

Alleluia, alleluia! / Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom / and healed all who were sick. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 15:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply. 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

BEYOND THE EXPECTED

In today's Gospel Jesus travels beyond his usual and familiar abode. He is in today's southern Lebanon, areas around Tyre and Sidon. This is foreign or pagan territory, unfamiliar to Jews. Here Jesus encounters a woman from the region who pleads for him to exorcise her demonically possessed daughter. Jesus' disciples want him to deal with her quickly so that they won't be bothered by her. Then comes the clear missionary statement of Jesus for Matthew's Jewish audience, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel', and, later, 'It is not fair to take children's food and throw it to house-dogs'. The focus of his ministry and healing is clearly on the Israelite people, the 'children', rather than on gentiles ('house-dogs!'). Jesus' derogatory comment to the woman is met by her witty repartee, 'Yes, sir, but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from the master's table'.

Her clever verbal joust meets his respectful acknowledgement. He affirms the woman's great faith in engaging him in a manner that respects the priority of his mission to the Jewish people (and Matthew's Gospel audience) while acknowledging that non-Jews can also be recipients of his ministry. This results in the Canaanite woman's request being granted. Her daughter is healed.

From this episode, it seems as though even Jesus had to learn and to extend his healing reach beyond the expected. That same insight is an invitation to us and our faith communities as we too are invited to offer hospitality and a welcome to the foreign and unexpected that we come across.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

16 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 56:1, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

■ The word of the Lord.

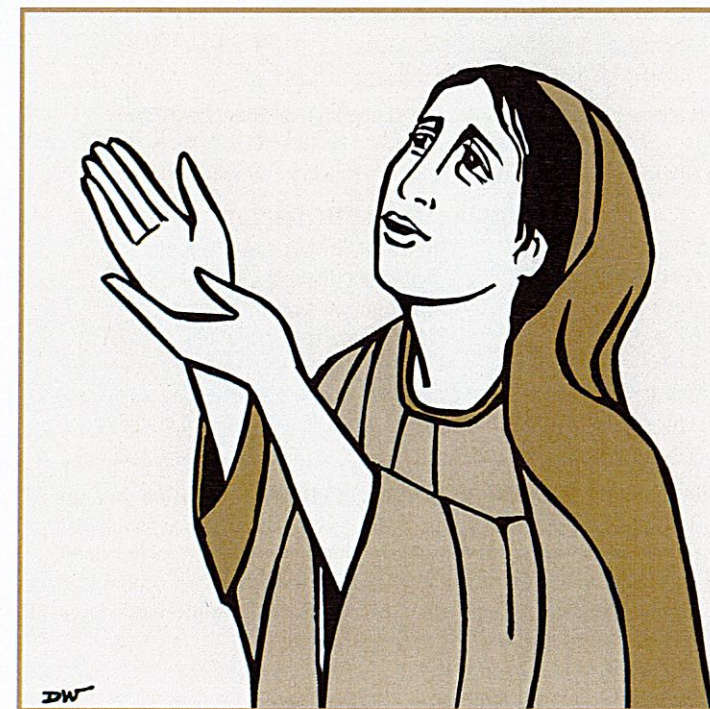
RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 66:2-3, 5-6, 8. R. v. 8

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us / and let your face shed its light upon us. / So will your ways be known upon earth / and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**

2. Let the nations be glad and exult / for you rule the world with justice. / With fairness you rule the peoples, / you guide the nations on earth. **R.**

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; / let all the peoples praise you. / May God still give us his blessing / till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 11:13-15, 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

■ The word of the Lord.

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

16th 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: Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

COMMUNION: With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

‘WOMAN, YOU HAVE GREAT FAITH!’ The Canaanite woman in today’s Gospel enjoyed no status in the eyes of the Jewish people of her time. She was someone to be scorned and ignored. Yet, in her deep love for her daughter and her great faith, she is a model of the true disciple of Jesus. She reminds us that what identifies us as Christians most fundamentally is our faith, our hope and our love.

Psalter Week 4

Monday 17/08	St Nicholas’ Mass 7am Ezek 24:15-24: Deut 32:18-21: Mt 19:16-22:
Tuesday 18/08	St Mary’s Mass 9am Ezek 28:1-10: Deut 32:26-28, 30, 35-36: Mt 19:23-30:
Wednesday 19/08	St Nicholas’ Mass 7am Ezek 34:1-11: Ps 22: Mt 20:1-16:
Thursday 20/08	St Mary’s Mass 9am St Bernard, abbot, doctor Ezek 36:23-28: Ps 50:12-15, 18-19: Mt 22:1-14:
Friday 21/08	St Nicholas’ Mass 7am St Pius X, pope Ezek 37:1-14: Ps 106:2-9: Mt 22:34-40:
Saturday 22/08	St Nicholas’ Mass 9am The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ezek 43:1-7: Ps 84:9-14: Mt 23:1-12: Vigil Mass 6pm
Sunday 23/08	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**.

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.

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

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; there will be Catholic goods and books for sale, with all eftpos proceeds going towards youth activities in the Parish		
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
09 Sep	Wed	Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am St Nicholas’
11 Sep	Fri	Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St Nicholas’
11 Sep	Fri	YOUTH GROUP – 7-8.45pm – Outdoor Function Area
13 Sep	Sun	St Vincent de Paul Mass 9.30am St Nicholas’
16 Sep	Wed	Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am St Nicholas’

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 (cash only) & money deposited in the collection box, to the left of the bookcase at the back of St Nicholas’ Church, and in the slot on the wooden stand at St Mary’s Church. All proceeds go to the St Vincent de Paul Society. Please collect a copy and stay connected with all the news of our Church in Australia.

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

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: 9th August 2026
1st Collection \$ 1,598.35
Planned Giving \$ 2,878.00
Loose \$ 368.05
\$ 3,246.05

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!

Our Parish is committed to the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse. This is everyone's responsibility. If you have any concerns or feedback, please contact the Parish Priest/ Safeguarding Contact Person and our Diocesan Safeguarding and Professional Standards Office on (02) 6771 8700 or at safeguarding@armidale.catholic.org.au.

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 – 22/23 August 2026

St Nicholas’ Saturday 6pm
C: Giovanna McDougall W/R1: Sister of Nazareth
W/R2: Karen King
Altar Server: Evolet
Ex Min: Eil Smyth Music: Noel Greacen
Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary’s Sunday 7.30am
C: Bernadette Virgin W/R1: Bruce Stewart W/R2: Lorraine Bryant
Ex Min: Kevin McMahon Music: Anne Jones
Altar Server: Will Nguyen
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas’ Sunday 9.30am MCC FAMILY MASS
C: W/R1: W/R2: McCarthy Catholic College
Children’s Liturgy: Louise/Kiera
Altar Servers: Abigail/Amanda/Chinedum Nweke
Ex Min: Brian Lincoln/Michael Moy
Music: St Nicholas Choir
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas’ Sunday 5.30pm
C: Miller Lloyd W/R1: Cecilia Dries W/R2: Terry Dries
Ex Min: Rob Panchasarp Music: Veronica Frost
Altar Servers: Zoey Davis/Maddison McDougall
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Bill Higgins/Pauline Skewes
Altar Linen: Cecilia Dries
Sacristy Cleaning: Marie Rice/Gemma & Mick Moy
Candelabrum: every 2nd week

BAPTISM: Please pray for **Felix and Olive Linnet-Foote** who are being baptised this weekend. May God always bless and watch over them.

CONGRATULATIONS: We warmly welcome **Daryl Fua** and **Regina Albino**, who are receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist this weekend. May God bless them richly.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Margaret Lobb, Alicia Farrell.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Rev Father Michael Mullane, Terry Hagley, Connie Maher** (Anniversary 21st August), and for **Jesus Tolosa, Angelina Tolosa, Fe Manalastas** and **Elizabeth Inaldo**, whose anniversaries occur at this time. 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, 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.

“The Lord is always near to all who call upon his help with sincerity, true faith, sure hope, and perfect love.” ~ St. Ambrose

