

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 15: 26-27

Alleluia, alleluia! / The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, / and you also will be my witnesses. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 10: 26-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Do not fear those who can kill the body.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

DIVINE PRESENCE

The instruction to the Twelve that concluded last Sunday's Gospel continues today. Again, the Gospel offers us a missionary mandate and insight. The mission is essentially optimistic because 'everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear.' No way of life for the disciples, of their missionary commitment and engagement will be lost. It may appear to be covered and hidden but, ultimately and eventually, God's goodness and the work of the 'kin-dom' will be revealed. No longer will the message of the Gospel be spoken in the dark or whispered. It will be proclaimed from the housetops!

The affirmation of the fruitfulness of the missionary task spills over into the way God will care for those on mission—and this is what is addressed also to us: We are looked after by God, in every detail of our lives. As Matthew puts it in the final verses of today's Gospel, Jesus will affirm us before God.

There is one translation point worth noting in today's Gospel. What is translated about God's care of even the sparrows, which is translated as 'yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing', is better and more accurately translated, 'and not one of them falls to the earth without your Father'. It is not about God's knowledge of the falling sparrow, it is the very presence of God accompanying the falling or dying sparrow that is affirmed. That same God accompanies us. There is nothing in our life that happens without God's presence intimately caring for us. God is joined to us in intimate care and accompaniment. This God we celebrate today in our liturgy!

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

21 JUNE 2026

FIRST READING

Jer 20: 10-13

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.

Jeremiah said:

I hear so many disparaging me,

' "Terror from every side!"

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!

All those who used to be my friends

watched for my downfall,

'Perhaps he will be seduced into error.

Then we will master him

and take our revenge!

But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;

my opponents will stumble, mastered,

confounded by their failure;

everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be

theirs.

But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice,

who scrutinise the loins and heart,

let me see the vengeance you will take on them,

for I have committed my cause to you.

Sing to the Lord,

praise the Lord,

for he has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of evil men.

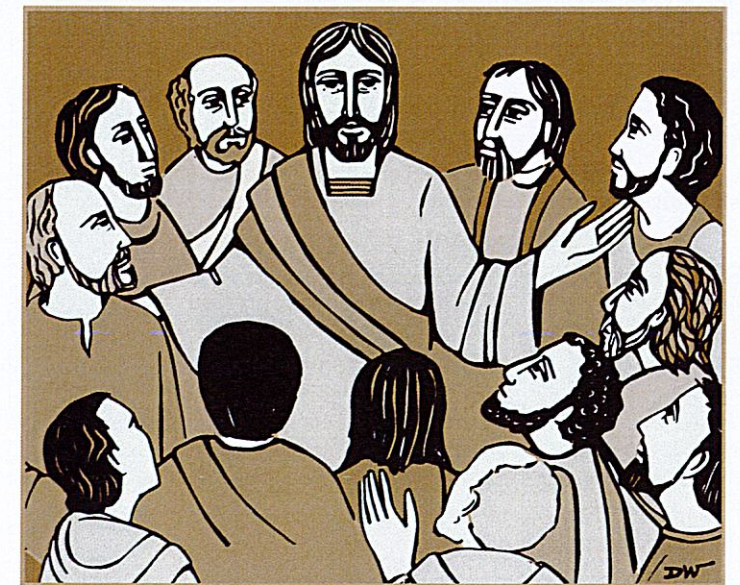
■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 68: 8-10, 14, 17, 33-35. R. v. 14

R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts, / that shame covers my face, / that I have become a stranger to my brothers, / an alien to my own mother's sons. / I burn with zeal for your house / and taunts against you fall on me. **R.**

2. This is my prayer to you, / my prayer for your favour. / In your great love, answer me, O God, / with your help that never fails: / Lord, answer, for your love is kind; / in your compassion, turn towards me. **R.**



3. The poor when they see it will be glad / and God-seeking hearts will revive; / for the Lord listens to the needy; / and does not spurn his servants in their chains. / Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, / the sea and all its living creatures. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 5: 12-15

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

God's gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

■ The word of the Lord.

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

21st 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: The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.

COMMUNION: The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

‘DO NOT BE AFRAID.’ In the face of many attacks Jesus courageously proclaimed the Good News of the Kingdom. His courage stemmed from his firm belief in the Father’s love for him. Likewise, the prophet Jeremiah was not destroyed by intense opposition because he knew that his cause was with God. May we also be courageous witnesses to the values of the Gospel knowing that God’s love for us far outweighs any opposition we may encounter.

Psalter Week 4

Monday 22/06 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
Sts John Fisher, bishop, and Thomas More, martyrs
 2 Kg 17:5-8, 13-15, 18: Ps 59:3-5, 12-13: Mt 7:1-5:

Tuesday 23/06 St Mary’s Mass 9am
 2 Kg 19:9-11, 14-21, 31-36: Ps 47:2-4, 10-11: Mt 7:6, 12-14:

Wednesday 24/06 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
The Nativity of St John the Baptist
 Is 49:1-6: Ps 138:1-3, 13-15: Acts 13:22-26: Lk 1:57-66, 80:

Thursday 25/06 St Mary’s Mass 9am
 2 Kg 24:8-17: Ps 78:1-5, 8-9: Mt 7:21-29:

Friday 26/06 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
 2 Kg 25:1-12: Ps 136:1-6: Mt 8:1-4:

Saturday 27/06 St Nicholas’ Mass 9am
 Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19: Ps 73:1-7, 20-21: Mt 8:5-17:
 Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 28/06 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.

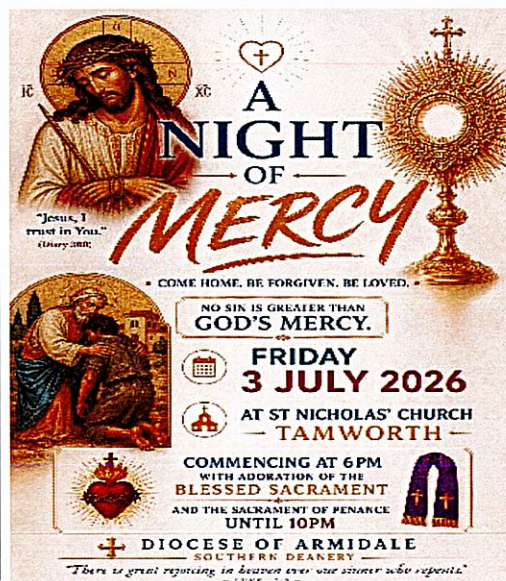
PRAYERFUL REFLECTION on the readings is always included in this Bulletin, after the Communion Antiphon. You are encouraged to reflect on this every week.

Diary Dates

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’
28 Jun	Sun	St Carlo Acutis Exhibition 8.30am-7pm	St Nicholas’
		Outdoor Function Area	
28 Jun	Sun	Arrival of St Carlo Acutis Relic, 2.30pm	St Nicholas’
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’
12 Jul	Sun	Seafarers Sunday	
14 Jul	Tue	St Nicholas Seniors, morning tea 10.30am	West Diggers
15 Jul	Wed	Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas’
17 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 – 20/21 June 2026

St Nicholas’ Saturday 6pm
 C: Giovanna McDougall W/R1: Pauline Skewes
 W/R2: Leonie Hansen
 Altar Server: Evolet
 Ex Min: Eil Smyth Music: Noel Greacen
 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: Maria Gruer W/R1: Maria Lincoln W/R2: Nick Nweke
 Children’s Liturgy: Louise/Danae
 Altar Servers: Dominic/Ndinashe/Oscar
 Ex Min: Maria Lincoln/Rob Panchasarp 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/Kyra/Nyssa
 Collection: Volunteers

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

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: 14th June 2026
 1st Collection \$ 2,051.00
 Planned Giving \$ 1,593.00
 Loose \$ 452.55
 \$ 2,045.55
Planned Giving Envelopes are now available for collection at the back of St Nicholas’ and St Mary’s Churches – Thank you!

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

St Thomas Indian Orthodox Church, Tamworth express their sincere gratitude to those parishioners who attended the screening of The Passion of the Christ. Your presence added greatly to the success of the event, and the Indian community were delighted to share together as one Christian family. Thank you!

St Carlo Acutis Relic Visit Itinerary

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 Relic arrives at St Nicholas’ Church.
 3pm-5.30pm: Welcome & Talk followed by veneration & confession.
 5.30pm – 10pm: Mass, followed by a Talk, then veneration & confession.

Monday 29 June

7am: Mass, then relic transported to McCarthy until 3.30pm.
 4pm: Meditated Rosary, with sayings of St Carlo Acutis.
 4.30pm-7pm: Relic returns to St Nicholas’. Veneration & confession. A Talk at 7pm.
 7.30pm-9.30pm: Veneration & confession.
 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.
 10.30am-3pm: Visit from St Nicholas Primary School students.
 3pm-6pm: Veneration, followed by meditated Rosary.
 6.30pm-9pm: A 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.

WEEKLY ROSTER – 27/28 June 2026

St Nicholas’ Saturday 6pm
 C: Kerry Ackhurst W/R1: Eil Smyth W/R2: Pauline Skewes
 Altar Server: Evolet
 Ex Min: Leonie Hansen Music: Noel Greacen
 Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary’s Sunday 7.30am
 C: Bruce Stewart W/R1: Katrina Krogh W/R2: Tony Ryan
 Ex Min: Cheryl Higgins Music: Anne Jones
 Altar Server: Will Nguyen
 Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas’ Sunday 9.30am FAMILY MASS
 C: Timothy Igbenije W/R1: Dean Rowsell W/R2: Cate Belson
 Prayers of the Faithful: St Nicholas Primary School
 Altar Servers: Abigail, Amanda, Chinedum
 Ex Min: Alison Hamilton/Brian Lincoln Music: St Nicholas Choir
 Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas’ Sunday 5.30pm YOUTH MASS

C:/W/R1:/W/R2: Youth
 Ex Min: Volunteer Music: Henry Buckman
 Altar Servers: Zoe/Maddison
 Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Gary Bryant/Andrew McGuirk
 Altar Linen: Rosemary Kinsela
 Sacristy Cleaning: Ellie Muldoon/Kerrie Bryant
 Candelabrum: every 2nd week

BAPTISMS: We pray for **Liam O’Keefe** who is being baptised this weekend. May God always bless and watch over him.

RECENTLY DECEASED: **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), Joan Goodridge, Darren Graham, Sherree Haylock, Ken Honess, Nadia Hurn (Newcastle), Sullivan Hurn (Singleton), Kay Mason, Jan & Richard Noad, Penny Pavlakis (Sydney), Richard Panchasarp (USA), Kim Riley (Orange), Adam Urquhart, Maureen White (Orange), Elizabeth Williams, Enid Wright.

***“All people are born as originals but many die as photocopies”.
 ~ St. Carlo Acutis***

