

GOSPEL

Mt 9:36—10:8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He summoned his twelve disciples, and sent them out.

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows:

'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

WRENCHED BY PITY

After the celebration of Easter and the Feasts that immediately follow, we now return to the Gospel of Matthew. We come to a scene set after Jesus' great teaching in the 'Sermon on the Mount'. In the Sermon he taught the essential qualities of discipleship ('the Beatitudes') and how to live these out daily. Now we come to Jesus' teaching in action. He sees the crowd surrounding him and Matthew says 'he felt sorry for them'. The Greek for 'felt sorry' (*splagnizomai*) means something more powerful. 'Pity' doesn't quite capture the meaning of Matthew's intent. The Greek root is linked to one's innards or 'guts'. Jesus' response to this group of harassed and dejected individuals is visceral. His innards are twisted because of what they are experiencing.

For this reason, the rest of the Gospel passage has Jesus sending his disciples on mission to respond to the tragic and forlorn experience of those who need to encounter the message of the 'kin-dom'. Twelve are especially selected. We are given their names and they enact Jesus' desire to renew the twelve tribes of Israel. Given the Jewish audience addressed by Matthew, they ratify this renewal through their proclamation of the 'kin-dom' and deeds of healing. Their focus is specifically to the 'lost' sheep of Israel. They are to care about those who are lost in spirit, need healing and are looking to be included in Jesus' household of disciples.

Today's Gospel lays the foundation for what will become the 'synodal' approach of our Church today. We are to walk with and identify the 'lost' in our communities and parishes. This is our missionary focus. This is the primary mission of the synodal Church.

Fr Michael Trainor



ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

14 JUNE 2026

FIRST READING

Ex 19: 2-6

A reading from the book of Exodus.

You will be a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation.

From Rephidim the Israelites set out again; and when they reached the wilderness of Sinai, there in the wilderness they pitched their camp; there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp.

Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Say this to the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, "You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own, for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation."'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 99: 2-3, 5. R. v. 3

R. We are his people: the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. / Serve the Lord with gladness. / Come before him, singing for joy. **R.**

2. Know that he, the Lord, is God. / He made us, we belong to him, / we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **R.**

3. Indeed, how good is the Lord, / eternal his merciful love. / He is faithful from age to age. **R.**

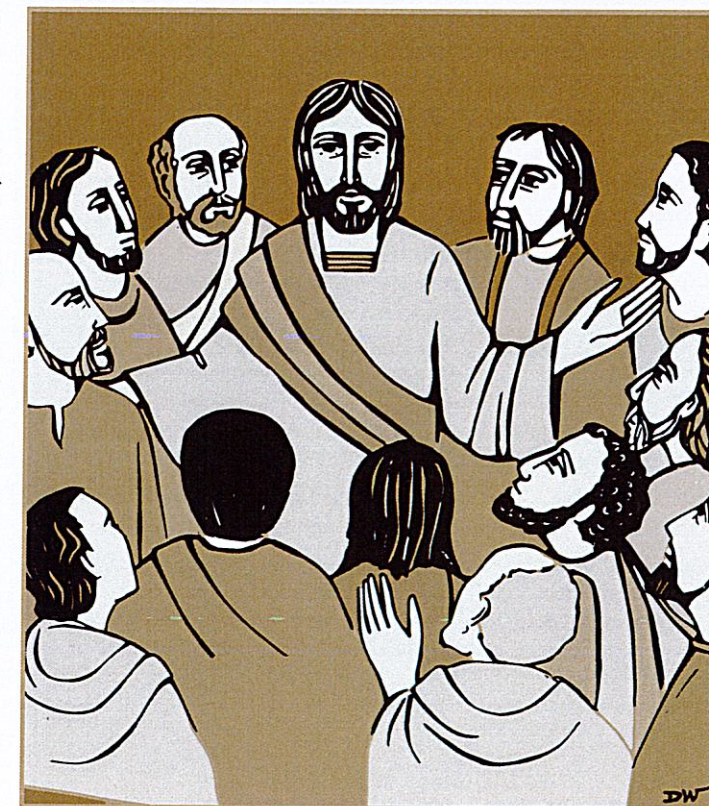
SECOND READING

Rom 5: 6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

We have been reconciled to God through the death of his Son; we are saved by his life.

We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of



course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mk 1: 15

Alleluia, alleluia! / The kingdom of God is near; / repent and believe the Good News! / Alleluia!

Welcome to St Nicholas' Catholic Parish, Tamworth for The Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

14th June 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: O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour.

COMMUNION: There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

‘THE HARVEST IS RICH.’ Aware of the vast numbers of people who were harassed and dejected Jesus called twelve apostles to share in his mission. They were to do the same works as Jesus, healing the sick and proclaiming the kingdom of heaven. Christ still needs helpers to share in his mission. At the end of each Mass Christ sends us out to love and serve God and one another.

Psalter Week 3

Monday 15/06 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
1 Kg 21:1-16: Ps 5:2-3, 5-7: Mt 5:38-42:
Tuesday 16/06 St Mary's Mass 9am
1 Kg 21:17-29: Ps 50:3-6, 11, 16: Mt 5:43-48:
Wednesday 17/06 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
2 Kg 2:1, 6-14: Ps 30:20, 21, 24: Mt 6:1-6, 16-18:
Thursday 18/06 St Mary's Mass 9am
Sirach 48:1-14: Ps 96:1-7: Mt 6:7-15:
Friday 19/06 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
2 Kings 11:1-4, 9-18, 20: Ps 131:11-14, 17-18: Mt 6:19-23:
Saturday 20/06 St Nicholas' Mass 9am
2 Chr 24:17-25: Ps 88:4-5, 29-34: Mt 6:24-34:
Vigil Mass 6pm
Sunday 21/06 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

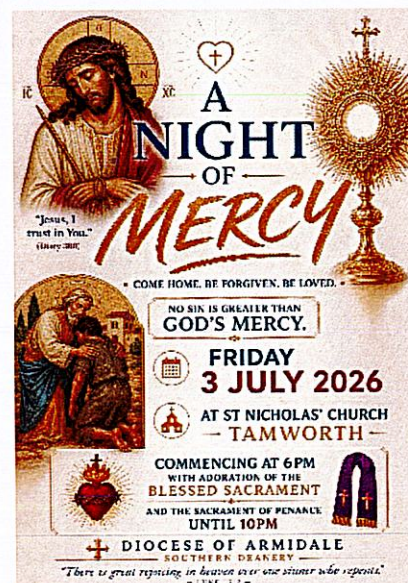
13 Jun Sat First Eucharist Mass 6pm St Nicholas'
14 Jun Sun First Eucharist Mass 9.30am St Nicholas'
16 Jun Tue St Nicholas Women Connecting meet for dinner at the Tamworth City Bowling Club, 5.30pm.
17 Jun Wed Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'
19 Jun Fri Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St Nicholas'
21 Jun Sun Birthday Blessings All Masses
Morning Tea in the Outdoor Function area, hosted by the Parish Pastoral Council after the 9.30am Mass.
23 Jun Tue St Nicholas Seniors, lunch 11.30am West Diggers
24 Jun Wed Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'
24 Jun Wed The Catholic Ladies – lunch – meet at 1pm in the Russell Room at the Services Club
26 Jun Fri Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St Nicholas'
27 Jun Sat Men's Breakfast 7am St Nicholas'
28 Jun Sun FAMILY MASS 9.30am St Nicholas' with morning tea hosted by St Nicholas School students
28 Jun Sun YOUTH MASS 5.30pm St Nicholas'
28 Jun Sun Special Collection – Peter's Pence – All Masses
30 Jun Tue 9am Morning Mass at St Nicholas' (not St Mary's) – St Carlo Acutis Relic Visit
01 Jul Wed Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'
03 Jul Fri End of School Term 2
03 Jul Fri A NIGHT OF MERCY 6pm-10pm St Nicholas' Adoration – 6-7pm then Adoration continues with Reconciliation available, ending with Benediction.
04 Jul Sat Anointing of the sick during 9am Mass St Nicholas'
04 Jul Sat Silent Adoration 4-5.30pm St Nicholas'
07 Jul Tue CLERGY WINTER SCHOOL - Armidale
Fr John Curran will be the Tamworth 'on call' priest
07 Jul Tue 'Petitions' Rosary 12.15pm St Nicholas'
08 Jul Wed Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'
10 Jul Fri Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St Nicholas'



Parish Picnic: Sunday 30 August
commencing at 11am
Tamworth Miniature Railway
Sausage sizzle and tea & coffee available!



June: The month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



WEEKLY ROSTER – 13/14 June 2026

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm

First Eucharist Mass

C: Amanda Scott W/R1: Sister of Nazareth W/R2: Kerry Ackhurst
Prayers of the Faithful: Kelly Whitbread
Altar Server: Evolet Pottathuparambil
Ex Min: Paul McDougall/Deacon Allem Music: St Nicholas Choir
Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am

C: Tony Ryan W/R1: Cheryl Higgins W/R2: Joan Newley
Ex Min: Kevin McMahon Music: Anne Jones
Altar Server: Will Nguyen
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am

First Eucharist Mass

C: Amanda Scott W/R1: Belinda Tyrrell W/R2: Charli Manning
Prayers of the Faithful: Elissa Cameron
Altar Servers: Isaac Hetherington/Lucas Attard
Ex Min: Deacon Allem/Carol Wheaton Music: St Nicholas Choir
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm

C: Henry Buckman W/R1: Renee Dunst W/R2: Marilyn Gaffney
Ex Min: Cecilia Dries Music: Henry Buckman
Altar Servers: Halley/Callum/Emmett Buckman
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Paul & Giovanna McDougall
Altar Linen: Maria Lincoln
Sacristy Cleaning: St Nicholas Women Connecting
Candelabrum: 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: 7th June 2026

1st Collection \$ 1,879.05
Planned Giving \$ 1,953.00
Loose \$ 568.15
\$ 2,521.15

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE 2026

Parent/Carer Information Session in St Nicholas' Church:

Wed 29 July 5.30pm or Sat 1 August 2pm

Confirmation Masses: Sat 19 Sep 6pm or

Sun 20 Sep 9.30am



PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Fr Chris is looking for volunteers to run our soon-to-be-operating Piety Stall which will be located at the back of St Nicholas' Church. He is planning to have the stall open after each of the Sunday Masses at St Nicholas'.

If you would be interested in looking after the stall for a short period after the Mass you attend, please let Fr Chris know - he is hoping to have 2-3 volunteers available at each Mass. Thank you!

With hearts filled with faith and gratitude, St Thomas Indian Orthodox Church Tamworth warmly invite St Nicholas' parishioners for a special screening of "The Passion of the Christ" on the 15th of June at 6:30 pm at Forum 6 Cinema. Your presence and support will truly make this meaningful and a great success. We look forward to sharing this evening with all of you. Please click the link below for tickets.

<https://www.movietkts.com.au/Forum-6-Cinemas-Tamworth/PASSIONCHR/2026-06-15/6:30pm/Cinema-03/promo>



MARRIAGE: We pray for Paul White & Prima Cobelo who are celebrating Christian Marriage this weekend. We wish them a lifetime of faith, love and happiness in the years ahead.

WEEKLY ROSTER – 20/21 June 2026

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm

C: Giovanna McDougall W/R1: Pauline Skewes
W/R2: Leonie Hansen
Altar Server: Evolet Pottathuparambil
Ex Min: Eil Smyth Music: St Nicholas Choir
Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am

C: Judy Scott W/R1: Tony Ryan W/R2: Bernadette Virgen
Ex Min: Jessica Galvin Music: Anne Jones Altar Server: Will Nguyen
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am

C: Patrick Mahony W/R1: Gina Mahony W/R2: Michael Moy
Altar Servers: Dominic Vinod/Ndinasse Zuarevashe/Oscar Lintott
Ex Min: Fiona Downey/Brian Lincoln Music: St Nicholas Choir
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm

C: Cecilia Dries W/R1: Paul Hagley W/R2: Alison Hagley
Ex Min: Tania Roberts Music: Henry Buckman
Altar Servers: Evangelyn/Ethan Nijo
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Bill Higgins/Pauline Skewes
Altar Linen: Kerrie Bryant
Sacristy Cleaning: Beth & John Ryan/Bruce Stewart
Candelabrum: Anne Jones

BAPTISMS: We pray for Eddison Hawthorne who is being baptised this weekend. May God always bless and watch over him.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Jean Wellwood, Shirley Flanagan, Julie Michell, Patricia "Pat" Jones, Richard Edler, Isaac Eveleigh, Lyonel Kitson, Betty Halpin, Lou Kesby (Kempsey) and Helen Roworth. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

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, Ken Honess, Nadia Hum (Newcastle), Sullivan Hum (Singleton), Kay Mason, Jan & Richard Noad, Penny Pavlakis (Sydney), Richard Panchasarp (USA), Kim Riley (Orange), Adam Urquhart, Maureen White (Orange), Elizabeth Williams, Enid Wright.

"The future starts today, not tomorrow."
~ St. John Paul the Great



We wish to Congratulate all the Candidates who are receiving First Eucharist this weekend. We thank the staff at St Nicholas Primary School, and our Parish coordinators who have worked so hard, preparing for this special time. Please keep the candidates and their families in your prayers as they continue their faith journey.