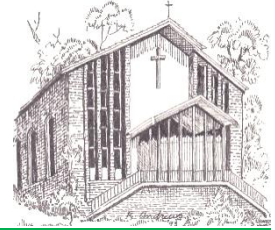




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



22 / 23 SEPTEMBER 2018
25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR B
SAMARITAN'S PURSE: OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Today's liturgy begins with the theme of the law: "guide us according to your law of love because all humankind is in need of your law; the just one ... reproaches us for transgressions of the law."

Notice that this is a law of love, and therefore it concerns the rightness of human relationships, in other words, justice: "the perfection of justice is found in your love ... help us to find this love in each other that justice may be attained."

The result of following the law of love and establishing justice is harmony within the human family: "the harvest of righteousness [right relationships] is sown in peace for those who make peace" (2nd Reading).

There is a direct line, therefore, from love through justice [righteousness] to peace. The recognition of this line constitutes the essence of wisdom, which is "first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy" (2nd Reading).

It is in this context that we encounter the Gospel, a passage that includes the images of the cross and the child. One way to interpret this would be to say that we approach the triple challenge of love, justice [right relationships] and peace with childlike humility, and we anticipate that our response to that challenge will bring us the cross.

"Love for others, and in the first-place love for the poor, in whom the Church sees Christ himself, is made concrete in the promotion of justice."

– John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus* 1991: 58

"True peace is never simply the result of military victory, but rather implies both the removal of the causes of war and genuine reconciliation between peoples."

– John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus* 1991: 18

The Galilean ministry of Jesus has ended in rejection. In today's gospel reading Jesus begins to give his whole attention to preparing his disciples for the final rejection that awaits him in Jerusalem – a rejection God will transform into a victory over all evil in the Saviour's Paschal Mystery. The first reading, from the Book of Wisdom vividly anticipates what lies ahead for Jesus. In fact, it is describing the selfishness and foolishness good people have to contend with in every age. The existence of real and pervasive evil presents a challenge to Christian faith. The freedom and responsibility that are the hallmarks of our human dignity will often be abused and obstruct the purposes of God. How is God to make creation a final masterpiece, by turning all things to good in the end?



The Law of Love

**Whoever
welcomes
one of these
children
welcomes
me**

Mark 9.30-37





There is something truly prophetic in the reading from Wisdom, because it echoes the Songs in the Book of Isaiah concerning God's Servant: 'the punishment reconciling us fell on him, and we have been healed by his bruises' (Isaiah 53:5). These Songs were quoted by Jesus in the synagogue in Nazareth (Luke 4:18-19). No doubt they were of great importance to him as his mission unfolded. God's designs have been patiently prepared. Evil is a problem for all of us: we have to contend with disruptive forces – within ourselves, in our dealings with others, in the wide world in which we live. Like the disciples Jesus is instructing, we are still learning how to cope. Those whom Jesus wants to be the bearers of the Good News of God's ways are still lost in their self-centred ambitions. It is a situation that is so typical of our human experience. It leads Jesus to give the disciples a lesson that is at once radical and simple: 'Anyone who wants to be first must become last of all and servant of all'. Perhaps we have here another echo of the Servant Songs that have been mentioned – Jesus himself will be our example in the living out of this truth. Great teacher that he is, Jesus goes on to give the disciples an object lesson – receive those who have nothing to give you in return, like this child I am embracing, he tells them, and you will be true disciples of mine and dear to my Father.



James' letter, as we have said, reflects the ideals of a Jewish community of Christian faith. Their spirituality has its roots in the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament and its call to live in harmony with God's ways. Today's reading shows how well these first Christians have learned the lesson Jesus was teaching the apostles on their way to Jerusalem. We are all challenged to look into our own lives as James names those things that belong to a world shaped by selfishness: 'jealousy and ambition', 'disharmony', 'battles between yourselves', unrealistic desires 'so that you fight to get your way by force'. It is all too familiar. How much more authentic and attractive is the alternative, shaped by God's ways – 'the wisdom that comes from above' – bringing 'peace', 'compassion' and generosity, fairness and straightforwardness. And James' characteristic practicality helps us to relate to this ideal as something within our reach: we must 'pray properly', not seeking through our prayer 'to indulge our own desires', but finding the joy that comes from identifying with the ways of God, after the example of Jesus.

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BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Thank you for your generosity last weekend. You donated **\$1,765.80** to the Bishop's Annual Appeal in support of our retired clergy.

NEW 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**.



SPRING EQUINOX ... SUMMER IS COMING!!

On the equinoxes the sun shines directly on the equator and the length of day and night is nearly equal – but not quite. The March equinox marks the moment the sun crosses the celestial equator – the imaginary line in the sky above the earth's equator – from south to north and vice versa in September. In Sydney, the Spring equinox this year is on **Sunday, 23 September at 11:53am and 27 seconds!** Roll on summer!!

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? Our listening sessions continue this weekend: Jodi Steel from the Plenary team will be available after Mass Sunday if you would like to talk or join a small group session after morning tea. There will, of course, be further opportunities on Saturdays, with parish groups e.g. Vinnies, Catholic Women's League, etc. so that as many people as possible will have a chance to have their say before March next year about the Plenary Council 2020. **If you take Communion to the Sick or have family members who are elderly or ill**, please speak to one of the Plenary Team members (Jodi Steel, Krista Spiers, Pat and Ray Mirabito) about ways to help our sick and elderly have their say. 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



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, biro, 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 **this weekend** 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.

SALTED CARAMEL TIM TAM FUDGE RECIPE!

Line a 20cm square cake tin with baking powder. Place 400g tin sweetened condensed milk and squares of 2x190g blocks Cadbury Dairy Milk Salted Caramel Chocolate into a small saucepan over low heat, stir continually until chocolate has melted and mixture has combined together. Remove from heat and stir through pieces from 171g packet Arnott's Salted Caramel Tim Tams (each biscuit cut into 6 pieces). Press mixture into prepared tin, cover with foil, refrigerate for 6 hours or overnight. Remove fudge, cut into bite sized squares.

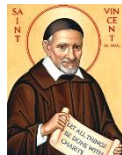
PARISH ANNUAL LADIES' DINNER – 26 SEP

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. Names and money to Judy Bull or Maureen Heydon or leave at the parish office during office hours by **23 September.** Judy Bull ☎ 0407 672 417 or Maureen Heydon ☎ 0438 674 997 – last chance to join in the fun!

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Thursday 27 Sep St Vincent de Paul, priest

Saturday 29 Sep Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels



SOCIAL JUSTICE FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The latest Census figures show that **more than 116,000 Australians are homeless** – something unacceptable for a rich and well-resourced nation like ours. Yet these people are only the tip of the iceberg: welfare agencies report growing numbers of families and individuals struggling to meet costs and turning to specialist, under-resourced housing services.

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

All animals and their carers are welcome. *Obstreperous camels must be on tight leashes.*

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 along the NSW coast. **Red - Yellow** Registration Day at Thirroul SLSC: Sunday, 23 Sep, 2 to 4pm.

THIS 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

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B

1st Reading	Numbers 11:25-29
2nd Reading	James 5:1-6
Gospel	Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

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