

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia! / You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church / the gates of hell will not hold out against it. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

Who is Jesus? What would I want to say to him? Today's Gospel brings us to one of the most important questions posed by the evangelist to the Gospel's audience – and to us: Who is Jesus for us?

Jesus first asks the disciples about the gossip circulating concerning him and who they believe him to be. Their response reflects how the disciples understand Jesus and how they will follow him as they draw closer to Jerusalem, the city where Jesus' ministry will conclude in his death and resurrection. The disciples respond to Jesus' question as to what others say about him: He is John the Baptist, or Elijah who will return at the end of time, or one of the prophets. Then Jesus asks them, 'Who do you say I am?'

Simon Peter, speaking for the group, acknowledges Jesus as 'the Christ', the Greek for the Hebrew word 'Messiah', literally 'the anointed one'. Jesus is God's emissary anointed with the Spirit. Jesus affirms Peter's response as divinely inspired and declares that Peter – *Petros*, 'rock' – will be the foundation or 'rock-base' for the growth of the Jesus movement.

For Matthew's audience, this is an affirmation of the movement's authority through time and history. It is within this graced community that we gather today. As contemporary followers of Jesus, we are invited to give our response personally and communally as to Jesus' identity: Who do you, who do we say Jesus is? Our response will shape how we act, with whom we engage and the kind of community of Jesus' followers we will be.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

23 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;

should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

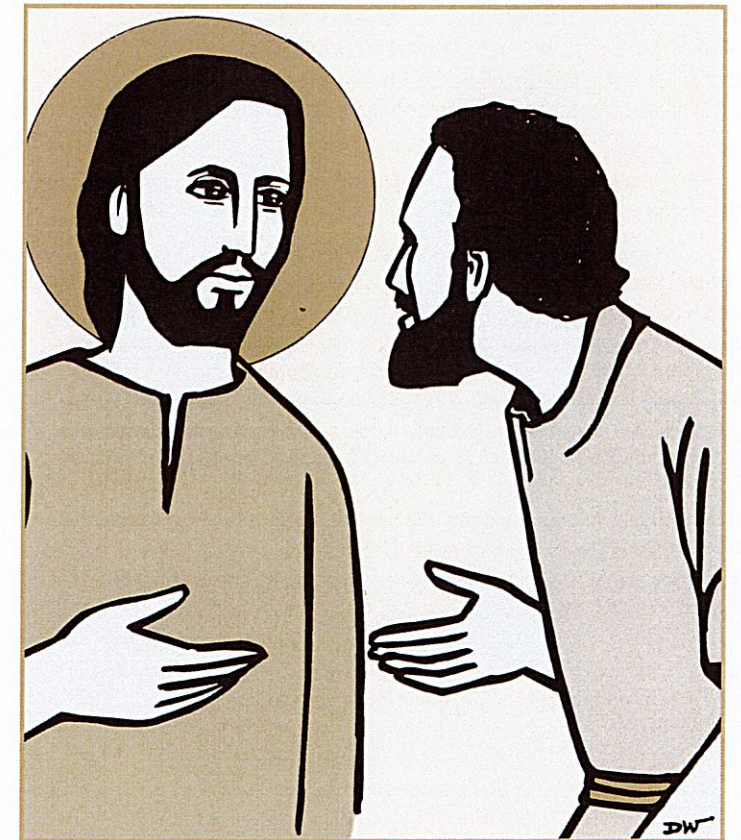
■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 137:1-3, 6, 8. R. v. 8

R. Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, / you have heard the words of my mouth. / Before the angels I will bless you. / I will adore before your holy temple. **R.**

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love / which excel all we ever knew of you. / On the day I called, you answered; / you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**



3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly / and the haughty he knows from afar. / Your love, O Lord, is eternal, / discard not the work of your hands. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.

*Welcome to St Nicholas'
Catholic Parish, Tamworth
for The Twenty-First Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Year A*

23rd 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 ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

COMMUNION: Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord, and I will raise him up on the last day.

‘WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?’ Jesus asks his disciples this question in today’s Gospel. He asks us the same question. He is not seeking a textbook response or for us to repeat what others have said about him. He wants to hear our personal response. May we answer his question as truthfully as possible and then listen as he speaks to us.

Psalter Week 1

Monday 24/08 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
St Bartholomew, apostle
Rev 21:9-14: Ps 144:10-13, 17-18: Jn 1:45-51:

Tuesday 25/08 St Mary’s Mass 9am
2 Thess 2:1-3, 14-17: Ps 95:10-13: Mt 23:23-26:

Wednesday 26/08 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am & 5.30pm
2 Thess 3:6-10, 16-18: Ps 127:1-2, 4-5: Mt 23:27-32:
MEMORIAL MASS for Fr Joe Adriano, 5.30pm

Thursday 27/08 St Mary’s Mass 9am
St Monica
1 Cor 1:1-9: Ps 144:2-7: Mt 24:42-51:

Friday 28/08 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
St Augustine, bishop, doctor
1 Cor 1:17-25: Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 10-11: Mt 25:1-13:

Saturday 29/08 St Nicholas’ Mass 9am
The Passion of St John the Baptist, martyr
Jer 1:17-19: Ps 70:1-6, 15, 17: Mk 6:17-29:
Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 30/08 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.

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

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 Parish 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’

17 Sep Thu St Nicholas Women Connecting – meet for dinner – 5.30pm – Tamworth City Bowling Club. All Welcome.

18 Sep Fri Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St Nicholas’

19 Sep Sat CONFIRMATION MASS 6pm St Nicholas’

20 Sep Sun CONFIRMATION MASS 9.30am St Nicholas’

22 Sep Tue St Nicholas Seniors, lunch 11.30am West Diggers

23 Sep Wed Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am St Nicholas’

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

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.

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. We honour their deep spiritual connection to this land. May the Holy Spirit guide us as we walk together towards reconciliation, caring for creation and each other.

Our Parish is committed to the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse. Safeguarding 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.

WEEKLY ROSTER – 22/23 August 2026

St Nicholas’ Saturday 6pm

C: Giovanna McDougall W/R1: Sister of Nazareth

W/R2: Karen King

Ex Min: Paul McDougall

Music: Noel Greacen

Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary’s Sunday 7.30am

C: Bernadette Virgen 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 McCarthy Catholic College 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: Vivienne Mundy

Sacristy Cleaning: Marie Rice/Gemma & Mick 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: 001 055 701

A/c Name: St Nicholas’ Church Parish

Reference: Planned Giving Number and/or your surname

Thank you for your support.

COLLECTIONS: 16th August 2026

1st Collection \$ 1,894.80

Planned Giving \$ 1,916.00

Loose \$ 794.65

\$ 2,710.65

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!



ST NICHOLAS’ PARISH PICNIC
Sunday 30th August 2026, from 11am

- ☼ Please bring your own fold-up chair if you are worried about the available seating already being occupied.
- ☼ You are invited to bring your own Picnic Lunch. McCarthy Catholic College students will be providing a Sausage Sizzle until such time as they run out. Gold coin donation.
- ☼ Free ice-creams and games for the kids.
- ☼ Free tea + coffee.
- ☼ Music provided by McCarthy Catholic College + the Timorese Community.
- ☼ Limitless (free) rides on the train. Closed-in shoes must be worn by all.

NB: Parents and Guardians – it is your responsibility to supervise the where-abouts and activities of the children in your care, at all times. Thank you!

WEEKLY ROSTER – 29/30 August 2026

St Nicholas’ Saturday 6pm

C: Kerrie Ackhurst W/R1: Pauline Skewes W/R2: Cate Allen

Ex Min: Leonie Hansen

Music: Noel Greacen

Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary’s Sunday 7.30am

C: Joan Newley W/R1: Judy Scott W/R2: Tony Ryan

Ex Min: Karen King

Music: Anne Jones

Altar Server: Will Nguyen

Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas’ Sunday 9.30am St Nicholas School FAMILY Mass

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

Altar Servers: Charles/Jason/Daniel Igbenije

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: W/R1: W/R2: Youth

Ex Min: Volunteer

Music: Henry Buckman

Altar Servers: Halley/Callum/Emmett Buckman

Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Gary Bryant/Andrew McGuirk

Altar Linen: Cecilia Dries

Sacristy Cleaning: St Nicholas Women Connecting

Candelabrum: Bruce Stewart

RECENTLY DECEASED: Alicia Farrell, Terry Hagley, Peter Maher.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Clyde McMaster Roberts** whose 12th anniversary occurs at this time. May he 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.

“When we pray, the voice of the heart must be heard more than that proceeding from the mouth.” ~ St. Bonaventure

Saturday 29th August -Men’s Breakfast – 7am - Outdoor Function Area – St Nicholas’.

Clipboards at the back of the church this weekend

