate* of the sheepfold. In our culture, gates and doors are important. They provide us with security and access to what is inside—a house, a building, a room. And through entering the door or gate, we come to be with others, with whom we (usually) identify or know, perhaps family members and friends. In the Gospel, the one who enters this gate is the shepherd of the flock—an image familiar to John's Mediterranean audience and in a world where shepherds were male and female. The shepherd is a protecting and loving figure who is familiar with each sheep—calling each one by name. The shepherd leads the sheep who follow because 'they know his voice'. This image of the sheep 'knowing' the voice of the shepherd accentuates the deep and abiding intimate relationship between the sheep and shepherd.

In the final part of the Gospel, Jesus reaffirms his mission of protection and his intent to bring freedom to those who listen to his voice. Perhaps, by the time of the Gospel's writing, the community was already experiencing division, difficulty and others presuming to speak in ways that claimed authority but were in fact 'thieves and brigands'. The Gospel concludes: Jesus has come 'so that they may have life and have it to the full.' This desire for the fullness of life echoes in each of our hearts as we allow the voice of the 'Beautiful Shepherd' to guide, protect and nurture us.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14, 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22:1-6. R. v. 1

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (*or* Alleluia!)

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

1 Pet 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you are called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

■ The word of the Lord.

Welcome to St Nicholas' Catholic Parish, Tamworth



for The Fourth Sunday of Easter



Good Shepherd Sunday
World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Year A

26th April 2026

Fr Christopher Onuekwusi – Parish Priest

Fr Clarence Canafe – Assistant Priest

stnicholasparish@arnidale.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: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

COMMUNION: The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

‘THEY KNOW HIS VOICE.’ At times it can be hard to recognise the voice of Jesus as there are many who claim to speak his name. A useful guide is to look at people’s actions. We can listen to those whose lives reveal the qualities of Jesus: love, compassion, justice, self-sacrifice. They are the good shepherds in our midst.

Psalter Week 4

Monday 27/04 St Nicholas’ Mass 9am (Public Holiday)

Acts 11:1-18: Ps 41:2-3; 42:3-4: Jn 10:11-18:

Tuesday 28/04 St Mary’s Mass 9am

St Peter Chanel, priest, martyr

Acts 11:19-26: Ps 86:1-7: Jn 10:22-30:

Wednesday 29/04 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am

St Catherine of Siena, virgin, doctor

Acts 12:24-13:5: Ps 66:2-3, 5-6, 8: Jn 12:44-50:

Thursday 30/04 St Mary’s Mass 9am

Acts 13:13-25: Ps 88:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27: Jn 13:16-20:

Friday 01/05 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am

Acts 13:26-33: Ps 2:6-11 Jn 14:1-6:

Saturday 02/05 St Nicholas’ Mass 9am

St Athanasius, bishop, doctor

Anointing of the sick during the 9am Mass

Acts 13:44-52: Ps 97:1-4: Jn 14:7-14:

Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 03/04 St Mary’s 7.30am Mass

St Nicholas’ 9.30am & 5.30pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4pm – 5.30pm

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.

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.

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

26 Apr Sun	World Day of Prayer for Vocations	
27 Apr Mon	Public Holiday Morning Mass - 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 with morning tea hosted by the First Eucharist Candidates & Yr 2 students	St Nicholas'
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	
12 May Tue	St Nicholas Seniors, morning tea 10.30am, West Diggers	
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	
19 May Tue	St Nicholas Women Connecting – meet for dinner 5.30pm Tamworth City Bowling Club	
20 May Wed	Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
22 May Fri	Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm	St Nicholas'
22 May Fri	YOUTH GROUP 7-8.45pm	St Nicholas'
24 May Sun	McCarthy Catholic College FAMILY MASS 9.30am, St Nicholas', followed by morning tea	
26 May Tue	St Nicholas Seniors, lunch 11.30am	West Diggers

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!

FIRST EUCHARIST SCHEDULE

1 st Reconciliation:	Wed 10 June 5.30pm 2026
1 st Eucharist Masses:	Sat 13 June 6pm or Sun 14 June at 9.30am

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

Children's Liturgy: Linda/Felicita

Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm YOUTH MASS

C: Youth W/R1: Youth W/R2: Youth

Ex Min: Volunteer

Music: Henry Buckman

Altar Servers:

Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Ted Heazlett/Bruce Stewart

Altar Linen: Kate Stewart

Sacristy Cleaning: Beth & John Ryan/Bruce Stewart

Candelabrum: Brian Lincoln

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: 19th April 2026

1st Collection \$ 1,664.25

Planned Giving \$ 2,516.00

Loose \$ 366.85

Total \$ 2,882.85



It is with much sadness that we farewell Brian & Sue Thompson, who are leaving Tamworth to move closer to their children and grandchildren.

Brian has been both wonderfully dedicated and heavily involved in St Nicholas' Parish for many decades.

A morning Mass-goer, he has also been on numerous rosters and committees over the years, and given support whenever needed, as well as being an all-round 'good bloke'!

We wish Brian & Sue every happiness in this new chapter of their lives. They will be missed! We wish them well!

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.

Middle East Emergency Appeal – Aid to the Church in Need

Aid to the Church in Need is calling for urgent prayer and support for Christian communities affected by war in the Middle East. Your help will provide emergency food packages, support parishes sheltering displaced families, keep schools running and supply vital medical and pastoral care.

To learn more or give today, please scan the QR code or visit www.rebrand.ly/EmergencyAppeal

WEEKLY ROSTER – 02/03 May 2026

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm

C: Paul McDougall W/R1: Leonie Hansen W/R2: Cate Allen

Ex Min: Eil Smyth

Music: Noel Greacen

Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am

C: Matt Pawsey W/R1: Joan Newley W/R2: Sue O'Halloran

Ex Min: Deb Pawsey

Music: Anne Jones

Altar Servers: Will Nguyen

Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am FAMILY MASS

Commentator/W/R1/W/R2: St Nicholas Primary School Staff

Ex Min: Laura Hughes/Jennifer Hatfield Music: St Nicholas Choir

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 Alexander Sleiman who is being baptised this weekend. May God always bless and watch over him.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Michael Cartin and Dorothy Allan. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Shane Coote, Sr Arcadius Guthrie, Vera O'Dwyer (Anniversary 4th May), Christopher Utleg (Anniversary of death), Bev Heazlett and Myung Hwan KIM, recently deceased. May God grant them eternal rest.

PRAYER INTENTIONS: Geneveve Agnes Flores – full recovery & healing after illness. Veronica Frost – full recovery after a fall.

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), Adam Urquhart, Maureen White (Orange), Elizabeth Williams, Enid Wright.

“Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.”

~ St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

