

happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

‘Have you understood all this?’ They said, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

COMMUNION WITH GOD

Today we continue to hear from the central chapter in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' parable teaching about the kin-dom of God. Over the past Sundays we have been hearing parables concerned with sowed seed (15th Sunday) and the mystery of the darnel sown among the wheat (last Sunday). Today we hear that the kin-dom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, a common banking technique by peasant farmers to protect their most valuable possessions. Someone discovers this treasure; hides it again and then sells every possession to buy the field and claim the treasure. Between the discovery and the purchase, the finder goes off "happy". The overwhelming joy of the discovery leads the merchant to sell everything to buy the field. This is an image of the disciple, of us, in discovering that the true encounter with God, the experience of the kin-dom, is most precious. Nothing can substitute it.

The second parable that concludes today's Gospel is like the first. It is about a merchant's search for valuable pearls and, in finding one, sells everything to have the pearl. In the ancient world, in the time of Jesus and Matthew, the pearl represented purity, beauty, power, wealth, even divinity. The discovery of the pearl by the parable's merchant leads, as in the first parable, to the selling of everything possessed to gain the pearl.

Both parables speak into our desire for ultimate and intimate communion with the God revealed through Jesus. When we experience such communion, we realise how valuable it is; nothing can compare to it. Intimate communion with God cannot be bought nor can anything else in human existence substitute for it. This communion is deepened in every celebration of the Eucharist.

Fr Michael Trainor



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

26 JULY 2026

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

You have asked for wisdom.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this', the Lord said, 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130. R. v. 97

R. Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, / is to obey your word. / The law from your mouth means more to me / than silver and gold. **R.**
2. Let your love be ready to console me / by your promise to your servant. / Let your love come to me and I shall live / for your law is my delight. **R.**
3. That is why I love your commands / more than finest gold. / That is why I rule my life by your precepts: / I hate false ways. **R.**
4. Your will is wonderful indeed; / therefore I obey it. / The unfolding of your word gives light / and teaches the simple. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia! / Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, / you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 13:44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off

*Welcome to St Nicholas'
Catholic Parish, Tamworth
for The Seventeenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

**World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly
Year A**

26th July 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: God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

COMMUNION: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

‘FINDING A TREASURE.’ A treasure is not something we earn but something we find. We can spend a lot of our lives wishing and hoping that some treasure will come our way. We can forget that we already possess a wonderful treasure in our loved ones and in the gift of life itself. And the greatest treasure of all is the kingdom of heaven which Jesus freely offers to us. May we have the wisdom to seek our treasure in God, and not in the glittering goods of a passing world.

Psalter Week 1

Monday 27/07 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
Jer 13:1-11: Deut 32:18-21: Mt 13:31-35:

Tuesday 28/07 St Mary's Mass 9am
Jer 14:17-22: Ps 78:8-9, 11, 13: Mt 13:36-43:

Wednesday 29/07 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus
1 Jn 4:7-16: Ps 33:2-11: Jn 11:19-27: or Lk 10:38-42:

Thursday 30/07 St Mary's Mass 9am
Jer 18:1-6: Ps 145:2-6: Mt 13:47-53:

Friday 31/07 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
St Ignatius of Loyola, priest
Jer 26:1-9: Ps 68:5, 8-10, 14: Mt 13:54-58:

Saturday 01/08 St Nicholas' Mass 9am
St Alphonsus Liguori, bishop, doctor
Jer 26:11-16, 24: Ps 68:15-16, 30-31, 33-34: Mt 14:1-12:
Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 02/08 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.

Found: a thick gold hoop earring in the Marius Street side of St Nicholas' Church. If the owner is you, please phone the Parish Office. Thank you!

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 Jul	Sun	World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly	
28 Jul	Tue	St Nicholas Seniors, lunch 11.30am	West Diggers
29 Jul	Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'
31 Jul	Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm St Nicholas'
31 Jul	Fri	YOUTH GROUP – 7-8.45pm – Outdoor Function Area	
01 Aug	Sat	Anointing of the Sick during the 9am Mass	St Nicholas'
01 Aug	Sat	Silent Adoration	4-5.30pm St Nicholas'
02 Aug	Sun	Special Collection – Retired Clergy and Education of Seminarians	
		02 - 09 August – Vocations Awareness Week	
02 Aug	Sun	FAMILY MASS – 9.30am, followed by Morning tea	
		Hosted by Yr 6, Confirmation candidates and Kinder students	
04 Aug	Tue	'Petitions' Rosary	12.15pm St Nicholas'
05 Aug	Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'
07 Aug	Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm St Nicholas'
09 Aug	Sun	Safe Ministry W'shop, after 9.30am Mass – St Nicholas' to finish by 12.30pm	
11 Aug	Tue	St Nicholas Seniors, Morning tea	10.30am, West Diggers
12 Aug	Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'
14 Aug	Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm St Nicholas'
14 Aug	Fri	YOUTH GROUP – 7-8.45pm – Outdoor Function Area	
15 Aug	Sat	THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	
		Holy Day of Obligation – Mass 9am - St Nicholas'	
16 Aug	Sun	Birthday Blessings	All Masses
		Morning Tea in the Outdoor Function area, after the 9.30am Mass hosted by the Frassati Prayer Group	
19 Aug	Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'
20 Aug	Thu	St Nicholas Women Connecting meet for dinner at the Tamworth City Bowling Club at 5.30pm	
21 Aug	Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm St Nicholas'
23 Aug	Sun	McCarthy Family Mass – 9.30am, followed by Morning Tea in the Outdoor Function Area	
25 Aug	Tue	St Nicholas Seniors, lunch	11.30am West Diggers
26 Aug	Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'
26 Aug	Wed	The Catholic Ladies – lunch – meet at 1pm in the Russell Room at the Services Club	



Parish Picnic

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



**St Nicholas' Parish Child & Vulnerable Adults
Protection and Safeguarding Statement**

Our parish is dedicated to creating a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment for all, especially children and vulnerable adults.

Zero Tolerance for Abuse

We have a strict zero-tolerance policy for any form of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children or vulnerable adults.

Compliance with Safeguarding Standards

Our parish follows the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, Integrity in Our Common Mission, and adheres with best-practice safeguarding principles.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Policy is available on the Diocesan & Parish websites, and in the Parish Office.

Parish Safeguarding is a shared responsibility & feedback from both children & adults is welcomed & encouraged.

WEEKLY ROSTER – 25/26 July 2026

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm

C: Belinda Tyrrell W/R1: Kerry Ackhurst W/R2: Gio McDougall

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: Matt Pawsey W/R2: Bernadette Virgen

Ex Min: Deb Pawsey

Music: Anne Jones

Altar Server: Will Nguyen

Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am

C: Anne Bowden W/R1: Maria Gruer W/R2: Gina Mahony

Altar Servers: Harry/Sophie Dowsett/Uchenna Nwafor

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

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: Zoey Davis/Maddison McDougall

Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Cecilia Dries/Anne Jones

Altar Linen: Kate Stewart

Sacristy Cleaning: Marie Rice/Gemma & Michael Moy

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: 19th July 2026

1st Collection \$ 1,863.00

Planned Giving \$ 1,787.00

Loose \$ 380.10

\$ 2,167.10

A speaker will deliver the Annual Financial Report for the Parish at all Masses on the weekend of 08/09 August.

SAFE TRAINING ATTENDANCE

VOLUNTEERS WHO MUST ATTEND

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacristan • Parish Secretary • Parish Safeguarding Contact Person • Parish Council member • Parish Finance Council Member • Choir Director • Children's liturgy coordinator or helper • Catechesis of the Good Shepherd leader or helper • Adult altar server (if children are serving) • Sacramental Coordinator | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth group leader or helper • Leader or helper in other child related ministry • Extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist distributing at homes or nursing homes • Heart of Peace (HOPE) Outreach Volunteer (unless preparing food with no contact with patrons) • Parish arranged prayer group/bible study leader |
|--|---|

VOLUNTEERS WHO DO NOT NEED TO ATTEND

However, all are encouraged to attend the training as it provides good formation on how to spot abuse and what to do about it in all areas of life

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catechists who have already completed some safeguarding training (unless they are involved in another additional ministry in the parish that does require training) • Readers • Money collectors/counters • Choir members | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ushers/welcomers • Projectionist • Flower arrangers • Pety store • Extraordinary ministers doing so during Mass • Gardener • Cleaner |
|--|--|

St Nicholas CONFIRMATION Schedule 2026

Information Meeting; Parent/s or Guardians:

Wednesday 29 July 5.30pm or

Saturday 01 August 2pm

**CONFIRMATION MASSES: Sat 19 Sep at 6pm or
Sun 20 Sep at 9.30am**

The Parish now has a **Marketplace Board** whereby parishioners with superfluous goods and chattels can advertise to give them away or sell them. This Board is located to the right of the electricity box near the front door of the Presbytery. For privacy reasons, the name and contact details of the 'seller' will be available from the Parish Office only.

WEEKLY ROSTER – 01/02 August 2026

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm

C: Paul McDougall W/R1: Giovanna McDougall

W/R2: Pauline Skewes

Altar Server: Evolet

Ex Min: Kerry Ackhurst

Music: Noel Greacen

Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am

C: Cheryl Higgins W/R1: John Wallace W/R2: Julie McGuirk

Ex Min: Jess Galvin

Music: Anne Jones

Altar Server: Will Nguyen

Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am

FAMILY MASS

C: W/R1: W/R2: St Nicholas' Primary School

Altar Servers: Abigail/Amanda/Chinedum Nweke

Ex Min: Michael Moy/Fiona Downey Music: St Nicholas Choir

Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm

C: Paul Hagley W/R1: Renee Dunst W/R2: Connor Gibson

Ex Min: Rob Panchasarp

Music: Veronica Frost

Altar Servers: Ethan/Evangelyn Nijo

Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Brian & Maria Lincoln

Altar Linen: Kerrie Bryant

Sacristy Cleaning: St Nicholas Women Connecting

Candelabrum: Brian Lincoln

BAPTISMS: Please pray for **Clara Evans, Ava Mayall, Eamon Whitten, Darcy Hibbard** and **Sabre Finlayson** who are being baptised this weekend. May God guide their footsteps and fill their hearts with lasting peace and joy.

CONGRATULATIONS: We warmly welcome **Ava Mayall**, who is receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist this weekend. May God always bless and watch over her.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Rev Father Joe Adriano, Paul Stibal** (2nd Anniversary 22/7) and **Mary Camden** (2nd Anniversary 31/7). May they rest in 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, Maureen Harrison, 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.

"Everything comes from love, all is ordained for the salvation of man, God does nothing without this goal in mind."
~ St. Catherine of Siena

