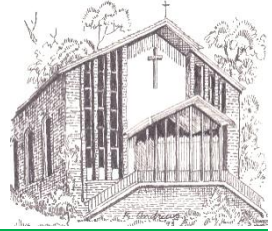




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



6 / 7 OCTOBER 2018
27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR B
PLEASE BE SAFE ON OUR BEACHES AND WATERWAYS

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

The Great Sign

"It is not good for the man to be alone," God says in the reading from Genesis (first reading). Humans are social beings: God created us to live and work together, to share our lives, to care about and for each other. Shortly after this story in Genesis, Cain asks the rhetorical question: "Am I my brother's keeper?" The rest of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures answer with a resounding: "YES!"




The great sign of the social nature of men and women is marriage, in which the "two of them become one body, the two shall become as one." Another sign is the Eucharist, for as Paul says: "we, though many,

are one body, for we all share in the one loaf and in the one cup." Marriage and Eucharist are signs of sharing lives and living together.

The unity of humankind is shattered every day by the many scourges of injustice: racism, sexism, poverty, hunger, homelessness, war. We are constantly violating the fundamental principle: "let no one separate what God has joined." God has joined us in a society of sisters and brothers because it is not good for us to be alone: let no one separate that society through collusion in injustice.

"The social character of human beings indicates that the advancement of the human person and the growth of society are dependent on each other. For the origin, the subject and the purpose of all social institutions is and should be the human person, whose life of its nature absolutely needs to be lived in society. And since social life is not something accidental to us, it is through our dealings with others, mutual duties and exchange with our sisters and brothers, that we grow in all our endowments and can respond to our vocation."

– Vatican II, *Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*, 1965:25

The Church's liturgy is our great teacher. As its weeks pass it reviews the great issues of our existence, and the Word of God points the way forward. In today's world, marriage is in crisis, and the break-up of families leaves many young people seriously deprived in their formative years. Without the guidance of Christ, we would be at a loss to find the truth that should guide us. In today's reading from Mark, Jesus is asked whether divorce was permissible. In the time of Jesus, although divorce was permitted (see Deuteronomy 24: 1-4) the proper grounds for divorce were debated. Jesus bypasses this debate, and speaks 

of what marriage is in the plan of the Creator – ‘in the beginning’. Citing today’s first reading from Genesis, he makes the startling assertion that true marriage is more than an arrangement entered into by two human persons; it involves God – ‘What God has united, let no one separate’.



One of Pope John Paul II’s contributions to the Church’s life was his series of addresses on human love and sexuality, given at his weekly audiences (1979 to

1984). Explaining how it is that Jesus can make such an assertion, he interprets today’s reading from Genesis. This seemingly simple text speaks with great depth and subtlety of what it means to be human. The solitude of Adam finds no companion in the animal kingdom – because, made in the image of God, Adam has in him a depth that they will never fill. It is only in the sharing of human companionship that this mysterious depth in the human person can be filled. The Creator provides for Adam the perfect companion: ‘This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh’. Paradoxically, this companionship becomes life-giving in self-donation, and destructive in selfish exploitation. The true beauty of human sexuality shines out as this self-donation finds expression in the body language which is part of God’s creation; Jesus quotes the Genesis text, ‘the two become one’. The body language of sexuality is not only the expression of authentic self-donation, but also the source of new human lives – marriage is a sharing in the work of the Creator. Though the account of Jesus welcoming the ‘little children’ is a separate incident, it follows on well from the discussion of marriage, reminding us of the children who are so often forgotten in the discussion of marriage relationships today. Marriage breakdown is a very complex pastoral problem. But the great ideal Jesus puts before us must never be forgotten.

We begin reading from the Letter to the Hebrews, a treatise written to give heart to Jewish converts, who were tempted to lapse into a mood of anticlimax and nostalgia, in a world that seemed little changed after the Resurrection. Its message is straightforward; the things of old Israel were only shadows; now – by faith – we possess all that these shadows promised. Today’s passage is a fine description of the Paschal Mystery that should be central to Christian faith. Jesus is ‘crowned with glory and splendour’ after he has shared life with us. His death has been a source of life for all humankind – after sharing our ‘imperfect’ world and its ‘suffering’ he has given us a share in his ‘glory’ and ‘holiness’. He is forever our ‘leader’ and our ‘brother’.

SAMARITAN’S PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you for your donations for Operation Christmas Child which 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 with Austinmer Uniting Church Fellowship will be filling the shoeboxes **Tuesday, 16 October, so there is still time to bring in a donation.** Items required

are toothbrushes, soap, hair clips and hair bands, combs, shorts, t-shirts, undies, exercise books, small colouring books, lead and colour pencils, biros, note pads, marbles, chalk, erasers, sharpeners, balloons, tennis balls, skipping ropes, Matchbox cars and trucks. **Thanks!**



ADULT FAITH TALKS AT THIRROUL

There has been great interest in the proposal to have a series of adult formation talks for interested parishioners. Here are the details:

Monday, 22 October at 7:30pm in the Parish Church **Ken ofm**
Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation ... *Amoris Laetitia* ... On Love in the Family.

Monday, 29 October at 7:30pm in the Parish Church **Andrew ofm**
If your faith be the size of a mustard seed. ... Living adult faith: a dynamic experience.

Monday, 5 November at 7:30pm in the Parish Church **Andrew ofm**
Praised be You my Lord for all Your creatures. ... St Francis of Assisi: Patron of the Environment, basic elements of a Franciscan perspective.

Monday, 12 November at 7:30pm in the Parish Church **Andrew ofm**
Be You Holy – as I the Lord am Holy: Explorations into personal and communal holiness.

A Franciscan Reflection on the State of the Church

The Franciscan tradition has, from the beginning, challenged the Catholic Church. Now after more than 800 years, we are called to follow the example of Saints Francis and Clare, whose life-style contrasted directly with the prevailing Church culture of their day. They were prophets in the biblical sense of the word, speaking mainly through their way of life, Gospel truth to a powerful institution, which, to a great extent, had abandoned its Christ-given vocation.

It is not too much to say that for the last several decades at least, significant members of the Catholic clergy and bishops have similarly abandoned their sacred commitments. The evidence for this has increasingly come to light. We are overwhelmed by the extent and horror of the harm done to children and vulnerable adults by acts of unspeakable betrayal by these men. In the face of this modern church crisis, the Franciscan families, whose DNA contains the spiritual heritage of Francis and Clare, have the right and obligation to speak our truth relative to the current state of the Catholic priesthood and episcopacy.



But what to say? Surely, we weep and beg God's forgiveness for this incredibly widespread cancer eating away at the Household of Faith. We make our own the outrage and deep pain which the ongoing revelations of clergy abuse and episcopal cover-ups are causing. We agree with demands for total transparency and accountability on the part of church officialdom related to these ongoing revelations.

In addition, we should speak a uniquely Franciscan word comparable to that of Francis when he confronted the scandal of yet another Crusade. With the permission of the Church itself, he journeyed to the heart of the Muslim world in an attempt to prevent yet another violation of non-violent Gospel ideals.

Should not we modern Franciscans imitate our founder's courageous example and ask Pope Francis to call an ecumenical council of the whole Church just as Pope John XXIII did a little more than 50 years ago? And, in light of our tradition of inclusivity, should we not further specify that this council would consist of lay, vowed religious, clerical and episcopal members of the Church and be held someplace other than the Vatican? This "First Council of the People of God" would take as much time as needed (Vatican II lasted four years) for a comprehensive study of the current reality of the Catholic priesthood and episcopacy, then make the complete reforms – beginning with our current seminary system – needed to assure the selection of pastors, women and men, who will live out their vocations in the image of Jesus.

– by Joseph Nangle ofm, Washington DC

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Next **Tuesday, 9 October**, commencing 11:00am in the McCarthy Centre, we will have a Trading table. Light luncheon to follow. All welcome! Monthly meeting 1:30pm.

SOCIAL JUSTICE FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Recycle, reuse, reduce: Consumerism impacts on the environment. If we reduce our consumption of both goods and energy, we reduce waste and pollution. When we buy goods, we reduce waste if they are reusable rather than disposable. Recycling is essential at home and at school or work.

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



NO FLAGS – NO SWIM ... OR ... YOUR FUNERAL IS FREE

132 rescues performed by surf lifesavers since 1 July 18

Swim Safely and Encourage Others



PLenary COUNCIL 2020

Have you had your say in preparation for Plenary Council 2020? We want to hear from everyone! There are a number of ways you can contribute and no limit to how many submissions you can make: * join a small group listening and dialogue session after Mass on Sunday, Saturday afternoons (put your name down on the sheet at the front of the Church), or run your own (see one of the Plenary team for resources). We're also running sessions through existing Parish groups, including Lenten groups, Vinnies and CWL, and will run 1-2 evening sessions after the holidays (stay tuned!) ... * using the books or forms at the front of the church ... * have your say online at plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au



Plenary Council 2020
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B

1st Reading Genesis 2:18-24
2nd Reading Hebrews 2:9-11
Gospel Mark 10:2-16

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B

1st Reading Wisdom 7:7-11
2nd Reading Hebrews 4:12-13
Gospel Mark 10:17-30

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

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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