

how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

■ The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Mt 28:19, 20  
Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Mt 28:16-20  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / A

17 MAY 2026

## I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

When reflecting on Jesus' Ascension, our liturgical focus has been heavily influenced by Luke's double version of the Ascension; one set on Easter Day in the concluding scene in Luke's Gospel (24:50-52) as Jesus' blesses his disciples at Bethany and departs from them; the other in the opening chapter of Acts (Acts 1:6-11) as Jesus leaves the disciples and is carried into heaven.

Our Gospel today is quite different. It is the concluding verses of Matthew's Gospel. The Risen Jesus gathers with the Eleven on 'the' mountain, the place of divine encounter, already familiar from earlier in the Gospel in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Here, at the Gospel's conclusion, Jesus is with the *Eleven*—not the Twelve, a reminder of the failure of one of the key members of the apostolic leadership group (Judas). It is to this group of failed leaders that Jesus, God's authoritative agent, entrusts his final teaching and missionary endorsement. They are to make disciples of all nations. This is an important injunction, given that Matthew's audience which is predominantly Jewish is now encouraged to move into the gentile world.

In Matthew's Gospel Jesus offers a universal vision. Baptism and Gospel ethical teaching will become key notes for incorporating members into this renewed community of Jesus. The Gospel concludes on a promise of divine companionship. Jesus, called 'Emmanuel' ('God with us') in the birth narrative (Matthew 1:23), reminds his audience that 'I am with you always ... to the end of time.' This affirmation of Jesus' eternal presence is comforting to Matthew's audience, and us, dealing with life's struggles and cultural challenges.

## FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

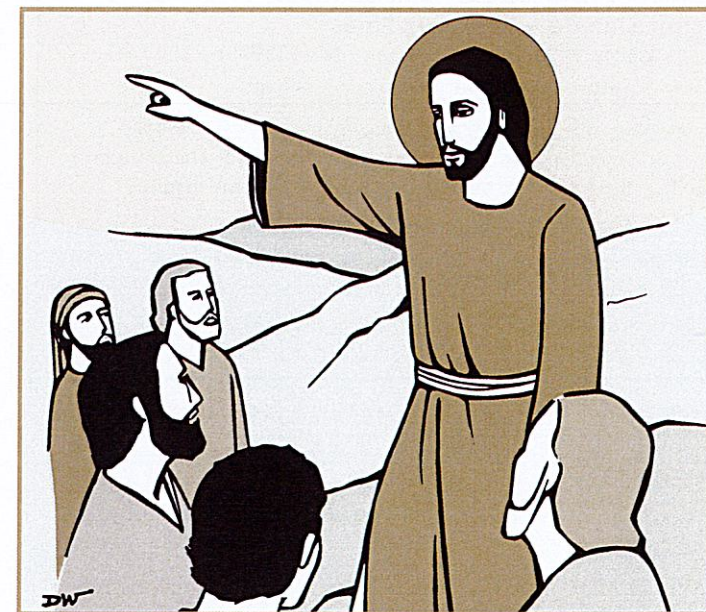
*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom of Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

■ The word of the Lord.



## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 46:2-3, 6-9. R. v. 6

**R.** God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. (or Alleluia!)

1. All peoples, clap your hands, / cry to God with shouts of joy! / For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, / great king over all the earth. **R.**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; / the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. / Sing praise for God, sing praise, / sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**
3. God is king of all the earth. / Sing praise with all your skill. / God is king over the nations; / God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

## SECOND READING Eph 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and

Fr Michael Trainor

Welcome to St Nicholas' Catholic Parish, Tamworth for The Ascension of the Lord Year A

17<sup>th</sup> May 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:** Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

**COMMUNION:** Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

**'I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS.'** The early Christian community could not remain as an enclosed, self-contained group in Jerusalem. Its members felt impelled by Christ to bring the Good News to Samaria and then to the ends of the earth. Christians in every age are called to be fully involved in the life and joys and pains of the world. At times this can be difficult but the Spirit of God is always with us to help us.

*Psalter Week 3* **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**  
**Monday 18/05** St Nicholas' Mass 7am  
Acts 19:1-8: Ps 67:2-7: Jn 16:29-33:  
**Tuesday 19/05** St Mary's Mass 9am  
Acts 20:17-27: Ps 67:10-11, 20-21: Jn 17:1-11:  
**Wednesday 20/05** St Nicholas' Mass 7am  
Acts 20:28-38: Ps 67:29-30, 33-36: Jn 17:11-19:  
**Thursday 21/05** St Mary's Mass 9am  
Acts 22:30, 23:6-11: Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11: Jn 17:20-26:  
**Friday 22/05** St Nicholas' Mass 7am  
Acts 25:13-21: Ps 102:1-2, 11-12, 19-20: Jn 21:15-19:  
**Saturday 23/05** St Nicholas' Mass 9am  
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31: Ps 10:4-5, 7: Jn 21:20-25:  
Vigil Mass 6pm  
**Sunday 24/05** 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

17 May Sun	Birthday Blessing	All Masses
	Morning tea after the 9.30am Mass hosted by Legion of Mary & Rosary groups – Piety and Catholic goods will be for sale at this morning tea.	
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	<b>YOUTH GROUP</b>	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
27 May Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'
27 May Wed	The Catholic Ladies – lunch – meet at 1pm in the Russell Room at the Services Club	
29 May Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm St Nicholas'
30 May Sat	Men's Breakfast	7am St Nicholas'
31 May Sun	FAMILY MASS	9.30am St Nicholas' with morning tea hosted by St Nicholas school students
02 Jun Tue	'Petitions' Rosary – 12.15pm	St Nicholas'
03 Jun Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'
05 Jun Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm St Nicholas'
05 Jun Fri	<b>YOUTH GROUP</b>	7-8.45pm St Nicholas'
06 Jun Sat	Anointing of the Sick during the 9am Mass	St Nicholas'
06 Jun Sat	Silent Adoration	4.00-5.30pm St Nicholas'
08 Jun Mon	PUBLIC HOLIDAY – King's Birthday	
10 Jun Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'
12 Jun Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm St Nicholas'
13 Jun Sat	First Eucharist Mass	6pm St Nicholas'
14 Jun Sun	First Eucharist Mass	9.30am St Nicholas'
17 Jun Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'



**St Vincent de Paul Society Tamworth – Conferences Fundraiser Sausage Sizzle**  
**Where & When: Bunnings, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May - 9am – 4pm.**  
**Proceeds: to be shared between the Care & Support Conferences in Tamworth & Quirindi, and Rosalie House Tamworth.**  
**Please come and support these valuable community services.**

ITINERARY FOR SAINT CARLO ACUTIS RELIC VISIT

**Sunday 28 June**  
8.30am-7pm: St Carlo Acutis Exhibition – St Nicholas Outdoor Function Area – then being transferred to McCarthy Catholic College.  
2.30pm: St Carlo Acutis Relics arrive at St Nicholas' Church.  
3pm-5.30pm: Welcome & Talk followed by veneration & confessions.  
5.30pm – 10pm: Mass, followed by a Talk, then veneration & confession.  
**Monday 29 June**  
7am: Mass, then relics transported to McCarthy until 3.30pm.  
4pm: Meditated Rosary, with sayings of St Carlo Acutis.  
4.30-7pm: Veneration & confessions, then Talk until 7.30pm.  
7.30-9.30pm: veneration & confessions.  
7.30pm-9pm: Film in Parish Meeting Room: Roadmap to Reality  
**Tuesday 30 June – St Carlo Acutis Relic Visit**  
9am – 10.30am: Mass, followed by veneration & confessions.

Tuesday 30 June (continued)

10.30am-3pm: Visit from St Nicholas Primary School students.  
3pm-6pm: veneration, followed by meditated Rosary.  
6.30pm-9pm: Talk, followed by veneration and confession.  
7.30pm-8.30pm: Documentary on Carlo Acutis in the Parish Meeting Room.  
**Wednesday 01 July - The relics travel to St Patrick's Church.**



May  
Month of Mary,  
Our Blessed Mother

WEEKLY ROSTER – 16/17 May 2026 THE ASCENSION

**St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm**  
C: Eil Smyth W/R1: Sister of Nazareth W/R2: Leonie Hansen  
Altar Server: Evolet Pottathuparambil  
Ex Min: Paul McDougall Music: Noel Greacen  
Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne  
**St Mary's Sunday 7.30am**  
C: Katrina Krough W/R1: John Murphy W/R2: Matt Pawsey  
Ex Min: Deb Pawsey Music: Anne Jones  
Altar Server: Will Nguyen  
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

**St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am**  
C: Peter Prisk W/R1: Charli Manning W/R2: Brian Lincoln  
Children's Liturgy: Louise/Alison  
Altar Servers: Isaac Hetherington/Lucas Attard  
Ex Min: Maria Lincoln/Rob Panchasarp  
Music: St Nicholas Choir  
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

**St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm**  
C: Halley Buckman W/R1: Cecilia Dries W/R2: Terry Dries  
Ex Min: Judy Campbell Music: Henry Buckman  
Altar Servers: Halley/Callum & Emmett Buckman  
Collection: Volunteers  
Counting Team: Gary Bryant/Andrew McGuirk  
Altar Linen: Rosemary Kinsela  
Sacristy Cleaning: St Nicholas Women Connecting  
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: 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026**  
1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$ 1,700.70  
Planned Giving \$ 2,278.00  
Loose \$ 483.40  
\$ 2,761.40

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES 2026-2027

It is time to place an order for our Planned Giving envelopes for the next Financial Year. If you would like to contribute to the needs of our parish by joining our Planned Giving Program, please call the parish office (67662228) on Monday/Tuesday, or email [stnicholasparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:stnicholasparish@armidale.catholic.org.au)  
Likewise, for parishioners who wish to change from envelopes to direct debit, please also contact the parish office. **Thank you!**



**MARRIAGE:** We pray for Samuel Correia & Natalia Cabral and Lucas Soares & Martinha Godinho who are celebrating Christian Marriage this weekend. We wish them a lifetime of faith, love and happiness in the years ahead.

WEEKLY ROSTER – 23/24 May 2026 PENTECOST SUNDAY

**St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm**  
C: Pauline Skewes W/R1: Gio McDougall W/R2: Eil Smyth  
Altar Server: Evolet Pottathuparambil  
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: Jessica Galvin Music: Anne Jones  
Altar Server: Will Nguyen  
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

**St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am**  
C: W/R1: W/R2: McCarthy Catholic College  
Children's Liturgy: Linda/Janine  
Altar Servers: Harry Dowsett/Sophie Dowsett  
Ex Min: Anne Bowden/Peter Prisk  
Music: St Nicholas Choir  
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

**St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm**  
C: Carol Wheaton W/R1: Claire Doherty W/R2: Judy Campbell  
Ex Min: Tania Roberts Music: Henry Buckman  
Altar Servers: Evangelyn/Ethan Nijo  
Collection: Volunteers  
Counting Team: Cecilia Dries/Anne Jones  
Altar Linen: Vivienne Mundy  
Sacristy Cleaning: Beth & John Ryan/Bruce Stewart  
Candelabrum: Bruce Stewart

**BAPTISM:** We pray for Cooper Whiley who is being baptised this weekend. May God's love be with him throughout his life.

**RECENTLY DECEASED: Dr John Clery, Margaret Green, Catherine (Kay) Joyce.** May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Maria Cavallaro, Maria Paulette Gardiner (Anniversaries), Monir Mouawad and Bakhos, Rosa & Joe Sleiman, the deceased loved ones of our parishioners from Timor Leste and Sr Arcadius Guthrie, 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), Veronica Frost, Joan Goodridge, Darren Graham, Sherree Haylock, Nadia Hurn (Newcastle), Sullivan Hurn (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.

**"Be a Catholic: When you kneel before an altar, do it in such a way that others may be able to**

**recognize that you know before Whom you kneel."**

~ St. Maximilian Kolbe

