

GOSPEL

Mt 16:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

GENUINE DISCIPLESHIP

Today's Gospel follows on immediately from last Sunday's Gospel and the question posed to Jesus' disciples in Matthew's day, and to us, about his identity. Jesus then outlines what awaits him in Jerusalem—his suffering, death and resurrection. These words seem either incomprehensible to his disciples, represented by Peter, or are rejected.

Whatever the reason for Peter's reaction, following God's anointed one on a path of suffering, death and resurrection is unfathomable. The disciples imagine a triumphant, powerful figure who will overcome Roman opposition. Success and status are their vision for the future of discipleship!

Today's Gospel is a sobering reminder that suffering is not excluded from discipleship. Life's tragedies and concerns are not the opposite of following Jesus; they can be authentic expressions of it. Disciples are not called to seek suffering nor to become victims. Rather, suffering can be integrated into genuine discipleship. These are important insights especially for some who think that they must 'prove' their loyalty to Jesus by seeking out further pain or suffering. We know that suffering is part of life; we need not look for it further. We are surrounded by a world of suffering.

Today we acknowledge the sufferings of those who gather with us in our Assembly, especially those borne silently or through violence, including domestic violence.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

30 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

Jer 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, 'I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.'

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,

imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

■ The word of the Lord.

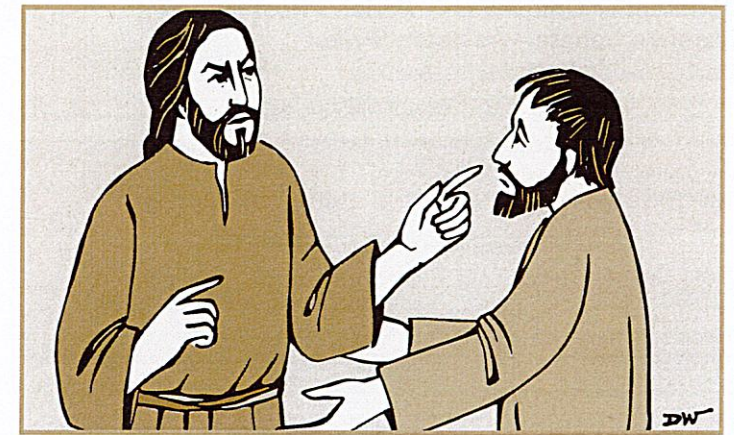
RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 62:2-6, 8-9. R. v. 2

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; /
for you my soul is thirsting. / My body pines for you / like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary / to see your strength and your glory. / For your love is better than life, / my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

3. So I will bless you all my life, / in your name I will lift up my hands. / My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, / my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**



4. For you have been my help; / in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. / My soul clings to you; / your right hand holds me fast. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Eph 1:17, 18

Alleluia, alleluia! / May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ / enlighten the eyes of our heart, / that we might see how great is the hope / to which we are called. / Alleluia!

Welcome to St Nicholas' Catholic Parish, Tamworth for The Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Social Justice Sunday Year A

30th 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: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

COMMUNION: How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

‘YOU HAVE SEDUCED ME, LORD!’ The prophet Jeremiah was captivated by God. His attachment meant that he suffered greatly at the hands of God’s enemies but he also experienced a fire within, lit by God’s love, that urged him on. We too can follow Jesus wholeheartedly only if we are captivated by him. Like Peter, we may remonstrate with Jesus as we struggle to understand his ways, but we will follow him faithfully along the way of the cross to the fullness of life.

Psalter Week 2

Monday 31/08 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am 1 Cor 2:1-5: Ps 118:97-102: Lk 4:16-30: Tuesday 01/09 St Mary’s Mass 9am - Clergy Assembly Liturgy of the Word, with Holy Communion World Day of Prayer for Creation 1 Cor 2:10-16: Ps 144:8-14: Lk 4:31-37: Wednesday 02/09 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am - Clergy Assembly Liturgy of the Word, with Holy Communion 1 Cor 3:1-9: Ps 32:12-15, 20-21: Lk 4:38-44: Thursday 03/09 St Mary’s Mass 9am St Gregory the Great, pope, doctor 1 Cor 3:18-23: Ps 23:1-6: Lk 5:1-11: Friday 04/09 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am Spring Ember Day – Special Day of Prayer and Penance 1 Cor 4:1-5: Ps 36:3-6, 27-28, 39-40: Lk 5:33-39: Saturday 05/09 St Nicholas’ Mass 9am 1 Cor 4:6-15: Ps 144:17-21: Lk 6:1-5: Vigil Mass 6pm Sunday 06/09 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.

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.

Please note: Any inclusions for the Parish newsletter must be received by the parish office no later than 3pm Wednesdays.

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

30 Aug Sun St Nicholas School Family Mass 9.30am St Nicholas' - Year 2 and Year 4 students 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' 20 Sep Sun Morning Tea after the 9.30am Mass St Nicholas' hosted by the Men's Breakfast & the St Vincent de Paul Groups 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 25 Sep Fri End of School Term 3 25 Sep Fri Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St Nicholas' 26 Sep Sat Men's Breakfast – 7am - Outdoor Function Area 27 Sep Sun Migrant & Refugee Sunday Mass 9.30am St Nicholas' followed by a festive 'brunch' in the Outdoor Function Area 30 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.

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 – 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: Maria Lincoln Sacristy Cleaning: St Nicholas Women Connecting Candelabrum: Bruce Stewart

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: 23rd August 2026 1st Collection \$ 1,538.95 Planned Giving \$ 1,883.00 Loose \$ 500.90 \$ 2383.90

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 – September

Joan Abbott, John Anderson, Fay Betts, Morris Blomquist, John Booby, Adrian Brazier, Anthony Brown, Lorraine Burgmann, Deborah Byrnes, Sidney Canu, Nanette Carroll, Norman Caslick, Francis Caulfield, Cecilia Chapman, Mary Chapman, Geoffrey Cluff, Shirley Colomb, Marie Cooper, Chloe Coss, Richard Cox, Cecil Coyle, Alan Cracknell, Thomas Daley, Mark Davies, Mary Doyle, Margaret Elliott, Lorna Epps, Marion Evans, Kathleen Follington, Betty Garrett, Allan Giles, Arthur (Clive) Graham, Anthony Graham, Catherine Griffiths, Wendy Gunn, Terrence Halcroft, Shirley Hawkins, Michael Hill, Cherie Hunter, Henry Hyson, Benjamin Jackson, Phyllis Jackson, Agnes Jamieson, Vincent Jankowski, Martha Johnson, Suzi Jow, Leslie Kennedy, Dorothy Layton, Ethel Luckett, Carmel Lynch, Colin McCarter, James McCormack, John McDonald, Kenneth McNamara, Antonio Manconi, Nancy Meehan, John (Jack) Mullins, James Murray, Brian Nash, Phillip Nolan, Patrick Norman, Pieter Oeljee, Wayne Pullman, Myra Ransay, Melanie Rapley, Giorgio Rindo, Bruce Rogers, Allan Russell, Barbara Scott, Pierre Sobbel, Harold (Harry) Tolman, Zola Wainwright, Colin Watson, Iris White.

May they rest in peace

WEEKLY ROSTER – 05/06 September 2026

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm C: Leonie Hansen W/R1: Belinda Tyrrell W/R2: Eil Smyth Ex Min: Cate Allen Music: Noel Greacen Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am C: Katrina Krogh W/R1: Sue O'Halloran W/R2: John Murphy Ex Min: Lorraine Bryant Music: Anne Jones Altar Server: Will Nguyen Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am

C: Brian Lincoln W/R1: Gina Mahony W/R2: Denise Green Children's Liturgy: Linda/Janine Altar Servers: Dominic Vinod/Oscar Lintott/Ndinashe Zvarevashe Ex Min: Peter Prisk/Fiona Downey Music: St Nicholas Choir Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm

C: Judy Campbell W/R1: Carol Wheaton W/R2: Connor Gibson Ex Min: Cecilia Dries Music: Henry Buckman Altar Servers: Evangelyn/Ethan Nijo Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Cecilia Dries/Anne Jones Altar Linen: Kate Stewart Sacristy Cleaning: Beth & John Ryan/Bruce Stewart Candelabrum: every 2nd week

BAPTISMS: We pray for Brax Hartin who is being baptised this weekend. May God bless him abundantly.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Peter Maher, Douglas Whaley.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Colin Bryant and Dan Daley. May they rest in eternal 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), Michael Bryant, Rev Fr Tony Castelli, Brindley Cavallaro (Sydney), Elizabeth Coroneos (Toowoomba), 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.

“What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see the misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.”

“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.” ~ St. Augustine

