

GOSPEL

Mt 14:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

They all ate and were satisfied.

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2026. No 2154. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word

JESUS NURTURES US

Have you ever experienced a time when you needed to rest, restore yourself and, perhaps, even reflect on the direction in which your life is moving? Today's Gospel can speak to this experience. Jesus, accompanied by his disciples, steps ashore from a boat and discovers a troubled crowd in need of healing. It is evening, a *lonely* (literally, 'a desert') place and the crowd needs to eat. Figuratively, this crowd represents how we might feel at times, in need of care, comfort, healing and sustenance.

The disciples have the solution. They want *him* to send the people off to purchase food from the local villages. But Jesus surprises the disciples with another solution: *they* are to find the food that is necessary. The Greek text can also be interpreted, 'You give them *yourselves* to eat!' This gets to the heart of the issue. The disciples retort that they don't have what is needed (either physically or personally?) to satisfy the hungry crowd, only five loaves and two fish, representative of the average food allowance for one household in the ancient world.

Jesus gets the crowd to sit down (literally, 'recline'—the dining posture in the Greco-Roman world) on the 'grass' (but isn't this a desert?) takes the meagre offering of the disciples, prays a eucharistic blessing over the loaves and fish, then gets the disciples to distribute to the crowd. They eat, are satisfied, and there remains enough leftovers, twelve baskets full, for the future. Our deepest need for spiritual restoration and nurture is met in today's celebration of Word and Eucharist. Jesus nurtures us.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

2 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 55:1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Hasten and eat.

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me and you will have good
things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 144:8-9, 15-18. R. v. 16

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us,
he answers all our needs.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, /
slow to anger, abounding in love. / How good
is the Lord to all, / compassionate to all his
creatures. **R.**

2. The eyes of all creatures look to you / and
you give them their food in due time. / You
open wide your hand, / grant the desires of all
who live. **R.**

3. The Lord is just in all his ways / and loving
in all his deeds. / He is close to all who call
him, / call on him from their hearts. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 8:35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*No creature can separate us from the love of God,
which is in Christ.*

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia! / No one lives on bread
alone, / but on every word that comes from
the mouth of God. / Alleluia!

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

Special Collection – Retired Clergy and Education of Seminarians Year A

2nd August 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 Whittton
☎ (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 God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

COMMUNION: You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

‘GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT YOURSELVES.’ With the five loaves and two fish that Jesus had blessed, the disciples fed a vast crowd. Our acts of service and love towards others may often seem small but, blessed by Jesus, they too can have a great impact. We need Jesus to bless our work, and Jesus needs us to feed the hungry and comfort the lonely of our world. Together, we can do great things.

Psalter Week 2

Monday 03/08	St Nicholas' Mass 7am St Dominic, priest Jer 28:1-17: Ps 118:29, 43, 79-80, 95, 102: Mt 14:22-36:
Tuesday 04/08	St Mary's Mass 9am St John Vianney, priest Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22: Ps 101:16-21, 29, 22-23: Mt 15:1-2, 10-14:
Wednesday 05/08	St Nicholas' Mass 7am Jer 31:1-7: Jer 31:10-13: Mt 15:21-28:
Thursday 06/08	St Mary's Mass 9am The Transfiguration of the Lord Dan 7:9-10, 13-14: or 2 Pet 1:16-19: Ps 96:1-2, 5-6, 9: Mt 17:1-9:
Friday 07/08	St Nicholas' Mass 7am Nahum 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7: Deut 32:35-36, 39, 41: Mt 16:24-28:
Saturday 08/08	St Nicholas' Mass 9am St MARY OF THE CROSS, virgin 1 Kg 17:8-16: Ps 62:1-8: Col 3:12-17: Mt 6:25-34: Vigil Mass 6pm
Sunday 09/08	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.

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

02 - 09 August – Vocations Awareness Week		
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	
28 Aug Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm St Nicholas'
28 Aug Fri	YOUTH GROUP – 7-8.45pm – Outdoor Function Area	
29 Aug Sat	Men's Breakfast – 7am - Outdoor Function Area	
30 Aug Sun	FAMILY MASS – 9.30am, followed by Morning tea Hosted by Yr 2 & Yr 4 students	
30 Aug Sun	Parish Picnic-from 11am-Tamworth Miniature Railway	
CLERGY ASSEMBLY - Tuesday 1 st & Wed 2 nd September		
01 Sep Tue	'Petitions' Rosary	12.15pm St Nicholas'
02 Sep Wed	NO SILENT ADORATION – priests at Clergy Assembly	

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC WEEKLY

Copies are available at the back of the Church every week. Sponsored by St Vincent de Paul's St Nicholas Conference. \$2.00 per copy & money deposited in the collection box. Please collect a copy & stay connected with all the news of our Church in Australia.

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

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

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: 26th July 2026

1st Collection \$ 1,770.25

Planned Giving \$ 2,684.45

Loose \$ 371.50

\$ 3,055.95

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

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.



Rev. Father Michael Mullane passed away at Tamworth Base Hospital on Sunday morning, 26th July, having just celebrated his 65th Anniversary of Ordination on July 18th. He was born in Tenterfield and attended St Joseph's Primary School. His secondary schooling was at De La Salle College in Armidale before studying for the priesthood at both Springwood and Manly.

During his time in the Armidale Diocese, he served at Quirindi, East Tamworth, Inverell, Gunnedah, Walgett, Narrabri, Bingara, Ashford and Werris Creek. Fr Mullane held the following offices within the Diocese – Ministry of Priests, Vicar Forane for the Western Deanery, and a member of the Council of Priests and the College of Consultors.

Fr Mullane will be fondly remembered for his dedication to the priesthood, his warmth, honesty, directness, uniqueness, humorous wit and his sharp mind.

His funeral will be held at 11am on Thursday 6th August at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church in Tenterfield.

Requiescat in pace Father "Mick".

WEEKLY ROSTER – 08/09 August 2026

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm

C: Robert Panchasarp W/R1: Cate Allen

W/R2: Sister of Nazareth

Altar Server: Evolet

Ex Min: Leonie Hansen Music: Noel Greacen

Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am

C: John Murphy W/R1: Bernadette Virgen W/R2: Joan Newley

Ex Min: Cheryl Higgins Music: Anne Jones

Altar Server: Will Nguyen

Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am

C: Alison Hamilton W/R1: Miller Lloyd

W/R2: Tim Igbenije

Children's Liturgy: Linda/Felicita

Altar Servers: Jason/Charles/Daniel Igbenije

Ex Min: Peter Prisk/Maria Lincoln Music: St Nicholas Choir

Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm

C: Alison Hagley W/R1: Merrilyn Gaffney

W/R2: Claire Doherty

Ex Min: Paul Hagley Music: Henry Buckman

Altar Servers: Halley/Callum/Emmett Buckman

Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Ted Heazlett/Bruce Stewart

Altar Linen: Rosemary Kinsela

Sacristy Cleaning: Beth & John Ryan/Bruce Stewart

Candelabrum: *every 2nd week*

BAPTISM: Please pray for **Sienna Stewart** who is being baptised this weekend. May God always bless and watch over her.

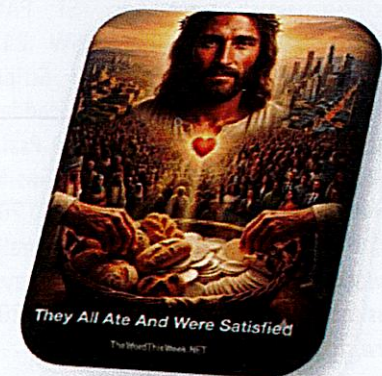
RECENTLY DECEASED: **Darren Farrell, Barbara Hooker.**

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Rev Father Joe Adriano, Rev Father Michael Mullane, Loyola Hawthorne** (5th Anniversary), **Arthur Riley** (Anniversary of death), **Helen Roworth** (recently deceased). May they rest in God's peace. Please also pray for **Sister Melissa**, on her Feast Day.

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.



“Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring.”

~ St. Catherine of Siena