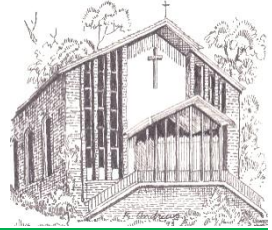




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



15 / 16 SEPTEMBER 2018
24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR B
BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Genuine Service of Others

The First Reading is from the third song of the Servant of the LORD found in the book of Isaiah. Service is a theme of this liturgy, which links it to the theme of peace. After asking God to “give peace and to hear the prayers of your servant,” we pray that God will “show us how great is the call to serve, that we may share in the peace of Christ.”

The service that our faith calls for is genuine service, the actual performance of deeds that benefit those in need. James talks about this kind of service: what good is it, he asks, if we wish others well “but do not meet their bodily needs.”

The problem with commitment to genuine service of others is that it threatens the people of this world, who do not want to carry the burden of caring for people who have nothing to wear and no food for the day. The result is that those who work for peace in society by serving the needy must suffer.

Peter did not understand this principle at first, thinking that liberation could come without the need for suffering. Jesus has to correct him and teach him God's standard: the Christian life of service amounts to carrying one's cross in the footsteps of Jesus. The struggle for justice is no party!



“The Church is not motivated by any earthly considerations, but has in mind only, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to continue the work of Christ who came into the world to give witness to the truth, to save and not to judge, to serve and not to be served.”

– *Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*, 1965: 3

Today's reading from Mark is the climax to which his presentation of the life of Jesus to this point has been leading. The mission of Jesus has been rejected and misunderstood. It is essential to God's designs that the disciples of Jesus do not misunderstand the mission that has brought the Son forth from the Father to bring healing to a lost world.

The ‘who’ question is central to our human existence: ‘Who are you, my companion on the journey of life?’ ‘Who am I?’ These questions, if we face their implications, confront us with the depths and mystery of our common humanity. Jesus called himself, ‘the Son of Man’, a title that affirmed his sharing in our human condition. When the ‘who’ question is addressed to him we find not only the mysterious depths of our common humanity, but also the mystery of the generous designs of God, conceived with the Son and the Holy Spirit, in the depths of the divine eternity. Discipleship is learning, in the course of our lives, the answer to the ‘who’ question we address to the Saviour – who has made himself our ever-present companion. Like Peter, we shall find that we are forced to re-evaluate our



↪↪ most basic assumptions in the light of the ways of God we learn from Jesus.

Jesus is 'the Christ', the messiah in whom Israel's hopes are centred. He begins to teach his disciples 'quite openly' what lay ahead of them in Jerusalem. He is not the political saviour so ardently hoped for in popular expectations: the 'Son of Man' will be 'rejected' – 'put to death' even. Peter's brave act of faith must be further clarified. Mark's gospel does not spare Peter – perhaps because this community has already heard of Peter's humiliations from Peter himself. Jesus addresses Peter as 'Satan', obstructing God's plan. That plan, Jesus explains, has been foreshadowed in two themes of Israel's hopes, the 'Suffering Servant' (see Isaiah 52-53 etc. – the first reading is one of the descriptions of the 'Servant') and the 'Son of Man' (Daniel 7). Both of these themes envisage a mysterious personage who will fulfil the destiny of Israel – the first bringing healing for the world's self-inflicted suffering by sharing in that suffering himself; the other bringing all peoples together under the beneficent reign of God's ways.



Jesus emphatically spells out the demands of discipleship: sharing in his responsibility for the human family, even if it means sharing his 'cross'; living 'for the sake of the gospel', the Good News of the generous future God has in store for struggling humanity.

Once again, the reading from James speaks in very practical terms. His discussion of 'faith', that is 'quite dead' if it has no 'good works' to show, is familiar. It is possible that James is responding to a self-serving misinterpretation of Paul's teaching that 'we are justified by faith'. True discipleship, as Jesus reminds Peter, proves itself in a generosity that has been learned in the presence of the Crucified Saviour.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

My sisters and brothers in Christ

It is the responsibility of our Diocese to support and care for the retirement and health of our clergy.

Our retired clergy live on their own, or in assisted living facilities, or in nursing homes, and require some level of additional assistance to do so. Your donation to this appeal will help to provide suitable accommodation, transport assistance and holistic health care to them.

Currently, there are 11 clergy in retirement. It is likely that we will have an additional nine clergy retiring over the next five years alone. The Diocese needs to urgently and significantly increase its resources to ensure that we can continue to care for our ageing clergy.

Your donation will help ensure a dignified retirement for our diocesan clergy.

Yours in Christ, Most Rev Brian G Mascord, Bishop of Wollongong.



NEW SERIES OF PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

The new series of Planned Giving Envelopes 2018-2019 for our Parish are now available near the door from the church into the sacristy. Please collect yours before **6/7 October** when the new series begins. **Thank you to all contribute to our Parish** either by way of the envelopes or **direct debit**. **Thank you so much!**



PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Open listening and dialogue are important preparations for the Plenary Council 2020. We want to hear from you: what is the Spirit asking of us in Australia at this time, and what has been your experience of faith? One of the Thirroul Plenary team members will be available for the next four Sundays if you'd like to join a small group session after morning tea. We've also begun contacting the existing Parish groups to organise listening and dialogue sessions. If you prefer, the books and forms are available on the front seat in the Church, or have your say online 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

SAMARITAN'S PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child hand delivers gift-filled shoeboxes to children in many countries who have nothing. Thailand, New Guinea and Cambodia are among those countries. Thirroul Catholic Women's League combines with Austinmer Uniting Church Fellowship to fill shoeboxes. We are asking please, for the support of parishioners for gifts and donations to enable boxes to be filled for boys and girls aged 2yrs to 14yrs. Items required are toothbrushes, soap, hair clips and hair bands, combs, shorts, t-shirts, undies, exercise books (48p, 64p, 96p), small colouring books, lead and colour pencils, bios, note pads, marbles, chalk, erasers, sharpeners, balloons, tennis balls (that bounce), skipping ropes (not heavy), Matchbox and Hot Wheels cars and trucks. **NB all items must be NEW.** (No toothpaste or liquids.)



On the weekends **22/23 September** and **29/30 September** there will be a tub for the items in the porch of St Michael Church. Thank you in anticipation for your generosity.

ADULT FAITH TALKS AT THIRROUL

There has been great interest in the proposal to have a series of adult formation talks for interested parishioners. Fr Andrew will draw up a list of the topics and dates in October and November. Initial sessions will be on the Gospel of Mark, the Gospel we are reading in this Year B on Sundays. Stay tuned as details will be published in future Bulletins.

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

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Thursday 20 Sep Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon, priest, martyr

Paul Chong Ha-sang and companions, martyrs

Friday 21 Sep St Matthew, apostle, evangelist

103 Korean
Martyr Saints



SOCIAL JUSTICE FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In 2007, the United Nations proclaimed 20 February as World Day of Social Justice. They believe that social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. For the United Nations, the pursuit of social justice for all is at the core of their global mission to promote development and human dignity.

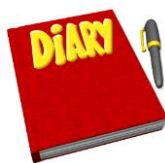
BLESSING OF ANIMALS ... 9:30AM MONDAY, 1 OCTOBER

All animals and their carers are welcome. *Chooks must purchase their eggs from IGA.*

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

↪ Weekend	22/23 September	Samaritan's Purse Donations
↪ Wednesday	26 September	Parish Ladies Dinner
↪ Weekend	29/30 September	Social Justice Sunday
↪ Weekend	29/30 September	Samaritan's Purse Donations
↪ Weekend	29 Sep to 1 Oct	Model Train Exhibition, <i>Whitlam Centre, Liverpool</i>



DROWNING SURGE LAST SUMMER HAS SURF LIFESAVERS URGING CARE AT NSW BEACHES

The surfing season starts on 29 September: 39 people drowned last season. **Red - Yellow**

THIS 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

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B

1st Reading Wisdom 2:12,17-20

2nd Reading James 3:16-4:3

Gospel Mark 9:30-37

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 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*

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☎ 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