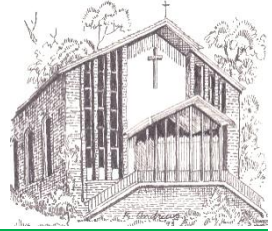




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



13 / 14 OCTOBER 2018

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR B

PLEASE BE SAFE ON OUR BEACHES AND WATERWAYS

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Everlasting Life


The rich man wants to have it both ways: he wants his possessions and he wants everlasting life. Jesus shatters his illusion; you can't have both, Jesus says. The rich man goes away sad, prompting Jesus to comment on the difficulty of being rich and entering the kingdom. There is more to this story than renunciation of material possessions, for Jesus does not tell the man simply to get rid of his possessions: he must sell them and give to the poor. The point of the command is the acknowledgment of the priority of people and their needs over the satisfaction provided by the ownership of things.

This is "God's word (that) is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword," and this is the spirit of Wisdom of which the first reading speaks: we are to value each other as if we were prime possessions, and the promise of everlasting life is made to those who have the power to give all they have to their brothers and sisters, especially those most in need.



Then who can be saved? Those whose love for God expresses itself in eagerness to do good for others.

"Neither individuals nor nations should regard the possession of more and more goods as the ultimate objective. Every kind of progress is a two-edged sword. It is necessary if people are to grow as human beings; yet it can also enslave us, if we come to regard it as the supreme good and cannot look beyond it. When this happens, people harden their hearts, shut out others from their minds and gather together solely for reasons of self-interest rather than out of friendship; dissension and disunity follow soon after. Thus, the exclusive pursuit of material possessions prevents peoples' growth as human beings and stands in opposition to our true grandeur. Avarice, in individuals and in nations, is the most obvious form of stultified moral development. –Pope Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio*, 1967: 19

'Lord, what should I do?' – a question essential to a Christian life well lived. The alternative – drifting along without responsible reflection – is a wasted life. The reply of Jesus to the young man who puts this question to him is surprising. The community that gave us Mark's gospel certainly believed that Jesus was God's unique Son. The response given by Jesus reflects a constant pattern in his teaching: he wanted to lead his hearers to the Father. Like the young man, we will only find the answer to the question of what direction our life should take in the presence of the One Jesus called his 'God' and 'Father'. The life of all who live 'in Christ' is one and the same; there are, however, different forms of discipleship. This paradox has given rise to some confusion in the Church's life when 'states of life' 

✠✠ have been compared. The first response of Jesus in this incident is to urge fidelity to ‘the commandments’ – the pattern of life to which most of the Lord’s disciples are called. However, this man was seeking a way that went beyond what had been recommended. Jesus ‘looked steadily at him and loved him’, and he urged him to ‘sell everything he owned and give the money to the poor’, and to join Jesus in the radical detachment that was Jesus’ own way of life – for the sake of the Kingdom. For many centuries, the comparison of the two ways of life indicated



by Jesus has been expressed in misleading terms. The radical following has been spoken of as a ‘higher’ form of Christian life. But life in Christ, as has been said, is one. The life that is better for each person is the life that they are called to by God – there they will find the way to the greatness that is to be theirs in the designs of God. Since Vatican II this confusion has been left behind. Today, however, it is being suggested that as we have recovered an appreciation of the fact that no baptised Christian is in an ‘inferior’ state of life, we have obscured the fact that the Lord’s call to individual disciples involved different means of living discipleship. As far as means are concerned, a life lived according ‘the evangelical counsels’ – the radical renunciations of Christ himself – has a heroic excellence that needs to be more clearly affirmed, if we are to foster the ‘vocations’ the Church so sorely needs.

The reaction of the young man leads Jesus to develop a theme important for all forms of discipleship: earthly possessions can prove a great obstacle to growth of life in Christ. The disciples were amazed, because many texts of the Old Testament seemed to imply that material wellbeing is a sign of God’s blessing on a good life. Our reading from Wisdom shows that old Israel was already looking beyond this point of view. The whole life of Jesus is a corrective of this superficial interpretation of God’s ways. His final words have a lesson for disciples, whatever the form of following to which they have been called – authentic fidelity is a gift of God, ‘Everything is possible to God’. Our reading from Hebrews can serve as a commentary on the call of Jesus to make our life decisions in the presence of the Father. The ‘Word of God’ is a theme of great importance in the Old Testament. It is a Word that confronts believers with the ways of God. In Jesus we know the Word of God in person, a Word giving expression to the boundless love and generosity of the Father who calls each one of us.

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.

Draft Mission Statement for Our Parish

The Parish Pastoral Council has drafted a “**Parish Mission Statement**” and seeks your feedback prior to its promulgation. The recent National Church Life Survey and a review of other parish websites indicated that our Parish doesn’t have a clear, common statement of where we stood as a parish community. The Pastoral Council has thus tried to sum up our special character and our aims. We were looking for something that could inspire us and others and allow us to track how we are growing in faith and service. **Please take the time to both read the Statement and to provide feedback.**

OUR VISION

Our parish by the sea will grow in faith as a friendly, tolerant and supportive community. We are committed “to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with God”. (Micah, 6:8)

OUR MISSION

We seek to:

1. worship and develop a deeper relationship of our God and God’s Son, Jesus Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit through our liturgy, our communion with others and the appreciation of God’s Holy Word;
2. act as Christ’s disciples in our commitment to social justice and compassion;
3. uphold the dignity and listen to the voices of all in our community, from the young to the elders, and recognise their contributions;
4. reach out to the marginalised, those burdened and sick at heart, through acts of kindness and inclusion, such as comforting the sick and lonely and contributing to the works of the St Vincent de Paul Society;
5. welcome, include and show hospitality to all who contact and come to our parish community; and
6. continue to offer the tastiest morning teas after Sunday Mass.

Please **provide your feedback** by **contacting personally one of the Pastoral Councillors** or **by emailing the Parish Office** [thirroul@dow.org.au] or **Judy Bull**, Chair of the Pastoral Council [judy.bull@bigpond.com]. Members of the Pastoral Council are: **Judy Bull, Anne Clark, Henry Idziak, Genevieve Nowlan and Lynn Woodley.**

WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS, JORGE BERGOGLIO

Pope Francis explained why he chose his name three days after his election when he met journalists: “During the election I had next to me the Emeritus Archbishop of São Paulo and Emeritus Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy, Cardinal Claudio Hummes, a great friend, a great friend! When things began to look a bit dangerous, he gave me comfort. And when the votes rose to two-thirds, there was the usual applause, because the Pope had been elected. And he greeted me, ‘Don’t forget the poor.’ And those words lodged into me here [tapping his head]: the poor, the poor. Then, straight away, in connection with the poor, I thought of Francis of Assisi. Then, I thought about wars, while the voting continued until all the votes had been counted. And Francis was the man of peace. And so the name came to me, in my heart, Francis of Assisi. For me, he is the man of the poor, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation; at the present time, we don’t have such a good relationship with creation, do we? He is the man who gives us this spirit of peace, this man of poverty ... Ah, how I would like a Church which is poor and for the poor.”

WORLD MISSION DAY, 21 OCTOBER

Special collection next weekend to support the missionary activity of the Church.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Monday 15 Oct St Teresa of Jesus, *virgin, doctor*
 Wednesday 17 Oct St Ignatius of Antioch, *bishop, martyr*
 Thursday 18 Oct St Luke, *evangelist*



SOCIAL JUSTICE FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Every day in our streets, we, like the Samaritan, see wounded people desperately in need of help. They are the homeless and the lost, injured by misfortune, by violence and by poverty. How have so many people come to be on the streets of such a rich nation?

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

153 rescues performed by surf lifesavers since 1 July 18 – last week **132**



SWIM SAFELY AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME

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*

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