

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia! / My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; / I know them, and they follow me. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

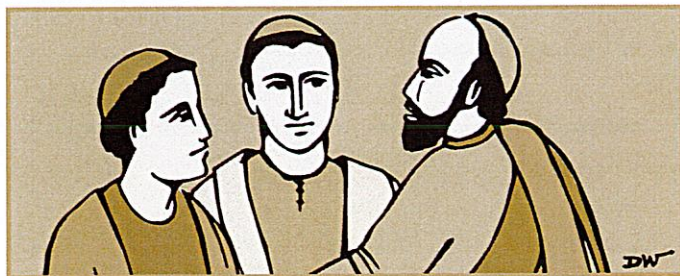
Mt 21:28-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go", but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word

CHANGE OF ATTITUDE

Remaining in the agricultural world from last Sunday and the hiring practice of a landowner, we are now inside the landowner's family and its two sons. The landowner requests both sons to go to work in the vineyard. Such a request would have been unnecessary, given that there would have been hired labourers in the vineyard – information learnt from last Sunday's Gospel.

A deeper intent lies behind the owner's request: Are the sons' committed to the family's enterprise? Perhaps, too, this reflects what is occurring with the Gospel household, the inner relationship and ethical practice of its members. The main issue concerns integrity of word and openness of heart. The first son is asked to work in the vineyard but refuses the request. Later, he thinks about it, changes his mind and goes. The second promises to go the vineyard but doesn't. There is no further comment about the request or change of heart. Jesus asks the religious leaders, 'Which of the two did the father's will?' They respond, 'The first.' This son, at first resistant, changes his mind and responds to the father's request.

The parable is obviously directed to Jesus' audience and religious leaders, to recognise their need to change attitudes that exclude certain types of people. Surprisingly, those judged as social reprobates, the 'tax collectors and prostitutes', are given preferential acceptance into God's Kin-dom. The parable overturns conventional expectations in Matthew's day and in ours!

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

27 SEPTEMBER 2026

FIRST READING

Ezek 18:25-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 24:4-9. R. v. 6

R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways. / Lord, teach me your paths. / Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: / for you are God my saviour. **R.**
2. Remember your mercy, Lord, / and the love you have shown from of old. / Do not remember the sins of my youth. / In your love remember me, / because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**
3. The Lord is good and upright / He shows the path to those who stray, / he guides the humble in the right path / he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

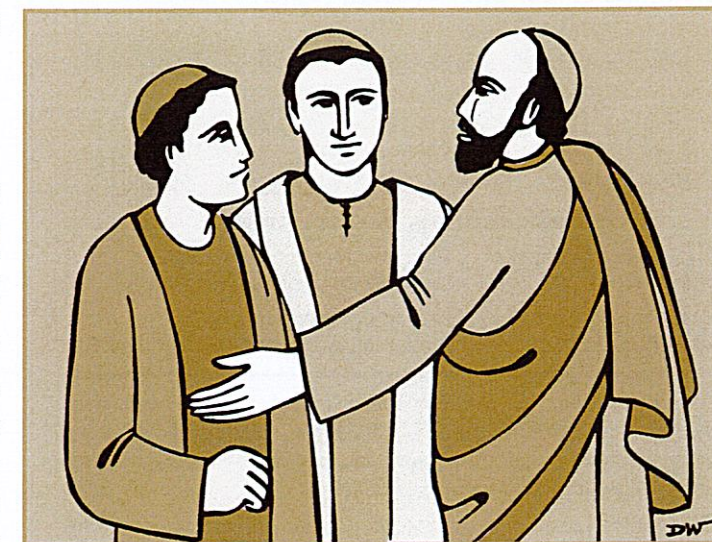
SECOND READING

Phil 2:1-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one



thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.

But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the
underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

■ The word of the Lord.

*Welcome to St Nicholas'
Catholic Parish, Tamworth
for The Twenty-Sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
World Refugees & Migration Day
Year A*

27th 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: All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

COMMUNION: Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

‘PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.’ We cannot spend all of our lives blaming others for what has happened to us. At a certain stage we must accept responsibility for our own lives and deeds. Sometimes we need to admit, ‘I have done wrong. I am sorry. God, help me to do right in future.’ Change is always possible. If we have the desire, God will guide us in the right path.

Psalter Week 2

Monday 28/09 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
Job 1:6-22: Ps 16:1-3, 6-7: Lk 9:46-50:

Tuesday 29/09 St Mary’s Mass 9am
Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels
Dan 7:9-10, 13-14: or Rev: 12:7-12: Ps 137:1-5: Jn 1:47-51:

Wednesday 30/09 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
St Jerome, priest, doctor
Job 9:1-12, 14-16: Ps 87:10-15: Lk 9:57-62:

Thursday 01/10 St Mary’s Mass 9am
St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, virgin, doctor
Job 19:21-27: Ps 26:7-9, 13-14: Lk 10:1-12:

Friday 02/10 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am
The Holy Guardian Angels
Ex 23:20-23: Ps 90:1-6, 10-11: Mt 18:1-5, 10:

Saturday 03/10 St Nicholas’ Mass 9am
Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17: Ps 118:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130: Lk 10:17-24:
Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 04/10 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

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 – cancelled. Requiem Mass at 11am

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 – cancelled

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

21 Oct Wed Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am St Nicholas’

23 Oct Fri Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St Nicholas’

26–30 Oct Monday–Friday – Clergy Retreat – all priests in attendance

27 Oct Tue St Nicholas Seniors, lunch 11.30am West Diggers

28 Oct Wed Silent Adoration – Cancelled

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

30 Oct Fri Eucharistic Adoration – Cancelled

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Fr Chris is still looking for parishioners to volunteer to operate the **Piety Stall**, just for half an hour, both before and after the weekend Masses at St Nicholas’.

If you are able to help out with this, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

The Piety Stall was launched the weekend before last and was very popular with parishioners – there is a beautiful assortment of Catholic goods and gift items for sale.

We warmly congratulate Deacon Allem Alba on the announcement of his Priestly Ordination, to take place at Saints Mary & Joseph Cathedral in Armidale on Saturday 12th December 2026 at 11am.

He will celebrate his first Mass at St Nicholas’ Church on Sunday 13th December at 9.30am.

Fr Chris is planning for a bus to take parishioners to Armidale for the Ordination.

Bookings are essential – please contact the Parish Office.

Further details will made available at a later date.

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: Sam & Natalia Correia

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: Vivienne Mundy

Sacristy Cleaning: St Nicholas Women Connecting

Candelabrum: John Wallace

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.

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: 20th September 2026

1st Collection \$ 2,378.80

Planned Giving \$ 1,518.90

Loose \$ 452.65

\$ 1,971.55

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

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>

“Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age (Matthew 25:35-43).”

~ Pope Francis

WEEKLY ROSTER – 03/04 October 2026

St Nicholas’ Saturday 6pm

C: Belinda Tyrrell W/R1: Kerry Ackhurst W/R2: Leonie Hansen

Ex Min: Paul McDougall Music: Noel Greacen

Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary’s Sunday 7.30am

C: Tony Ryan W/R1: Joan Newley W/R2: Julie McGuirk

Ex Min: John Wallace Music: Anne Jones

Altar Server: Will Nguyen

Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas’ Sunday 9.30am

C: Tim Igbenije W/R1: Denise Green W/R2: Dean Rowsell

Altar Servers: Charles/Jason/Daniel Igbenije

Ex Min: Michael Moy/Fiona Downey

Music: St Nicholas Choir

Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas’ Sunday 5.30pm

C: Terry Dries W/R1: Marilyn Gaffney W/R2: Claire Doherty

Ex Min: Carol Wheaton Music: Veronica Frost

Altar Servers: Ethan/Evangelyn Nijo

Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Bill Higgins/Pauline Skewes

Altar Linen: Cecilia Dries

Sacristy Cleaning: Beth & John Ryan/Bruce Stewart

Candelabrum: every 2nd week

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

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: We pray for the repose of the souls of **Jocelyn Durante, Rev Deacon Peter Harrison** (Anniversary 21st September), **Virginia Cavallaro** (Anniversary 24th September), **Pat, Anthony and Nell McMahon, Clare & Terry Harkins** and **Sister Sesilia**, Christchurch, NZ, recently deceased. May they rest in eternal peace.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Shane Mulligan, 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 Hum (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.

