GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Phil 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia! / Shine on the world like bright stars; / you are offering it the word of life. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

WHO IS OUR GOD?

Homilists today may be tempted to use this Gospel as an encouragement to honour taxation: every citizen contributes to the common good, and perhaps parishioners might even be urged to contribute a little more to the parish coffers. After all, Jesus does say, 'Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar!' While we certainly have a responsibility to support those social structures that advance the common good, and to assist those who struggle, something more troubling is at work in this Gospel.

The setting is the Temple Mount, where Matthew presents Jesus undergoing a theological trial before religious leaders and guardians of orthodoxy. It is a scene repeated in every generation of Jesus' followers: the attempt by theological rigorists to indict those whom they regard as out of step with orthodox teaching. Jesus refuses the premise of their question. Instead, he asks them to produce the coin used to pay the tax and to identify the figure and inscription upon it. 'Caesar's,' they reply.

Here lies the real issue. These religious leaders publicly champion the Torah's fundamental confession that there is only one God. Yet, in Israel's most sacred place, the Temple, they carry an image of the god-king Caesar. Their actions contradict the faith they claim to defend. Thus, today's Gospel is not primarily about the lawfulness of taxation. It is about fidelity to the Divine One. Beneath the question of what belongs to Caesar lies the more searching question: Who is our God, the One to whom our ultimate love, allegiance and obedience belong?

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A — 18 OCTOBER 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The word of the Lord.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 95:1, 3-5, 7-10. R. v. 7

R. Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / Tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. R.

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise, / to be feared above all gods; / the gods of the heathens are naught. / It was the Lord who made the heavens. R.

3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, / give the Lord glory and power, / give the Lord the glory of his name. / Bring an offering and enter his courts. R.

4. Worship the Lord in his temple. / O earth, tremble before him. / Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' / He will judge the peoples in fairness. R.

SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The word of the Lord.

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

World Mission Day

Year A

18th 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 9-5pm/Thurs 1-5pm/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: To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

COMMUNION: Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

'SERVING GOD THROUGH CIVIL SOCIETY.' The kingdom of God is already present in our world. It is here that we practise the kingdom values of justice, honesty, love and compassion. It is here that we show our faith in action, work for love and persevere in hope. When we contribute to the well-being of civil society we are promoting the kingdom of God.

Psalter Week 1

Monday 19/10 **St Nicholas' Mass 7am**
Eph 2:1-10: Ps 99: Lk 12:13-21:

Tuesday 20/10 **St Mary's Mass 9am**
Eph 2:12-22: Ps 84:9-14: Lk 12:35-38:

Wednesday 21/10 **St Nicholas' Mass 7am**
Eph 3:2-12: Is 12:2-6 Lk 12:39-48:

Thursday 22/10 **St Mary's Mass 9am**
Eph 3:14-21: Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19: Lk 12:49-53:

Friday 23/10 **St Nicholas' Mass 7am**
Eph 4:1-6: Ps 23:1-6: Lk 12:54-59:

Saturday 24/10 **St Nicholas' Mass 9am**
Eph 4:7-16: Ps 121:1-5: Lk 13:1-9:

Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 25/10 **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.



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**.

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

18 Oct	Sun	**MISSION SUNDAY – Special Collection - all donations over $2 are tax deductible – please write your details on the envelope, for a receipt.**	
18 Oct	Sun	**Birthday Blessing** Morning tea after the 9.30am Mass hosted by The Parish Pastoral Council	All Masses
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 – all 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	Sat	▷ Men's Breakfast – 7am – Outdoor Function Area ◁	
31 Oct/Sat 01 Nov/Sun		ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL APPEAL – speaker at all Masses. Buckets for cash donations after each Mass.	
01 Nov	Sun	ALL SOULS DAY	
01 Nov	Sun	FAMILY MASS, St Nicholas School 9.30am followed by Morning Tea in the Outdoor Function Area	St Nicholas'
02 Nov	Mon	ALL SAINTS DAY	
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'
13 Nov	Fri	Eucharistic Adoration	6-7pm St Nicholas'
15 Nov	Sun	Birthday Blessing Morning tea after the 9.30am Mass hosted by the Catechists' and Children's Liturgy teams	All Masses
18 Nov	Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'

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!

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.

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.

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*

WEEKLY ROSTER – 24/25 October 2026

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

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am
C: Joan Newley W/R1: Matt Pawsey W/R2: Katrina Krogh
Ex Min: Deb Pawsey Music: Anne Jones
Altar Server: Will Nguyen
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am
C: Nicholas Nweke W/R1: Alison Hamilton W/R2: Peter Prisk
Altar Servers: Harry/Sophie Dowsett/Uchenna Nwafor
Ex Min: Brian Lincoln/Michael Moy Music: St Nicholas Choir
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm **YOUTH MASS**
C: W/R1: W/R2: Youth
Ex Min: Volunteer Music: Henry Buckman
Altar Servers: Halley/Callum/Emmett Buckman
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Brian & Maria Lincoln
Altar Linen: Kerrie Bryant
Sacristy Cleaning: St Nicholas Women Connecting
Candelabrum: Brian Lincoln

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: 11th October 2026

1st Collection	$ 1,921.60
Planned Giving	$ 2,733.00
Loose	$ 586.80
	$ 3,319.80

The Piety Stall is now in operation before/after Masses



Ordination and First Mass of Rev. Deacon Allem James Dalisay Alba

The Catholic Diocese of Armidale cordially invites the faithful to the Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood of Rev. Deacon Allem James Dalisay Alba on the Solemnity of the Dedication of the Armidale Cathedral, Saturday, 12 December 2026, at 11:00 am at Saints Mary and Joseph Cathedral, Armidale.

His First Holy Mass will be celebrated on Gaudete Sunday, 13 December 2026, at 9:30 am, at St Nicholas' Parish Church, East Tamworth.

A Thanksgiving Mass, marking the First Day of Simbang Gabi, will be celebrated on Tuesday, 15 December 2026, at 5:00 pm at Mary Help of Christians Church, Hillvue, South Tamworth.

A bus service will also be available from St Nicholas Primary School, Carthage Street, East Tamworth to the Ordination in Armidale.
For bus registration and details, please contact stnicholasparish@armidale.catholic.org.au or (02) 6766 2228 during office hours; seats are limited.

Please RSVP before 23 November 2026 by scanning the QR codes on the official invitation. The official invitation is available at the back of the church, where you can also find the QR codes for the Ordination Mass and First Holy Mass RSVPs.

First Priestly Blessings will be given after each Mass.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Kay Mason, Cecilia Buhain.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: We pray for the repose of the souls of **Ray Gaffney** (Anniversary 14th October) and **Barbara McNamara** (Anniversary 20th October). 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, 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), Jan & Richard Noad, Penny Pavlakis (Sydney), Richard Panchasarp (USA), Kim Riley (Orange), Nathanial Roache (QLD), Adam Urquhart, Maureen White (Orange), Elizabeth Williams, Enid Wright.

"Look upon the poor with compassion and Jesus will look kindly upon you on your last day."
~ St Mary of the Cross



Please give generously!