

GOSPEL

Mt 22:1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants. "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Shorter form, Mt 22: 1-10

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

11 OCTOBER 2026

COME TO THE WEDDING!

For the third Sunday, Jesus addresses religious leaders. Again, as last Sunday, it concerns their refusal to accept God's invitation to join the feast of the Kin-dom. Jesus describes the Kin-dom as a wedding feast hosted by a king for his son.

Those invited fail to turn up for this sumptuous feast. 'Come to the wedding' is the invitation, but, according to Matthew's story, they are 'not interested'. They have different distractions and interests. Joining the king's feast is not on their agenda. The invitation is in fact such an annoyance or distraction that the invitees maltreat and even kill the messengers. The king responds punishing them. Clearly, the king's response is not meant to represent God. It would be unfortunate to make this identification and reinforce the image of a punishing God!

The point of the story is about the attitude of those invited to join the heavenly banquet, an image of the eucharistic celebration, and those who will eventually join the feast. These guests are identified in the Gospel's last verses: people from the 'roads', symbolic of all people on the path of life and the synodal journey. Everyone, 'bad and good alike', fill the wedding hall. The Eucharist is not a reward for the perfect but sustenance for the weak – for us. As Pope Francis writes, 'The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.' (*The Joy of the Gospel*, n 47).

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Isa 25:6-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will prepare a feast and will wipe away the tears from every cheek.

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines,
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.
On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.
The Lord will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us;
for the hand of the Lord
rests on this mountain.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22. R. v. 6

**R. I shall live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.**

1. The Lord is my shepherd; / there is nothing
I shall want. / Fresh and green are the
pastures / where he gives me repose. / Near
restful waters he leads me, / to revive my
drooping spirit. **R.**

2. He guides me along the right path; / he
is true to his name. / If I should walk in the
valley of darkness / no evil would I fear. / You
are there with your crook and your staff; /
with these you give me comfort. **R.**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me / in the
sight of my foes. / My head you have anointed
with oil; / my cup is overflowing. **R.**



4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow
me / all the days of my life. / In the Lord's own
house shall I dwell / for ever and ever. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 4:12-14, 19-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians

I am able to do all things in him who strengthens me.

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich
too. I have been through my initiation and now
I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach
or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is
nothing I cannot master with the help of the
One who gives me strength. All the same, it was
good of you to share with me in my hardships.
In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in
Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory
to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

■ 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-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

11th 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: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

COMMUNION: The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

‘COME TO THE BANQUET.’ Our God invites all people to the banquet of the kingdom, a banquet characterised by joy, integrity and true peace. Sometimes, however, we decline this invitation preferring the lesser banquets that we know. May God enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Psalter Week 4

Monday 12/10 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31 – 5:1 Ps 112:1-7 Lk 11:29-32:

Tuesday 13/10 St Mary's Mass 9am
Gal 5:1-6 Ps 118:41, 43-45, 47-48 Lk 11:37-41:

Wednesday 14/10 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
Gal 5:18-25 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 11:42-46:

Thursday 15/10 St Mary's Mass 9am
St Teresa of Jesus, virgin, doctor
Eph 1:1-10 Ps 97:1-6 Lk 11:47-54:

Friday 16/10 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
Eph 1:11-14 Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 12-13 Lk 12:1-7:

Saturday 17/10 St Nicholas' Mass 9am
St Ignatius of Antioch, bishop, martyr
Eph 1:15-23 Ps 8:2-7 Lk 12:8-12:

Vigil Mass 6pm
Sunday 18/10 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.

PRAYERFUL REFLECTION on the readings is always included in this Bulletin, after the Communion Antiphon. You are encouraged to reflect on this every week.

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.



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.

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.

Diary Dates

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 – Fr Roel on call – Masses during this week will be celebrated at Mary Help of Christians Church, South Tamworth
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. Tap n'go available at St Nicholas' Masses.
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'
06 Nov Fri	Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St Nicholas'
06 Nov Fri	Youth Group – Outdoor Function Area 7-8.45pm
07 Nov Sat	Anointing of the sick during the 9am Mass St Nicholas'
07 Nov Sat	Silent Adoration 4-5.30pm St Nicholas'
10 Nov Tue	St Nicholas Seniors, morning tea 10.30am, West Diggers
11 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.

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.

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: Marie Gruer W/R1: Marie Rice W/R2: Gemma Moy

Altar Servers: Dominic/Oscar/Ndinashe

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

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: 4th October 2026

1st Collection \$ 1,168.25

Planned Giving \$ 3,018.00

Loose \$ 406.05

\$ 3,424.05

The Piety Stall is now in operation before/after Masses

The St Vincent de Paul Society are holding their Annual Appeal on the weekend of 31st October/1st November, at all Masses. This Appeal raises much-needed funds to assist individuals and families in desperate circumstances. Please bring cash along – buckets will be available for donations immediately after all Masses. Thank you!



“Show me your hands.
Do they have scars from giving?
Show me your feet.
Are they wounded in service?
Show me your heart.
Have you left a place for divine love?”

~ Blessed Fulton J. Sheen

WEEKLY ROSTER – 17/18 October 2026

St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm

C: Karen King W/R1: Sr of Nazareth W/R2: Eil Smyth

Ex Min: Kerry Ackhurst Music: Noel Greacen

Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am

C: Katrina Krogh W/R1: John Murphy W/R2: Bernadette Virgen

Ex Min: Lorraine Bryant Music: Anne Jones

Altar Server: Will Nguyen

Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am

C: Esther Nweke W/R1: Jo Manalastas W/R2: Helen Rowsell

Altar Servers: Isaac Hetherington/Lucas Attard

Ex Min: Alison Hamilton/Anne Bowden Music: St Nicholas Choir

Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm

C: Merrilyn Gaffney W/R1: Cecilia Dries W/R2: Terry Dries

Ex Min: Paul Hagley Music: Henry Buckman

Altar Servers: Zoey Davis/Maddison McDougall

Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Cecilia Dries/Anne Jones

Altar Linen: Kate Stewart

Sacristy Cleaning: Marie Rice/Gemma & Michael Moy

Candelabrum: every 2nd week

BAPTISMS: Please pray for Stella Thomas who is being baptised this weekend. May God always bless and watch over her.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Kay Mason.

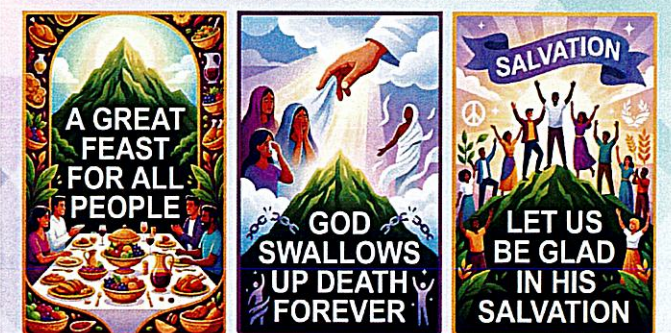
SPECIAL INTENTIONS: We pray for the repose of the souls of Peter Maher (Anniversary 12th October), and the residents of Nazareth Care who passed away during the month of September. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

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), Di Brown, Michael Bryant, Rev Fr Tony Castelli, Brindley Cavallaro (Sydney), Elizabeth Coroneos (Toowoomba), Bill Dennis, Kath Donoghue, Cornac 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), Jan & Richard Noad, Penny Pavlakis (Sydney), Richard Panchasarp (USA), Kim Riley (Orange), Nathaniel Roache (QLD), Adam Urquhart, Maureen White (Orange), Elizabeth Williams, Enid Wright.

ISAIAH 25:6-10A: THE LORD'S PROMISE



The Hand of the Lord Will Rest on This Mountain