THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A — 13 SEPTEMBER 2026

FIRST READING — Sir 27:30–28:7

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.
He who exacts vengeance will experience
the vengeance of the Lord,
who keeps strict account of sin.
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.
If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?
Showing no pity for a man like himself,
can he then plead for his own sins?
Remember the last things, and stop hating,
remember dissolution and death, and live by
the commandments.
Remember the commandments, and do not
bear your neighbour ill-will;
remember the covenant of the Most High, and
overlook the offence.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM — Ps 102: 1-4, 9-12. R. v. 8

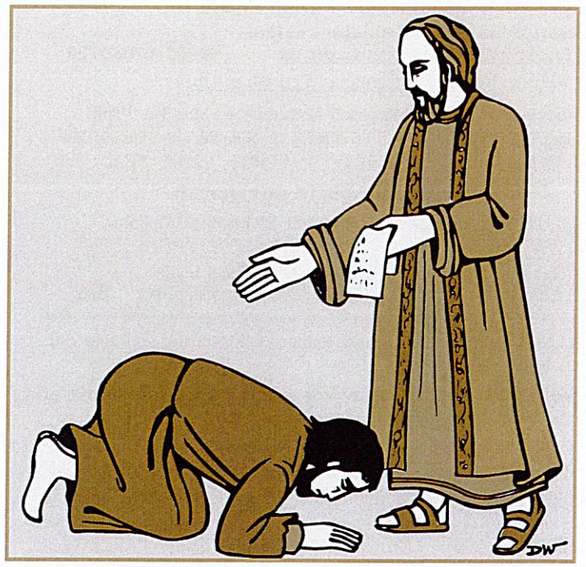
R. The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, / all my being, bless his holy name. / My soul, give thanks to the Lord / and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, / who heals every one of your ills, / who redeems your life from the grave, / who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

3. His wrath will come to an end; / he will not be angry for ever. / He does not treat us according to our sins / nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

4. For as the heavens are high above the earth / so strong is his love for those who fear him. / As far as the east is from the west / so far does he remove our sins. **R.**



SECOND READING — Rom 14: 7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION — Jn 13: 34

Alleluia, alleluia! / I give you a new commandment: / love one another as I have loved you. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL — Mt 18: 21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

FORGIVE FROM THE HEART

Have you ever been hurt by another? How do you act? Can you forgive? Hurts, misunderstanding and at times serious ruptures can occur amongst Jesus' members. The question which Peter asks Jesus is relevant: 'How often should one forgive another? Seven times?' Jesus replies, 'Seventy times seven,' meaning forgiveness is beyond calculation.

Jesus then offers a parable to highlight the essential truth about forgiving others 'from the heart'. The story involves two servants. One owes his king 1000 talents. In Matthew's day a talent was worth a year's wage. The servant owes the king 1000 years' wages! An impossible debt to honour, even though the servant promises to pay it in time. The king, out of compassion, cancels the debt. Whew! Leaving the judgement hall, that same servant comes across a fellow servant who owes 100 denarii. A denarius is a day's wage, so the debt is a hundred days' wages, a paltry sum by comparison. But in this second scenario, compassion and debt cancellation are absent. The king gets to hear of this and imprisons the first servant for his lack of forgiveness.

Meanness of spirit and forgiveness of heart will have their divine repercussions, the point of the final words of today's Gospel. Matthew's Jesus invites us to reflect upon our own forgiving and compassionate spirit towards those who have hurt or wronged us. As we pray in the Lord's Prayer, '...forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.' The measure of our forgiveness is ultimately not God but our own hearts.

Fr Michael Trainor

Welcome to St Nicholas' Catholic Parish, Tamworth for The Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Safeguarding Sunday

Year A

13th September 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 ☎ (02) 6761 0800 — Principal: Mr Michael Whitton — Students currently enrolled: 1,006

St Nicholas Primary School ☎ (02) 6766 1500 — Principal: Mr Peter Flynn — Students currently enrolled: 576

ENTRANCE: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true.

COMMUNION: How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

'HOW OFTEN MUST I FORGIVE?' There is much truth in the proverb, 'to err is human, to forgive divine.' We all make mistakes. We all do or say things we later regret. And yet, when others wrong us, we can find it beyond our human strength to forgive. As we celebrate the mystery of Christ's love today, let us ask Jesus to heal our divisions and fill our hearts with his spirit of forgiveness.

Psalter Week 4

Monday 14/09 **St Nicholas' Mass 7am**
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Num 21:4-9: or Phil 2:6-11 Ps 77:1-2, 34-38: Jn 3:13-17:

Tuesday 15/09 **St Mary's Mass 9am**
Our Lady of Sorrows
Heb 5:7-9: Ps 30:2-6, 15-16, 20: Jn 19:25-27: or Lk 2:33-35:

Wednesday 16/09 **St Nicholas' Mass 7am**
Sts Cornelius, pope, martyr and Cyprian, bishop, martyr
1 Cor 12:31 – 13:13: Ps 32:2-5, 12, 22: Lk 7:31-35:

Thursday 17/09 **St Mary's Mass 9am**
1 Cor 15:1-11: Ps 117:1-2, 15-17, 28: Lk 7:36-50:

Friday 18/09 **St Nicholas' Mass 7am**
1 Cor 15:12-20: Ps 16:1, 6-8, 15: Lk 8:1-3:

Saturday 19/09 **St Nicholas' Mass 9am**
1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49: Ps 55:1-14: Lk 8:4-15:
Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 20/09 **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.

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

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		
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 - followed by a festive 'brunch' in the Outdoor Function Area	9.30am	St Nicholas'
30 Sep	Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
02 Oct	Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm	St Nicholas'
03 Oct	Sat	Anointing of the sick during 9am Mass		St Nicholas'
03 Oct	Sat	Silent Adoration	4-5.30pm	St Nicholas'
05 Oct	Mon	PUBLIC HOLIDAY		
06 Oct	Tue	'Petitions' Rosary	12.15pm	St Nicholas'
07 Oct	Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
09 Oct	Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm	St Nicholas'
10/11 Oct		Speaker from ADIG at all Masses		
13 Oct	Tue	Start of School Term 4		
13 Oct	Tue	St Nicholas Seniors, morning tea 10.30am, West Diggers		
13 Oct	Tue	2026 HSC begins		

We pray for the children in our parish preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
May the Holy Spirit guide and bless each child during this time of preparation.
We pray that they may always feel God's love and guidance as they take this important step in their faith journey.

St Vincent de Paul Society Festival Mass

This weekend, at the 9.30am Mass at St Nicholas', the St Vincent de Paul Society are celebrating their annual **Festival Mass** for the volunteers of Visitation, and Care & Support Conferences.
We give thanks to these men and women who give tirelessly of themselves in the service of others.

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 – 12/13 September 2026

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm
C: Paul McDougall W/R1: Eil Smyth
W/R2: Giovanna McDougall
Ex Min: Kerry Ackhurst Music: Noel Greacen
Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am
C: Julie McGuirk W/R1: Grace Knight W/R2: Alex Knight
Ex Min: John Wallace Music: Anne Jones
Altar Server: Will Nguyen
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am **St Vincent de Paul Mass**
C: Patrick Mahony W/R1: Jennifer Burton W/R2: Anne Scott
Prayers of the Faithful: Kevin McMahon
Offertory: Betty Dunn, Steve McIlveen, Kevin McMahon, John Murrie
Children's Liturgy: Steph/Marielle
Altar Servers: Isaac Hetherington/Lucas Attard
Ex Min: Maria Lincoln/Alison Hamilton
Music: St Nicholas Choir
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm
C: Henry Buckman W/R1: Connor Gibson W/R2: Renee Dunst
Ex Min: Claire Doherty Music: Henry Buckman
Altar Servers: Kyra/Nyssa Akers-Gibbons
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Brian & Maria Lincoln
Altar Linen: Kerrie Bryant
Sacristy Cleaning: Elspeth Muldoon/Kerrie Bryant
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: 001 055 701
A/c Name: St Nicholas' Church Parish

Reference: Planned Giving Number and/or your surname
Thank you for your support.

COLLECTIONS:	**6th September 2026**
1st Collection	$ 1,575.50
Planned Giving	**$ 480.45**
Loose	**$ 1,898.00**
	$ 2,378.45

112th Migrant & Refugee Sunday Multicultural Mass

Please come along to the **Multicultural Mass** on **Sunday 27th September at 9.30am.**
Immediately following Mass, **Brunch** will be served in the St Nicholas Outdoor Function Area.
Please come in traditional dress and bring a plate of your regional cuisine to share with the Parish community. This is a wonderful opportunity to mingle, share stories, connect with others and make new friends in our parish community.

WEEKLY ROSTER – 19/20 September 2026

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm **Confirmation Mass**
C: Amanda Scott W/R1: Sister of Nazareth
W/R2: Giovanna McDougall POF: St Nicholas teacher
Offertory: St Nicholas Year 6 teachers
Altar Servers: Isaac Hetherington/Will Nguyen
Ex Min: Kerry Ackhurst Music: St Nicholas Choir
Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am
C: Sue O'Halloran W/R1: Bernadette Virgen W/R2: Lorraine Bryant
Ex Min: Jess Galvin Music: Anne Jones
Altar Server:
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am **Confirmation Mass**
C: Amanda Scott W/R1: Rosemary Kinsela W/R2: Carol Wheaton
POF: St Nicholas teacher Offertory: St Nicholas Year 6 teachers
Altar Servers: Harry Dowsett/Callum Buckman/Emmett Buckman
Ex Min: Brian Lincoln
Music: St Nicholas Choir
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm
C: Connor Gibson W/R1: Henry Buckman W/R2: Halley Buckman
Ex Min: Alison Hagley Music: Henry Buckman
Altar Servers: Zoey Davis/Maddison McDougall
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Ted Heazlett/Bruce Stewart
Altar Linen: Rosemary Kinsela
Sacristy Cleaning: Marie Rice/Gemma & Michael Moy
Candelabrum: *every 2nd week*

BAPTISM: Please pray for **Lincoln Gaynor** who is being baptised this weekend. May God always bless and watch over him.

CONGRATULATIONS: We congratulate **Alby Sims** who is receiving **First Eucharist** this weekend.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: We pray for the repose of the souls of **Patricia Bartoletti (Sardinia)** and **John Conlan,** both recently deceased.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Dan Daly, Robert Bruno.

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.

"In everything, whether it is a thing sensed or a thing known, God himself is hidden within." **~ St. Bonaventure**