

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Pet 2: 9

Alleluia, alleluia! / You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. / Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 10: 37-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Anyone who does not accept his cross is not worthy of me. Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.'

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.'

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.'

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

HOW SHOULD I LIVE AND ACT?

If Jesus were to meet you (and he does constantly!) and you were to ask him, 'How should I act and live my life?', the answer would come into today's Gospel. It continues Jesus' teaching concerned with disciples (us!) on mission. As our church deepens its practice of synodality, the instructions Jesus offers are meant for all: our focus is to be on Jesus. Our relationship with him guides every other relationship and commitment. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the Twelve, the symbolic leadership group of disciples who spearhead the Jesus missionary movement, 'Anyone who prefers[fill in the blanks] ... is not worthy of me.' His words are not a rejection of one's relationships or family ties but the preference in all relationships is to be guided by our abiding commitment and friendship with Jesus.

The second collection of sayings in today's Gospel concerns hospitality. Those who welcome others, members of the Jesus household, and act in holiness or speak prophetically are also welcoming the presence of Jesus. This spirit of openness and receptivity continues into the last part of today's Gospel. Offering a welcoming drink to 'one of these little ones'—those regarded as social nobodies without prestige or status—and discerned, surprisingly, as disciples, as members of Jesus' community of believers, will be eternally rewarded: '...they will most certainly not lose their reward.'

Today's Gospel is not about earning rewards, though. It is about how to live, with a firm commitment to Jesus and welcoming all, especially the 'little ones' and identifying as disciples the most unlikely.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

28 JUNE 2026

FIRST READING

2 Kings 4: 8-11, 14-16

A reading from the second book of the Kings.

That is the holy man of God, let him remain there.

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

■ The word of the Lord.

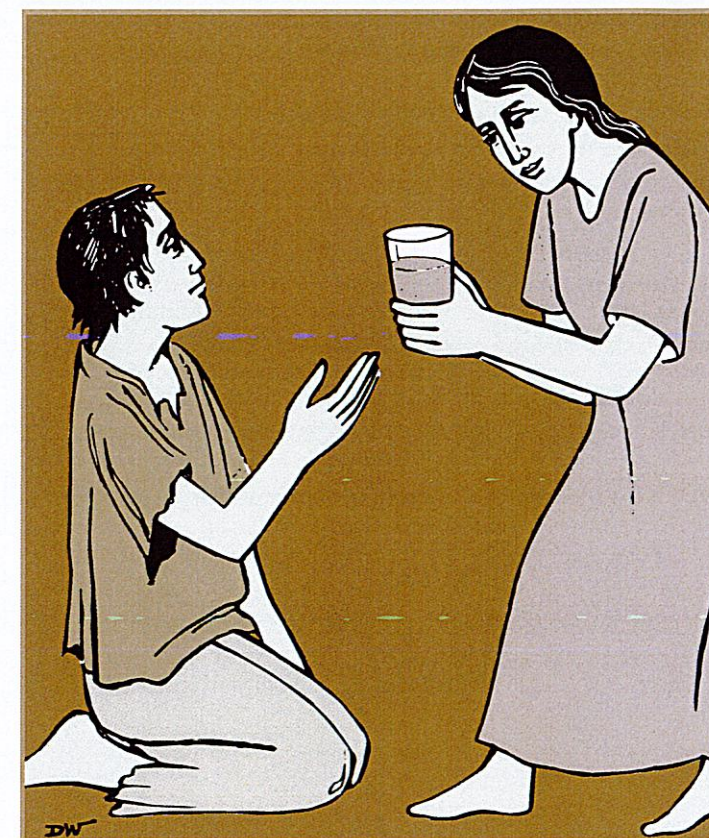
RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 88: 2-3, 16-19. R. v. 2

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; / through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. / Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, / that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king, / who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, / who find their joy every day in your name, / who make your justice the source of their bliss. **R.**

3. For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength; / it is by your favour that our might is exalted: / for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord; / our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 6: 3-4, 8-11

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

Having been buried with him through baptism, we shall walk in a new life.

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

■ The word of the Lord.

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

28th 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: All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!

COMMUNION: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.

‘HARD SAYINGS.’ Today’s Gospel includes a number of so-called ‘hard sayings’ of Jesus. They identify the basic paradox of our Christian faith: it is only by emptying ourselves in imitation of Jesus (Phil 2:7) that we can receive the fullness of life which is his gift (Jn 10:10). There can be no real growth in the Spirit if self-interest prevails.

Psalter Week 1

Monday 29/06 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
Sts PETER and PAUL, apostles
Acts 12:1-11: Ps 33:2-9: 2 Tim 4:6-8, 17-18: Mt 16:13-19:

Tuesday 30/06 St Nicholas’ Mass 9am
Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12: Ps 5:5-8: Mt 8:23-27:

Wednesday 01/07 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
Blessed George Beesley, priest, martyr
Amos 5:14-15, 21-24: Ps 49:7-13, 16-17: Mt 8:28-34:

Thursday 02/07 St Mary’s Mass 9am
Amos 7:10-17: Ps 18:8-11: Mt 9:1-8:

Friday 03/07 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
St Thomas, apostle
Eph 2:19-22: Ps 116: Jn 20:24-29:

Saturday 04/07 St Nicholas’ Mass 9am
Amos 9:11-15: Ps 84:9, 11-14: Mt 9:14-17:
Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 05/07 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

28 Jun Sun Special Collection – Peter’s Pence – All Masses

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’
3pm-5.30pm: Welcome & Talk followed by veneration, confessions & personal blessing with the Relic.
5.30pm – 10pm: Mass, followed by a Talk, veneration, confessions & personal blessing with the Relic.

28 Jun Sun YOUTH MASS 5.30pm St Nicholas’

29 Jun Mon See St Carlo Acutis Relic Visit Itinerary – column 3

30 Jun Tue 9am Morning Mass at St Nicholas’ (not St Mary’s)

– St Carlo Acutis Relic Visit

30 Jun Tue See St Carlo Acutis Relic Visit Itinerary – column 3

01 Jun Wed St Carlo Acutis Relic travels to St Patrick’s Church

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’

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’

19 Jul Sun Birthday Blessings All Masses
Morning Tea in the Outdoor Function area, after the 9.30am Mass hosted by the Ignite Parish Group

21 Jul Tue Start of School Term 3

21 Jul Tue St Nicholas Women Connecting meet for dinner at the Tamworth City Bowling Club at 5.30pm

22 Jul Wed Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am St Nicholas’

22 Jul Wed The Catholic Ladies – lunch – meet at 1pm in the Russell Room at the Services Club

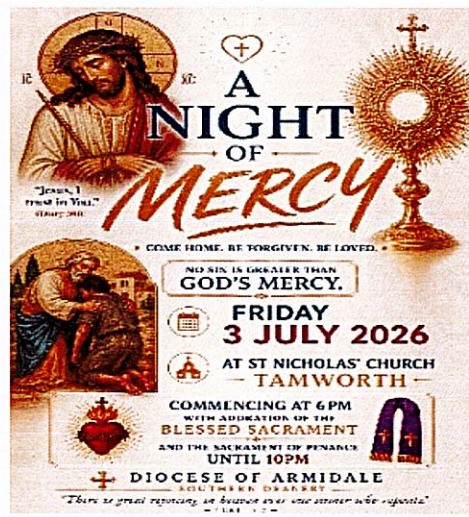
24 Jul Fri Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St Nicholas’

25 Jun Sat Men’s Breakfast 7am St Nicholas’

28 Jul Tue St Nicholas Seniors, morning tea 10.30am West Diggers



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



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

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: 21st June 2026

1st Collection \$ 1,844.30

Planned Giving \$ 1,866.00

Loose \$ 326.50

Planned Giving Envelopes are now available for collection at the back of St Nicholas’ and St Mary’s Churches – 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 – Saint of the Young, Apostle of the Eucharist - followed by veneration & confessions & personal blessing with the Relic.

5.30pm – 10pm: Mass, followed by a Talk – St Carlo’s 5 steps to being a Saint - then veneration, confessions & personal blessing with the Relic.

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. Talk – Jesus, come right in. Make yourself at home - 7pm.

7.30pm-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.

10.30am-3pm: Visit from St Nicholas’ Primary School students.

3pm-6pm: Veneration, followed by meditated Rosary.

6.30pm-9pm: Talk – The Eucharist is truly the heart of Jesus - followed by veneration and confessions.

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 – 04/05 July 2026

St Nicholas’ Saturday 6pm

C: Paul McDougall W/R1: Belinda Tyrrell W/R2: Cate Allen

Altar Server: Evolet

Ex Min: Kerry Ackhurst

Music: Noel Greacen

Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary’s Sunday 7.30am

C: Katrina Krogh W/R1: Bernadette Virgen W/R2: Judy Scott

Ex Min: Karen King

Music: Anne Jones

Altar Server: Will Nguyen

Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas’ Sunday 9.30am

C: Lucy Roberts W/R1: Maria Lincoln W/R2: Alison Hamilton

Prayers of the Faithful: St Nicholas Primary School

Altar Servers: Charles/Jason/Daniel Igbenije

Ex Min: Peter Prisk/Fiona Downey Music: St Nicholas Choir

Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas’ Sunday 5.30pm

C: Merrilyn Gaffney W/R1: Carol Wheaton W/R2: Judy Campbell

Ex Min: Rob Panchasarp

Music: Veronica Frost

Altar Servers: Evangelyn/Ethan Nijo

Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Paul & Giovanna McDougall

Altar Linen: Rosemary Kinsela

Sacristy Cleaning: St Nicholas Women Connecting

Candelabrum: John Wallace

RECENTLY DECEASED: Isaac Eveleigh, Lyonel Kitson, Betty Halpin, Lou Kesby (Kempsey) and Helen Roworth. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Shane Coote, John O’Dwyer** (Anniversary) and **Florry Dullas Pereira** (7th Anniversary). May they rest in God’s peace.

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.

EUCCHARIST 28

Free online Catechesis with Archbishop Anthony Fisher on Eucharistic Miracles, Tuesday 30 June at 7:30pm via Zoom.

In preparation for Eucharist28, there is a national catechetical series called Didasko (to teach) which is being offered live online, most of these require payment; however, the above event is free. To register go to <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1534102>

“Do not be afraid because with the Incarnation of Jesus, death becomes life, and there’s no need to escape: in eternal life, something extraordinary awaits us”.

~ St. Carlo Acutis

Peter’s Pence Collection this weekend

This weekend, we join with many parishes across the World in the **Peter’s Pence Collection**. This Collection provides for the charitable works and structures of mercy identified by Pope Leo XIV.

By supporting this collection, we join in supporting urgent projects including emergency assistance to those in need due to natural disasters, communities impacted by conflict, oppression and disease. In recent times, support has gone to people in Ukraine, Lithuania, Tanzania, the Philippines, Iraq, Haiti, the Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Brazil among others. Our generosity allows the Pope to respond with love and compassion to those suffering.

Your support will be gratefully received.

Thank you for your generosity!