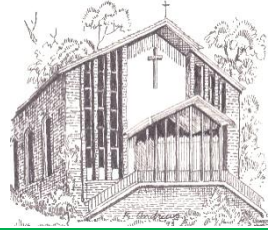




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



8 / 9 SEPTEMBER 2018
23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR B
CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

At The Same Table


We believe in a God in whom “justice and mercy meet.” Our God cares about the plight of the downtrodden (mercy), but also does something about their condition (justice), giving food to the hungry and sight to the blind, setting captives free, protecting strangers, and sustaining the fatherless and the widow.

The prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of salvation that will involve opening the eyes of the blind, clearing the ears of the deaf, and even brightening up the environment. Mark presents Jesus as the kind of saviour prophesied by Isaiah, one who “makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

Those of us who have a calling from the God of Jacob to be followers of Jesus must combine concern for the downtrodden (mercy) with action on their behalf (justice). We must reject the religion of favouritism for the rich, and imitate God who “chose those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and secures justice for the oppressed.” We must combine preaching the Good News of the Kingdom with healing the sick. This is the way to offer “true worship” to the “God of peace and love.”

“It is not simply a question of eliminating hunger and reducing poverty. It is not enough to combat destitution, urgent and necessary as this is. The point at issue is the establishment of a human society in which everyone, regardless of race, religion, or nationality, can live a truly human life free from bondage imposed by men and the forces of nature not sufficiently mastered, a society in which freedom is not an empty word, and where Lazarus the poor man can sit at the same table as the rich man.”— Pope Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio*, 1967: 47

Our readings from the Gospel of Mark make us aware of the way in which this gospel makes use of material concerning the life of Jesus – perhaps supplied in part by the apostle Peter. While he allows the events speak for themselves, Mark’s presentation points to implications he wishes to emphasise. Today’s reading concerns the healing of a deaf man with a speech impediment. While the healing and the wonder it provoked are described in detail, the fact that Jesus ‘ordered them to tell no one’ is again emphasised. Mark is maintaining a delicate balance: Jesus was truly a miraculous healer, but Mark wants those who hear the gospel to look beyond this fact to the nature of the mysterious mission Jesus has received from his Father, as the messiah who ‘must suffer’.

‘Be opened!’ These dramatic words of Jesus are the climax of the story. In Mark’s text, the Galilean mission of Jesus has ended with rejection by those of his ‘home town’. 



↪↪ Mark begins his account of the cure by describing the strange route taken by Jesus – through pagan territories – probably pointing to the infant Church’s mission to the gentiles and the openness with which that mission to preach the gospel truth was received.



We too are invited to reflect upon the importance of openness, and to acknowledge the many ways in which we can be more open to God’s call to the fullness of life. For Mark, life and joy will be found by those who become true disciples of the Crucified One, and so enter with him into his glory.

The second reading, from the Letter of James, brings this whole program down to earth. Let us be open and generous to those around us, and not imprisoned in our selfish outlooks, ‘making distinctions between classes of people’. The teaching of James does not remain an abstraction. Who is not moved to reflect upon assumptions taken for granted, when confronted by the simple example of the ‘beautifully dressed’ person and the poor person ‘in shabby clothes’? But for James this is more than a moral story; it is a story about discipleship – learning, in the company of Jesus, to identify with the ways of God: ‘those who are poor according to the world God chose to be rich in faith and to be heirs to the kingdom’.

The first reading from Isaiah – describing the liberating ways of God – comes from the final pages of the first part of the Isaian tradition. It is taken from a passage that proclaims the magnificent future God has in store for Israel. The confidence of the Prophets expectations is amazing – in the continuation of the passage, he foresees God’s people ‘shouting for joy, their heads crowned with joy unending. We can rejoice, with James, that we know already the mysterious intimations of that future. We are challenged by the prophet’s confidence, to become a Church giving the vital witness our troubled world needs, if that world to find hope by being ‘open’ to God’s future.

CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY

If we want to protect our house from robbers, we might think of fitting our doors with strong locks, barring vulnerable windows and installing an alarm system that will ring at the local police station. That could deter robbers from breaking in.

Protecting people, however, demands more than that, particularly in the case of children. To protect them we need to make a broad space in which children are free to run and play as they please, in which they can grow and explore the world, and in which they know that they will be listened to and are safe. In that space they will have the company of mature adults whose eyes and ears are open to notice potential dangers and to deal with them. Their care means that children can grow carefree.

Child Protection Sunday recalls to us our task of ensuring that children in our churches and schools can grow, talk and play safely. The day carries great weight because we know that in the Catholic Church too many people entrusted with the care of children exploited and abused them. Those protecting the house became bandits. Child Protection Sunday is a time for locks and alarms: for ensuring that proper protocols and safeguards are observed. More deeply it is a time for asking how better we can make the Church a welcoming space in which children can flourish.

To protect children, we must ensure that they are treated with the respect and love that Jesus has modelled for us. The Church to which Jesus calls us is one where people speak freely, children play safely, and life is lived transparently.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Preparation for the Plenary Council 2020 begins with open Listening and Dialogue: speaking boldly and listening humbly. It is the first step to preparing the agenda for the Plenary Council. Your experience of faith and the Church is important. Stay tuned for details of Thirroul Parish Listening and Dialogue sessions, coming soon! In the meantime, you can contribute through the Local Response Books (one at each end of the Church, near the Plenary 2020 posters), or online. Read about how you can #shareyourstory at plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au



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. Find out more on the website plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

TO SUPPORT THE RETIREMENT AND HEALTH OF CLERGY: *Caring for those who have cared for us.* It is the responsibility of our Diocese, through the provision of accommodation, transport assistance and health care, to support and care for the retirement and health of our diocesan clergy. In our Diocese, this support is partly funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal, which will be held in our parish **next weekend**. Donations can also be made online via the Diocese of Wollongong's website www.dow.org.au

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Next **Tuesday, 11 September**, commencing 11:00am in the McCarthy Centre, Judy will be our guest, speaking about Art Silos. Light luncheon to follow. All welcome! Monthly meeting 1:30pm.

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

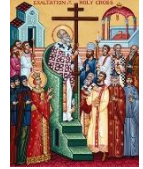
Fr Andrew, with input from Fr Ken, is planning a series of adult formation talks for interested parishioners. He envisages 3 or 4 sessions in October/November on Monday evenings. Initial sessions would be on the Gospel of Mark. Venue depends on the number of interested people, presbytery or McCarthy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

SOCIAL JUSTICE FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Pray regularly for refugees and asylum seekers: Pope Francis showed us how deeply he is touched by the plight of asylum seekers. We can follow his example by remembering those displaced around the world in our daily prayers, with family and friends. **Thank you!**

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Thursday 13 Sep St John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor
 Friday 14 Sep The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
 Saturday 15 Sep Our Lady of Sorrows



ANNUAL CONSOLING MASS 14 SEPTEMBER

Every year, the Lumen Christi Parishes makes available a 'Consoling Mass' to remember our loved ones who have died in tragic circumstances. There are many people in our communities who have had family members or loved ones die through suicide, murder, tragic car accidents and work accidents and, sudden illnesses. This Mass is an opportunity to pray for the deceased persons as well as be a support to those who carry in their lives the tragedy. The event is sponsored by the Catholic Women's League and the students of Holy Spirit College, Bellambi. Hospitality will follow. **12:10pm Mater Dolorosa Church, Balgownie.**

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

↪ 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, <i>Whitlam Centre, Liverpool</i>	

THIS 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

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B
 1st Reading Isaiah 50:5-9
 2nd Reading James 2:14-18
 Gospel Mark 8:27-35

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 Tuesday 5:30pm
 Wednesday 9:00am
 Thursday 9:00am
 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