

GOSPEL

Mt 14:22-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Command me to come to you over the water.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a headwind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord', he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

TOWARDS UNKNOWN SHORES

There are times when we struggle, as though we are personally battling against a strong headwind and can't move out of our physical or spiritual slump. Today's Gospel reflects something of this experience. Jesus makes his disciples get into a boat (a symbol of Matthew's Gospel household) to sail to the 'other side'. This 'side' is unfamiliar and frightening. Jesus spends time on the land praying while the boat, in the meantime, is battling heavy seas and a strong headwind.

All this is a powerful image of the community of Jesus' disciples and, at times, like us or our experience of Church: battling, trying to move forward as we feel alone. At this point in the story, Matthew draws on imagery used of God from the First Testament to describe Jesus walking on the water, coming towards a boat filled with terrified disciples. When they see Jesus, their terror heightens thinking he is a ghost. Jesus reassures them.

Peter, the leader and spokesperson, then asks to come out to be with Jesus on the water. While Peter's focus is on Jesus all is safe as he steps from the boat on to the water. But when he becomes distracted by the wind and waves and takes his gaze off Jesus, he begins to sink. Jesus responds immediately to his plea for rescue and the scene concludes with the disciples worshipping Jesus as God's saving agent. This story speaks forcefully to our community of struggling believers. Jesus seeks to be with us in this 'boat' called 'Church' as we sail together, in that synodal spirit, towards unknown and frightening shores while subject to fearful and unsettling conditions.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

9 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

I Kings 19:9, 11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84:9-14. R. v. 8

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, / a voice that speaks of peace. / His help is near for those who fear him / and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; / justice and peace have embraced. / Faithfulness shall spring from the earth / and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

3. The Lord will make us prosper / and our earth shall yield its fruit. / Justice shall march before him / and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 129:5

Alleluia, alleluia! / I hope in the Lord, / I trust in his word. / Alleluia!

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

9th 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 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: Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

COMMUNION: The bread that I will give, says the Lord, is my flesh for the life of the world.

‘JESUS WENT UP INTO THE HILLS TO PRAY.’ The prophet Elijah and Jesus both went up a mountain to pray. Many people have experienced the presence of God in the wonder and solitude of a mountain top. But God is also to be found at sea level, in the ups and downs of our daily lives. When we are swamped by troubles and cry out, ‘Lord, save me,’ we allow God to reach out and hold us.

Psalter Week 3

Monday 10/08 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
St Lawrence, deacon, martyr
2 Cor 9:6-10: Ps 111:1-2, 5-9: Jn 12:24-26:

Tuesday 11/08 St Mary’s Mass 9am
St Clare, virgin
Ezek 2:8 – 3:4: Ps 118:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131: Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14:

Wednesday 12/08 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
Ezek 9:1-7; 10:18-22: Ps 112:1-6: Mt 18:15-20:

Thursday 13/08 St Mary’s Mass 9am
Ezek 12:1-12: Ps 77:56-59, 61-62: Mt 18:21 - 19:1:

Friday 14/08 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
St Maximilian Mary Kolbe, priest, martyr
Ezek 16:1-15,60,63: or Ezek 16:59-63: Is 12:2-6: Mt 19:3-12:
St Nicholas’ Mass 5.15pm
Vigil Mass for The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday 15/08 St Nicholas’ Mass 9am
THE ASSUMPTION of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Holy Day of Obligation
Rev 11:19, 12:1-6, 10: Ps 44:10-12, 16:
1 Cor 15:20-26: Lk 1:39-56:
Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 16/08 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

08/09 Aug Speaker will deliver Annual Financial Report – All Masses
09 Aug Sun Safe Ministry Workshop, after 9.30am Mass
St Nicholas Outdoor Function Area, 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’
12 Aug Fri Vigil Mass for the Assumption 5.15pm 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
Tam City Bowling Club at 5.30pm NB: Date change

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

26 Aug Wed MEMORIAL MASS for Fr Joe Adriano at 5.30pm,
St Nicholas’ Church, with the Pinoy choir

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 St Nicholas School Family Mass 9.30am St Nicholas’
30 Aug Sun Parish Picnic-from 11am-Tamworth Miniature Railway

CLERGY ASSEMBLY - Tuesday 1st & Wed 2nd September

01 Sep Tue ‘Petitions’ Rosary 12.15pm St Nicholas’
02 Sep Wed NO SILENT ADORATION – priests at Clergy Assembly
04 Sep Fri Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St Nicholas’
05 Sep Sat Anointing of the sick during 9am Mass St Nicholas’
05 Sep Sat Silent Adoration 4-5.30pm St Nicholas’
06 Sep Sun Father’s Day
08 Sep Tue St Nicholas Seniors, Morning tea 10.30am, West Diggers

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.

Join **Council on the Ageing New South Wales** for a free community session in Tamworth on *Staying Safe from Scams*, where we’ll share practical tips to help older people recognise scams, protect their information and know where to seek help. Stay and have a cuppa and chat as well.

Event details are - **Date:** Wednesday, 26 August 2026.

Time: 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM (with light refreshments afterwards)

Location: The Grand Ballroom – Wests Diggers, Kable Avenue, Tamworth.

Free event

Link to register is here: events.humanitix.com/staying-safe-from-scams-tamworth

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*

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: 2nd August 2026

1st Collection \$ 1,694.85

Planned Giving \$ 2,283.00

Loose \$ 375.55

\$ 2,658.55

Planned Giving receipts for the 2025-26 financial year are now available – please contact the parish office on Mondays/Tuesdays if you would like to have one issued to you. Thank you!

ANNIVERSARIES – August

Stephen Ambrose, Francis Anderson, John Anderson, Patricia Archer, Gwendoline Baker, Martin Baylis, Peter Belt, Kathleen Berthaly, Ray Blissett, Sheila Booby, Wilhelmena (Jean) Bower, Gregory Bray, Karen Cannon, Monica Carolan, Mary Carroll, Emma Clift, Lawrence Collier, Katherine Collins, Dorothy Coulton, Shirley Crawford, Les Hartshorn, Loyola Hawthorne, Daphne Hayes, Kevin Henderson, Edward Hogno, Loma Horton, Margaret Hunt, Margaret Hutchinson, Una Inman, Alex Jarratt, Betty Johnson, Milton Kemp, Brian Kenny, Pamela Kenny, Joseph (Bill) Keys, Peter King, Mervyn Legge, Dorothy Linsell, Phyllis Linstedt, Giacomina Loi, Hazel McCarthy, James McDonnell, Joan McHugh, Daphne McLennan, Anne McMahon, Clement McMahon, Laura McMahon, Jennifer Mackie, Constance Maher, Albert Malone, Agnes Michell, Elizabeth Michell, Henry Mifsud, John Moloney, Terence Mooney, Monica Muller, Ada Norton, Moira O’Brien, George Patterson, Raymond Paull, Robert Peno, Joyce Pollock, Pietro Ricconan, Antoinette Rigon, Clyde McMaster Roberts, Vera Saunders, Pauline Sipple, Eileen Smith, Norman Smith, Shirley Smith, Wayne Smith, Arthur Stengert, Olga Tongue, Barry Tracy, John Twomey, Kevin Walden, Louisa Wall, Patricia Wall, Janet Walters, Susan Wardle, Kevin Welsh, Theodore Whitten, David Worthington.

May they rest in peace

WEEKLY ROSTER – 15/16 August 2026

St Nicholas’ Saturday 6pm

C: Cate Allen W/R1: Karen King W/R2: Belinda Tyrrell

Altar Server: Evolet

Ex Min: Eil Smyth

Music: Noel Greacen

Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary’s Sunday 7.30am

C: Matt Pawsey W/R1: Tony Ryan W/R2: Cheryl Higgins

Ex Min: Deb Pawsey

Music: Anne Jones

Altar Server: Will Nguyen

Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas’ Sunday 9.30am

C: Jo Manalastas W/R1: Brian Lincoln W/R2: Gemma Moy

Children’s Liturgy: Steph/Alison

Altar Servers: Harry/Sophie Dowsett/Uchenna Nwafor

Ex Min: Alison Hamilton/Anne Bowden

Music: St Nicholas Choir

Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas’ Sunday 5.30pm

C: Renee Dunst W/R1: Paul Hagley W/R2: Alison Hagley

Ex Min: Judy Campbell

Music: Henry Buckman

Altar Servers: Kyra/Nyssa Akers-Gibbons

Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Paul & Giovanna McDougall

Altar Linen: Vivienne Mundy

Sacristy Cleaning: Elspeth Muldoon/Kerrie Bryant

Candelabrum: John Wallace

BAPTISM: Please pray for **Charlie O’Sullivan** who is being baptised this weekend. May God always bless and watch over him.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Rev Father Michael Mullane**. May he rest in God’s peace. Please also pray for Sister Trang’s father who is recovering from illness.

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 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.

“Those who sincerely say ‘Jesus, I trust in You’ will find comfort in all their anxieties and fears. There is nothing that man needs more than Divine Mercy – that love which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises man above his weakness to the infinite heights of the holiness of God.” ~ St. John Paul I



Eucharist28 Update: Eternal Life in the Eucharist

The International Eucharistic Congress (‘Eucharist28’) is coming to Sydney in 2028! At every Mass, the celebration of the Eucharist is a moment of communion, where we are united in Christ, whose body and blood we share. In the Scriptures, Jesus tells us, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.” (John 6:54) Through the Eucharist, Christ unites us to Himself and draws us into the eternal life He promises. This invitation is for everyone, even those who have died. At each Mass, the Church offers the Eucharistic sacrifice for the faithful departed, that they may experience eternal life and unity with Christ. To help your parish and community experience this moment of Eucharistic renewal on the journey to Eucharist28, head to eucharist28.org or scan the QR code.