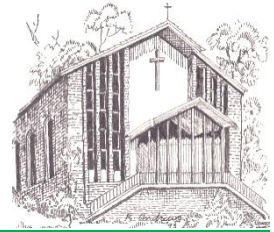




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



1 / 2 SEPTEMBER 2018
22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR B
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION ✦ HAPPY FATHERS DAY

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Free and Responsible

The theme of the liturgy is the law of God. God's law is just, it demands careful observation, and it is the key to life on earth. It is not a matter of clinging to what is human tradition but rather of practicing justice: "Those who do justice will live in the presence of the Lord."

The Pharisees misunderstood what the law was all about, or as Isaiah foretold, "they teach as dogmas mere human precepts." For them obeying the law meant such things as "scrupulously washing their hands and the washing of cups and jugs and kettles."

James, on the other hand, understood the meaning of the law of God, and he provides us with a pointed definition of the religion of the Lord Jesus: "Caring for orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself unstained by the world make for pure worship without stain before our God and Father."



The law of God forbids all those things that set people against each other: theft, murder, greed, etc. The positive command of God's law is "to serve God in each other," to walk blamelessly, do justice, and to not harm one's sister or brother.

"The codes of Israel reflect the norms of the covenant: reciprocal responsibility, mercy, and truthfulness. They embody a life in freedom from oppression: worship of the One God; rejection of idolatry; mutual respect among people; care and protection for every member of the social body. Being free and being a co-responsible community are God's intentions for us."
 – US Bishops, *Economic Justice for All*, 1986: 36

We resume our readings from Mark's gospel today. Life in a human community is governed by 'laws and customs', as Moses reminds the people of old Israel in the first reading. These regulations and their interpretation can give rise to confusion; so Moses urges the people to 'add nothing' and 'take nothing from' the law which he gives them in the name of God. We meet the same issue in today's gospel reading: Jesus is being hounded by antagonists – some of whom have come from Jerusalem for the purpose. They resent the fact that the disciples of Jesus 'do not respect the traditions of the elders' and observe ritual purifications. The response of Jesus has an important lesson for every age, as we endeavour to make Church regulations that are truly life-giving.

'The just will live in the presence of the Lord'. As the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5 and 6) teaches us, we are truly the People of God if our life together gives expression to the ways of our Father in heaven. This is the standard



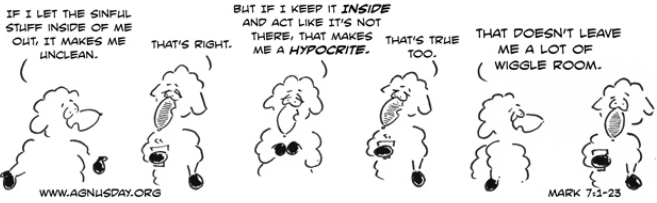
⚡⚡ against which we should evaluate

the 'laws and customs' we draw up for the Church's common life, and the way they are applied.

The words of Jesus, in this and similar exchanges, are surprisingly sharp. The issue is far more important than a detail of ritual observance. Those who were leaders in Israel should have been helping the people to live according to the ways of God – so that they would be 'a light to the nations', as the prophets had taught. Instead, they had lost sight of Israel's great destiny, and worked against it, in fact, by elaborating a system of self-serving regulations. They have no real concern for the ways of God, Jesus tells them, and he quotes against them the words of Isaiah: 'This people honours me only with lip service, while their hearts are far from me'. Jesus shows himself a true interpreter of Israel's faith as he urges his followers to find integrity through the motives of the heart rather than in the observance of external rituals of purification. No wonder the people followed him so eagerly.

But in what follows – as Jesus departs radically from the provisions of the Old Law concerning foods considered to make a person 'impure' – we recognise that he is conscious of an authority that is above the Law of Moses.

In the second reading we begin to read from the Letter of James. This letter, associated with the name of James 'the brother of Jesus', a leader of the Jerusalem church, gives us a glimpse of the outlook that united the first Jewish converts to faith in Christ. It is very down to earth and practical, filled with the spirit of the Wisdom literature of the Old Testament. And because this literature fosters life in harmony with the ways of God, it illustrates well the spirit Jesus advocates in the gospel. James points to 'the Father of lights', the giver of 'everything that is perfect'; he urges making the message of the 'Word' of God our life standard; and we should honour God especially by our generosity to those in need.



VINNIES NSW DROUGHT APPEAL: \$6,747+

PARISH ANNUAL LADIES' DINNER

Time to leave the kids and the washing up and enjoy a night out with the girls of all ages. All ladies welcome. **Wednesday, 26 September.** Venue: McCarthy Centre. Time: 6:00pm for 6:30pm. Cost: \$40.00 (includes donation to breast cancer research). Tea and coffee provided, other liquid refreshment BYO. (We now have sufficient wine glasses at the hall!). Names and money to Judy Bull or Maureen Heydon or leave at the parish office during office hours by **22 September**. Judy Bull ☎ 0407 672 417 or judy.bull@bigpond.com or Maureen Heydon ☎ 0438 674 997 or mheydon50@gmail.com

ADULT FAITH TALKS AT THIRROUL

Fr Andrew, with input from Fr Ken, is planning a series of adult formation talks for interested parishioners. He envisages 3 or 4 sessions in October/November on Monday evenings. Initial sessions would be on the Gospel of Mark. Venue depends on the number of interested people, presbytery or McCarthy Centre. **If you are interested, please leave your name and phone number on the list on the front seat in the church.**

CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE provides a vision for a just society in which the dignity of all people is recognised, and those who are vulnerable are cared for. It can be used to reflect on and guide how we relate to one another in our local and global communities.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation by Pope Francis:

Father, we praise you with all your creatures. They came forth from your all-powerful hand; they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. Praise be to you! Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made. You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth, and you gazed upon this world with human eyes. Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory. Praise be to you! Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world towards the Father's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts and you inspire us to do what is good. Praise be to you! Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made. Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is. God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. Praise be to you! Amen.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

The Plenary Council 2020 is a significant moment for the Church in Australia to make decisions for the future. To prepare the agenda for the Plenary Council, all of God's people are invited to reflect on the question: **“What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?”** Your voice is important. A Plenary Council is a formal meeting of the bishops and other representatives of all the dioceses and eparchies of the Catholic Church in Australia. Its purpose is to discern what God is asking of us in Australia at this present time. While the church should be asking that question continually, a Plenary Council is a particularly graced instrument for seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance. And it has the authority to make church laws on the results of its discernment. Our local animator, **Jodi Steel**, will speak at both Masses this weekend (1-2 September) about how you can have your say. Find out more about Plenary Council 2020 on the website plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au



PlenaryCouncil2020
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

A PRAYER FOR FATHERS

Loving God, we give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old. We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation: may they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice. We pray for our own fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering: may they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow. We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice. We remember fathers, grandfather, and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen.

Fathers Day is a celebration honouring fathers and celebrating fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. In Catholic Europe, it has been celebrated on 19 March (the feast of St Joseph) since the Middle Ages. It is celebrated on various days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March, April and June.



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Ken in Adelaide at Canon Law Conference 3–6 September

Monday 3 Sep St Gregory the Great, pope, doctor
 Friday 7 Sep 9:30am Anointing of the Sick
 Saturday 8 Sep Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary



VINNIES NSW DROUGHT APPEAL

Thank you for your generosity. Over the last two weekends, you donated a total of **\$6,747**. At the Christmas Masses 2017, you donated a total of **\$4,680** to be used during 2018 for people in need. The Pastoral and Finance Councils have resolved to use \$3,253 of that to bring the total we will give to the Vinnies Drought appeal, a **massive \$10,000**. That leaves **\$1,427** from the Christmas collection in reserve. **Thank you!**

BLESSING OF ANIMALS ... 9:30AM MONDAY, 1 OCTOBER

All animals and their carers are welcome. *Snakes must have their own pit to hiss in.*

ONE NON-PERISHABLE ITEM PER FAMILY EACH WEEK TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE LOCAL ILLAWARRA AREA

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ↪ Saturday 1 September World Day of Prayer for Creation
- ↪ Sunday 8/9 September Child Protection Sunday
- ↪ Weekend 15/16 September Bishop's Annual Appeal
- ↪ Wednesday 26 September Parish Ladies Dinner
- ↪ Weekend 29/30 September Social Justice Sunday
- ↪ Weekend 29 Sep to 1 Oct Model Train Exhibition, *Whitlam Centre, Liverpool*



THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B

1st Reading Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8
 2nd Reading James 1:17-18,21-22,27
 Gospel Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B

1st Reading Isaiah 35:4-7
 2nd Reading James 2:1-5
 Gospel Mark 7:31-37

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Church of St Michael • Thirroul
 Saturday – 5:30pm • Sunday – 8:00am
 Bulli • Sunday 8:30am and 5:30pm
 Corrimal • Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9:30am

LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Wombarra [Liturgy] Monday 4:30pm
 Thirroul [Liturgy] Tuesday 5:30pm
 [Liturgy] Wednesday 9:00am
 [Liturgy] Thursday 9:00am
 Anointing of the Sick Friday 9:30am

Parish of St Michael – Thirroul and Wombarra

Moving forward as a Parish Family + one of the Northern Illawarra Parishes

Patrick Vaughan • Parish Priest ❖ Andrew Granc ofm, Geoff Allen, Ken Cafe ofm • Assisting

📍 325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive
 ☎ 4268 1910 📠 4268 1976

📧 PO Box 44 • Thirroul 2515

📧 thirroul@dow.org.au

Parish Office Hours Tuesday, Wednesday Friday

9:00am to 3:30pm Magda Pires
 10:00am to 3:00pm Maureen Franciskovic

🌐 www.thirroulcatholic.org.au

Parish School of St Michael ☎ 4267 2560