GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia! / All who love me will keep my words, / and my Father will love them and we will come to them. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

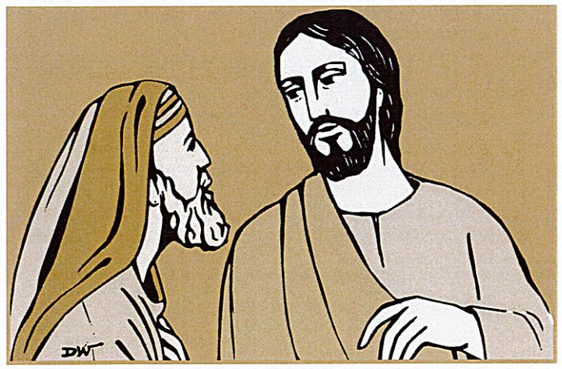
Mt 22:34-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word

THE SAVING WORD

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

As with last Sunday's Gospel, we find ourselves again on the Temple Mount—the sacred place where the Torah was taught and people were encouraged to live its demands and invitations. As Matthew's Gospel approaches its concluding chapters, however, the Temple also becomes the arena for another trial, continuing from last Sunday. Jesus' religious opponents set theological traps, seeking to expose him as an imposter and false teacher. This time the question concerns the greatest of the 613 commandments discerned in the Torah. It is a formidable test. Throughout his Gospel, Matthew presents Jesus to a Jewish community of followers living decades after the Galilean ministry of Jesus. The teaching Matthew records in the mid-80s CE reaches back to the original teaching of Jesus in the 30s.

Both then and now, Jesus draws upon the Torah to identify the two commandments that stand at the heart of faithful living. The first comes from Deuteronomy: to love God with one's whole being—heart, soul and mind. This command was so central to Jewish faith that it was symbolically carried on the body, clothing and doorposts of the home, and recited frequently each day in prayer. From this all-encompassing love of God flows the second commandment: to love one's neighbour as oneself. The two cannot be separated. Love of God finds its expression in how we love and treat others.

These commandments remain at the heart of our Christian heritage. They continue to shape our relationship with God and with one another, calling us beyond religious observance alone into a life grounded in love.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Ex 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."'

■ The word of the Lord.

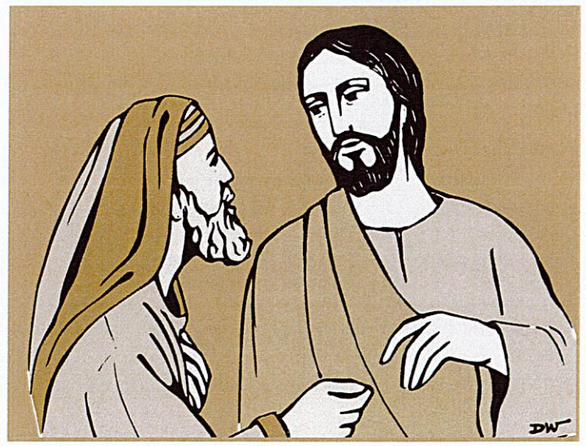
RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R. v. 2

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, / my rock, my fortress, my saviour. / My God is the rock where I take refuge; / my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. / The Lord is worthy of all praise: / when I call I am saved from my foes. R.

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! / Praised be the God who saves me. / He has given great victories to his king / and shown his love for his anointed. R.



SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:5-10

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

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

■ The word of the Lord.

Welcome to St Nicholas' Catholic Parish, Tamworth for The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

25th 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: Administration: Anne Jones Wed + Fri 9-5pm/Thu 1-5pm and Pauline Skewes Thurs 9-1pm
Finance: Stephanie Hetherington - Mon/Tue 9-5pm

Parish Office hours: Monday – Friday 9am - 5pm

Catholic schools in our parish

McCarthy Catholic College ☎ (02) 6761 0800 — Principal: Mr Michael Whitton — Students currently enrolled: 1,006

St Nicholas Primary School ☎ (02) 6766 1500 — Principal: Mr Peter Flynn — Students currently enrolled: 576

ENTRANCE: Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

COMMUNION: We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

'OBSERVE THE SORT OF LIFE WE LIVE.' In every society people observe the actions of others. When many people ignore a particular law others conclude that it is alright for them to do the same. Children often imitate the behaviours of their parents. When we practise the law of love in our lives, we benefit not only those who need our help but also those who observe our actions.

Psalter Week 2

The only Masses in Tamworth 26/10 – 30/10 will be celebrated by Fr Roel at Mary Help of Christians Church in South Tamworth.

Monday 26/10 **St Nicholas' No Mass**
Eph 4:32 – 5:8: Ps 1:1-4, 6: Lk 13:10-17:

Tuesday 27/10 **St Mary's No Mass**
Eph 5:21-33: Ps 127:1-5: Lk 13:18-21:

Wednesday 28/10 **St Nicholas' No Mass**
Sts Simon and Jude, apostles
Eph 2:19-22: Ps 18:2-5: Lk 6:12-19:

Thursday 29/10 **St Mary's No Mass**
Eph 6:10-20: Ps 143:1-2, 9-10: Lk 13:31-35:

Friday 30/10 **St Nicholas' No Mass**
Phil 1:1-11: Ps 143:1-2, 9-10: Lk 14:1-6:

Saturday 31/10 **St Nicholas' Mass 9am**
Phil 1:18-26: Ps 42:2-3, 5: Lk 14:1, 7-11:
Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 01/11 **ALL SAINTS DAY**
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

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 SAINTS DAY

01 Nov Sun FAMILY MASS - 9.30am followed by morning tea hosted by St. Nicholas School in the Outdoor Function Area

CENTACARE NENW FOOD DRIVE 01 Nov – 29 Nov

02 Nov Mon ALL SOULS 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 All Masses
Morning tea after the 9.30am Mass hosted by the Catechists' and Children's Liturgy teams

18 Nov Wed Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'

19 Nov Thu St Nicholas Women Connecting *Christmas Party Dinner*, meeting at 5.30pm, Tamworth Hotel

20 Nov Fri Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St Nicholas'

20 Nov Fri Youth Group – Outdoor Function Area 7-8.45pm

22 Nov WORLD YOUTH DAY

22 Nov Sun FAMILY MASS 9:30am followed by morning tea hosted by McCarthy Catholic College in the Outdoor Function Area

24 Nov Tue St Nicholas Seniors, lunch 11.30am West Diggers, Kable

25 Nov **St Nicholas Novena commences**

25 Nov Wed Silent Adoration 10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'

25 Nov Wed The Catholic Ladies – *Christmas lunch* – meet at 1pm in the Russell Room at the Services Club

25 Nov Wed **St Nicholas' Appreciation Dinner, 6pm**
North Tamworth Bowling Club, Bligh Street

If you would like to volunteer to operate the **Piety Stall**, for just for half an hour, both before and after a weekend Mass at St Nicholas', please see Father Chris. **Thank you!**

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 – 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: Sue O'Halloran
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/Uchenna Children's Liturgy: Danae/Kiera
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

WEEKLY ROSTER – 31 Oct/01 November 2026

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

St Mary's Sunday 7.30am
C: Sue O'Halloran W/R1: Bruce Stewart W/R2: John Wallace
Ex Min: Karen King Music: Anne Jones Altar Server: Will Nguyen
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am **FAMILY MASS**
C: W/R1: W/R2: St Nicholas School
Altar Servers: Abigail/Amanda/Chinedum Nweke
Ex Min: Jennifer Hatfield/Laura Hughes Music: St Nicholas Choir
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm
C: Cecilia Dries W/R1: Carol Wheaton W/R2: Connor Gibson
Ex Min: Judy Campbell Music: Henry Buckman
Altar Servers: Ethan/Evangelyn Nijo
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Ted Heazlett/Bruce Stewart
Altar Linen: Rosemary Kinsela
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

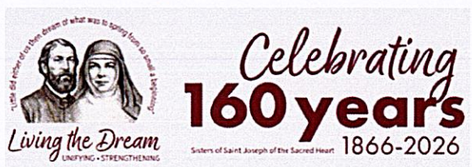
1ST Collection (supports the clergy)
BSB: 082 105 A/c No: 001 023 584
A/c Name: St Nicholas Presbytery

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:	18th October 2026
1st Collection	$ 2,080.15
Planned Giving	$ 1,728.00
Loose	$ 475.15
	$ 2,203.15

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!



On Saturday 14 November 2026 a Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered for the Sisters of Saint Joseph, who at the end of this year will no longer have a presence in formal ministry in the Diocese. Mary MacKillop responded to the request of Bishop Torregiani and the first Sisters arrived in 1880. Since then 590 Sisters have ministered firstly in schools then, motor mission, parish and spiritualty. Many students, parishioners and families and clergy have been touched by their commitment to God's Mission.
Mass will be celebrated in St Patrick's Church West Tamworth at 11am followed by a light lunch. For catering purpose please RSVP to Kim McKenzie via email: Kim.McKenzie@sosj.org.au or phone: 02 8741 2311 by Tuesday 3 November 2026.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: We pray for **May Press,** for recovery from illness. We pray for the repose of the souls of **Rev Fr Barry Leech** who passed away late on the evening of 17th October, and **Pauline Maher,** who passed away on 13th September 2026 in Newcastle and interred at Lincoln Grove on September 22nd. May they rest in God's love.

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.

"Christ has made my soul beautiful with the jewels of grace and virtue. I belong to Him whom the angels serve."
~ St Agnes of Rome

