

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn 15:15

Alleluia, alleluia! / I call you friends, says the Lord, / because I have made known to you / everything I have learnt from my Father. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 21:33-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He leased his vineyard to other farmers.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone.

This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

A RICH ALLEGORY

Jesus continues from last Sunday to question the attitudes of religious leaders of his day and, by inference, those who assume religious leadership and authority in Matthew's day.

Jesus' teaching looks like a parable, but it is an allegory, where each element of the story represents historical events or figures. Its focus is another landowner (God) who plants a vineyard (the image of Israel), cares for it and leases it to tenants. At vintage time his servants (the prophets) go to collect the produce. But the tenants maltreat all those sent to collect the produce, even to the point of finally killing the son of the viticulturalist (Jesus), the last emissary sent.

The parable is an allegory of salvation history, the story of Israel, the action of God to cultivate Israel's goodness with the eventual rejection of God's final emissary, Jesus. The allegory is not anti-Jewish. Matthew writes for a Jewish audience. The evangelist reflects on the mystery of Israel's history and the failure of the Jewish leaders' intent to do away with God's final prophet and emissary, Jesus.

To repeat, Jesus' death was the action of the religious leaders of his day and not the deed of the Jewish people. What happened to Jesus finds its parallel in the way the prophets of the Old Testament were treated. The key point of the story comes at the end: the Kingdom of God will be 'given to a people who will produce its fruits.' That people is us.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

4 OCTOBER 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 5:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.

Let me sing to my friend
the song of his love for his vineyard.

My friend had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.

He dug the soil, cleared it of stones,
and planted choice vines in it.

In the middle he built a tower,
he dug a press there too.

He expected it to yield grapes,
but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,

I ask you to judge
between my vineyard and me.

What could I have done for my vineyard
that I have not done?

I expected it to yield grapes.

Why did it yield sour grapes instead?

Very well, I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:

I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,
and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.

I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug;
overgrown by the briar and the thorn.

I will command the clouds
to rain no rain on it.

Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the House of Israel,

and the men of Judah
that chosen plant.

He expected justice, but found bloodshed,
integrity, but only a cry of distress.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 79:9, 12-16, 19-20. R. Isa 5:7

R. The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt; / to plant it you drove out the nations. / It stretched out its branches to the sea, / to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. **R.**



2. Then why have you broken down its walls? / It is plucked by all who pass by. / It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, / devoured by the beasts of the field. **R.**

3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, / look down from heaven and see. / Visit this vine and protect it, / the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

4. And we shall never forsake you again: / give us life that we may call upon your name. / God of hosts, bring us back; / let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 4:6-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

■ The word of the Lord.

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

4th October 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: Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

COMMUNION: The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

‘THE FRUITS OF THE KINGDOM.’ The tenants in today’s Gospel had received much from the landowner who had established the vineyard. It was only fair that he should receive a share of the fruits of the crop. Likewise, we have received much from Christ whose grace produces in us the fruits of truth, goodness, purity, love, honour and virtue. We pay our dues to Christ when we share these fruits with others.

Psalter Week 3

Monday 05/10 St Nicholas’ Mass 9am (Public Holiday)

Gal 1:6-12: Ps 110:1-2, 7-10: Lk 10:25-37:

Tuesday 06/10 St Mary’s Mass 9am

Gal 1:13-24: Ps 138:1-3, 13-15: Lk 10:38-42:

Wednesday 07/10 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am

**Solemnity of Our Lady of the Rosary
Patroness of the Armidale Diocese**

Gal 2:1-2, 7-14: Ps 116: Lk 11:1-4:

Thursday 08/10 St Mary’s Mass 9am

Gal 3:1-5: Lk 1:69-75: Lk 11:5-13:

Friday 09/10 St Nicholas’ Mass 7am

Gal 3:7-14: Ps 110:1-6 Lk 11:15-26:

Saturday 10/10 St Nicholas’ Mass 9am

Gal 3:22-29: Ps 104:2-7: Lk 11:27-28:
Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 11/10 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

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’

23 Oct Fri Youth Group 7-8.45pm, Outdoor Function Area

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

31 Oct/01 Nov St Vincent de Paul Annual Appeal – speaker at all
Masses. Buckets for cash plus tap n’ go for cards.

01 Nov Sun FAMILY MASS, St Nicholas School 9.30am St Nicholas’
Followed by Morning Tea in the Outdoor Function Area

03 Nov Tue ‘Petitions’ Rosary 12.15pm St Nicholas’

04 Nov Wed Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am St Nicholas’

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.

Centacare NENW is collecting non-perishable food items to create Christmas hampers for local families who are experiencing hardship. Centacare NENW have asked if parishioners from our parish would like to help with this initiative.

Suggested Hamper Items: Canned foods, pasta, rice & noodles, breakfast cereals & school snacks, Long-life milk, Vegemite, jam, tea & coffee, toiletries & personal care items, cleaning products & toilet paper.

Centacare will place a basket at the back of St Nicholas’ and St Mary’s each Sunday from 1 November to 29 November to collect donations.

Centacare NENW staff will collect the donations, make up the hampers and distribute them during Advent. Thank you for your generosity.

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

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: Merrilyn Gaffney W/R2: Claire Doherty

Ex Min: Carol Wheaton Music: Veronica Frost

Altar Servers: Ethan/Evangelyn

Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Bill Higgins/Pauline Skewes

Altar Linen: Cecilia Dries

Sacristy Cleaning: Beth & John Ryan/Bruce Stewart

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.

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: 27th September 2026

1st Collection \$ 1,823.70

Planned Giving \$ 1,863.00

Loose \$ 409.55

\$ 2,272.55

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



October is the month of the Holy Rosary.

The month serves as a special time for the faithful to pray the Rosary, meditating on the life of Jesus through the mysteries, and seeking Mary's intercession for the Church and the world.

ANNIVERSARIES – October 2026

Valma Allsopp, Daniel Bailey, Margaret Bradbery, Christina Bridges, Filomena Bruno, Patricia Burr, Royce Byrnes, George Camilleri, Barbara Carr, Geoffrey Carr, Leslie Casey, Josephine Cathcart, Judith Chatwood, Renato Chiari, Christine Chisholm, Sheila Clark, Monica Coles, Brian Condon, Eric Connolly, Gloria Cooper, Muriel Cooper, Ian (Jack) Cutmore, Donald Davidson, Daphne Davis, Kenneth Delforce, Warren Doherty, Maude Drysdale, Thomas Ferris, Edna Fittler, Dorothy (Babe) Foran, Raymond Gaffney, Romano Gabutto, Norma Girard, Collin Gleeson, Helen Gowing, Marjorie Handley, Iris Hardaker, Ruby Hartley, John Hawkins, Barry Heiler, Andrew Henshaw, Colleen Herden, Leo Herden, Bernard Higgins, Selina Honess, Margaret Hudson, Shirley Hughes, Nellie Johnston, Joyce Jones, Kathleen Kirwin, Charles Knight, Sandor Kovach, Clarice Leehy, Frederick (Paddy) Leis, Giovanni Loi, Henry McCarthy, Arthur McKenna, Peter Maher, Margaret (Maggie) Meads, Shirley Merchant, Hamish Michell, Kathleen Mills, Noreen Murphy, Benjamin Nelson, Harry O’Halloran, Maria Pomponio, Bessie Quinn, Tom Roche, Jean Scott, John Sharp, Sister Teresa OP, Doreen Sneddon, Keith Steward, Raymond St Leon, Peter Thomas, Robert Thompson, Mary Thorley, Ronald Tidyman, Cecil Turner, James Vaux, Joan Weaver, Phillip White, Harold Williams, Mary Williams, Edna (Joan) Woolaston.

WEEKLY ROSTER – 10/11 October 2026

St Nicholas’ Saturday 6pm

C: Kerry Ackhurst W/R1: Gio McDougall W/R2: Belinda Tyrrell

Ex Min: Leonie Hansen Music: Noel Greacen

Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary’s Sunday 7.30am

C: Lorraine Bryant W/R1: Bruce Stewart W/R2: Cheryl Higgins

Ex Min: Karen King Music: Anne Jones Altar Server: Will Nguyen

Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas’ Sunday 9.30am

C: Esther Nweke W/R1: Marie Rice W/R2: Gemma Moy

Altar Servers: Dominic/Oscar/Ndinasse

Ex Min: Peter Prisk/Maria Lincoln Music: St Nicholas Choir

Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas’ Sunday 5.30pm

C: Carol Wheaton W/R1: Alison Hagley W/R2: Paul Hagley

Ex Min: Tania Roberts Music: Henry Buckman

Altar Servers: Kyra/Nyssa Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Gary Bryant/Andrew McGuirk

Altar Linen: Maria Lincoln

Sacristy Cleaning: Elspeth Muldoon/Kerrie Bryant

Candelabrum: Bruce Stewart

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.

BAPTISMS: Please pray for **Freddie Foran, Rorie Blanch** and **Spencer Ryan** who are being baptised this weekend. May God always bless and watch over them.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: We pray for the repose of the souls of **Ashley Dwyer** and **Katelyn Wall**, both recently deceased and **Eva** and **Arthur Morley** and **Catherine, Joseph, Maud** and **Dorothy Bruyn**. May they rest in eternal peace.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Shane Mulligan, Brien McCulloch.

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.

“Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand, to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying [to ourselves] that we are born to eternal life.” ~ St. Francis of Assisi

Eucharistic Rosary Procession – Friday 16 October – 7.30pm – Nazareth Care Chapel. Please bring a plate to share for supper. Catholic goods available for purchase (Frassati Society). Cash + bank transfer only. Thank you!

