

and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?” “Because no one has hired us” they answered. He said to them, “You go into my vineyard too.” In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, “Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.” So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. “The men who came last” they said “have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.” He answered one of them and said, “My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?” Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2026. No 2161. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word

BE GENEROUS

Greed often dominates our world, interactions between global leaders and, sometimes, our own relationships. Today’s Gospel offers a different value system. Generosity is the Gospel standard that should dominate relationships.

This teaching comes in the form of another parable from Jesus. The context would be familiar to Matthew’s audience, in a society dominated by injustice, hierarchy and poverty. In this world, unemployment was rife, as it is today. Workers in Jesus’ day would go to the village or town square to seek employment. In this setting, the landowner comes to the square to hire labourers for his vineyard with a promised day’s wage. The owner repeats the hiring practice at different hours of the day, even into the late afternoon. When it comes time to pay the wages of the labourers, the landowner begins with the last hired and pays them the full day’s wage though they have worked less hours. Those hired first complain that they should have been paid more. The landowner’s response summarises the main teaching point of the parable: ‘Why be envious because I am generous?’

Generosity rather than greed characterises this landowner. It is also a mirror of Jesus’ essential teaching. God is generous, not restrictive or calculating. This challenges a world governed by exactness and tit-for-tat thinking. God and God’s kingdom are characterised by generosity. God is generous toward us – and invites us to be generous toward others.

Fr Michael Trainor



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

20 SEPTEMBER 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take
pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who
speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18. R. v. 18

R. The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day / and praise
your name for ever. / The Lord is great,
highly to be praised, / his greatness cannot be
measured. **R.**
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, /
slow to anger, abounding in love. / How good
is the Lord to all, / compassionate to all his
creatures. **R.**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways / and loving
in all his deeds. / He is close to all who call
him, / who call on him from their hearts. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 1:20-24, 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by
my life or by my death. Life to me, of course,
is Christ, but then death would bring me
something more; but then again, if living in this
body means doing work which is having good
results – I do not know what I should choose.



I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone
and be with Christ, which would be very much
the better, but for me to stay alive in this body
is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that
would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia! / Open our hearts,
O Lord, / to listen to the words of your
Son. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: “The kingdom of
heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak
to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an
agreement with the workers for one denarius a
day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out
at about the third hour he saw others standing
idle in the market place and said to them, “You
go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair
wage.” So they went. At about the sixth hour
and again at about the ninth hour, he went out

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

20th 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 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: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord forever.

COMMUNION: You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

‘MY WAYS ARE ABOVE YOUR WAYS.’ Those who had laboured in the vineyard all day were angry when the owner paid the latecomers the same wage. Like the story of the prodigal son, this parable reminds us that the kingdom of heaven is not characterised by our limited concepts of justice but by compassion that knows no limits. May we not be envious at the good fortune of others but rejoice that we too are loved deeply by God.

Psalter Week 1

Monday 21/09 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
St Matthew, apostle, evangelist
Eph 4:1-7, 11-13: Ps 18:2-5: Mt 9:9-13:

Tuesday 22/09 St Mary’s Mass 9am
Prov 21:1-6, 10-13: Ps 118:1, 27, 30, 34-35, 44: Lk 8:19-21:

Wednesday 23/09 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest
Prov 30:5-9: Ps 118:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163: Lk 9:1-6:

Thursday 24/09 St Mary’s Mass 9am
Eccl 1:2-11: Ps 89:3-6, 12-14, 17: Lk 9:7-9:

Friday 25/09 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
Eccl 3:1-11: Ps 143:1-4: Lk 9:18-22:

Saturday 26/09 St Nicholas’ Mass 9am
Eccl 11:9 – 12:8: Ps 89:3-6, 12-14, 17: Lk 9:43-45:
Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 27/09 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.

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.

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

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’
04 Oct	Sun	Daylight Saving begins 2am – move clocks forward 1 hour		
05 Oct	Mon	PUBLIC HOLIDAY – Morning Mass at 9am		
06 Oct	Tue	‘Petitions’ Rosary	12.15pm	St Nicholas’
07 Oct	Wed	Solemnity of Our Lady of the Rosary		
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		
14 Oct	Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas’
15 Oct	Thu	St Nicholas Women Connecting – meet for dinner – 5.30pm – Tamworth City Bowling Club. All Welcome.		
16 Oct	Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm	St Nicholas’
16 Oct	Fri	Rosary by Candlelight, 7.30pm at Nazareth Care		
18 Oct	Sun	Mission Sunday – Special Collection		
18 Oct	Sun	Birthday Blessing		All Masses
		Morning tea after the 9.30am Mass hosted by The Parish Pastoral Council		

Centacare New England Northwest are seeking external committee members. These are exciting opportunities for local professionals who are passionate about contributing to the governance of a well-respected not-for-profit organisation serving communities across the New England Northwest region. These members provide valuable advice, expertise and local perspectives to support effective decision-making, strong governance and positive organisational outcomes. Committee meetings are generally held **online** and occur approximately **3-6 times per year**. The positions are listed on SEEK and can be found following these links: People Quality and Safety Committee <https://au.seek.com/job/94505266> Governance & Remuneration Committee <https://au.seek.com/job/94505267> Finance, Audit & Risk Management Committee <https://au.seek.com/job/94505268> Catholic Culture & Identity Committee <https://au.seek.com/job/94505271>

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 – 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: Will Nguyen/Charles & Jason Igbenije

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

Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas’ Sunday 9.30am

Confirmation Mass

C: Amanda Scott W/R1: Lynne Prisk W/R2: Carol Wheaton

POF: St Nicholas teacher Offertory: St Nicholas Year 6 teachers

Altar Servers: Harry Dowsett/Callum & Emmett Buckman

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: Maria Lincoln

Sacristy Cleaning: Marie Rice/Gemma & Michael Moy

Candelabrum: *every 2nd week*

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.

**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.

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: 13th September 2026

1st Collection \$ 1,613.15

Planned Giving \$ 2,373.00

Loose \$ 386.90

\$ 2,759.90

**The Piety Store is
now in operation
before/after Masses**

WEEKLY ROSTER – 26/27 September 2026

St Nicholas’ Saturday 6pm

C: Cate Allen W/R1: Leonie Hansen W/R2: Sister of Nazareth

Ex Min: Eil Smyth Music: Noel Greacen

Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary’s Sunday 7.30am

C: Bruce Stewart W/R1: Katrina Krogh W/R2: Sue O’Halloran

Ex Min: Cheryl Higgins Music: Anne Jones

Altar Server: Will Nguyen

Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas’ Sunday 9.30am Migrant & Refugee Sunday

C: Campion Bourke W/R1: Linda Igbenije W/R2: Sister Trang

Offertory: Timorese parishioners

Altar Servers: Abigail/Amanda/Daniel Nweke

Ex Min: Fr Chris, Fr Clarence, Deacon Allem

Music: St Nicholas Choir

Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas’ Sunday 5.30pm

Youth Mass

C: Halley Buckman W/R1: Miller Lloyd W/R2: Judy Campbell

Ex Min: Terry Dries Music: Henry Buckman

Altar Servers: Callum/Emmett Buckman

Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Paul & Giovanna McDougall

Altar Linen: Rosemary Kinsela

Sacristy Cleaning: St Nicholas Women Connecting

Candelabrum: John Wallace

ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH: Deacon Peter Harrison, 21st September. May he rest in peace.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: We pray for the repose of the souls of **Molly Joseph** (Anniversary 19th September), and **John Conlan**, recently deceased on 7th September. May they rest in eternal peace.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Pauline Maher, Brien McCulloch, 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.

“While the world changes, the cross stands firm.”
~ St. Bruno



**We warmly congratulate
our Confirmation
candidates who are
receiving the Sacrament
of Confirmation this
weekend! May the Holy
Spirit guide, strengthen,
and bless you as you
continue to grow in
faith, love, and grace.**