



Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



27 / 28 OCTOBER 2018
30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR B
CATECHIST SUNDAY

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Justice Will Abide

We inhabitants of the earth are a people in exile. We are not at home on the very land we occupy, and so we rape and plunder it. We are not at home with each other, and so we violate each other's dignity and kill. When one of us cries out prophetically to the Lord, as the blind beggar Bartimaeus did, the others "scold him to make him keep quiet."

Fortunately, though, we have a Lord who "will bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth," so that they can "return a great company." (First Reading) This is the Lord who has "done great things for us," especially for the blind and the lame such as Bartimaeus.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asks the blind beggar. What do the people of the world want us Christians to do for them? Can we bring them home and lead them out of exile? Can we follow in the footsteps of Christ and "do away with death?" Can we provide the faith that will heal? Can we bring peace with justice?



"We do not know the hour of earth's and humankind's consummation, nor how the universe is to be transformed. The form of this world which has been deformed by sin is passing away, but we are taught that God is preparing a new habitation and a new earth in which justice resides, and whose happiness will fulfil and surpass all the longings for peace which arise in human hearts."

– Vatican II, *Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*, 1965:39

Mark invites us to join him as he describes Jesus' progress to Jerusalem: situating ourselves among the group that – though they are truly attached to the Saviour – still have so much to learn. At Jericho, with the journey to Jerusalem almost completed, Mark includes the story of Bartimeus the blind beggar. Typical of Mark's style, the brief story has a vivid ring of immediacy. But it also has a telling lesson. Making the blind see is the first of the messianic signs (see Isaiah 42:7) appealed to by Jesus, when – from his prison – John the Baptist sent his friends to ask of Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come?' (Luke 7:22). Jesus is surrounded by blindness – the bewildered confusion of the twelve; the cruel reaction of the crowd, who 'scolded Bartimeus and told him to keep quiet'; the blindness of those in Jerusalem determined to destroy him. Through his miracle, Jesus makes Bartimeus a living sign of what he is doing in the name of his Father – healing the world's blindness, leading the human family to see in him the truth of God's ways.

God's grace has prepared the blind beggar. As he works the miracle for him, Jesus commends his 'faith'. Unfortunately, many people have a very abstract understand of 'faith' – as an acceptance of revealed truths. 'Faith' has a very concrete meaning when it is



☞☞ referred to by Jesus. For old Israel, God was known through the ‘great things’ God had done for Israel. God had a plan that was unfolding through the history of the chosen people. The reading from the prophet Jeremiah gives us a glimpse of the startling confidence of old Israel’s faith. Though the people have lived through the horrors of defeat and exile, they must look forward, the prophet assures them, to a future filled with blessings – ‘Shout with joy... Proclaim! Praise! Shout! The Lord has saved his people’. If they ‘left in tears’ for the trials of life in a foreign land, their return will be like a new Exodus, the whole company – the strong and the weak – will be led back, as God shows himself to be their loving ‘Father’. The ‘faith’ Jesus frequently speaks of as he works a miracle is a blessed openness that recognises in his coming that the Father’s generous plan is beginning to be realised. In contrast to those around Jesus, Bartimeus has this openness. He is the first person in the gospel accounts to address Jesus publicly with the messianic title, ‘Son of David’ – a title Jesus avoided because of the political overtones it had assumed in his time. He throws off his cloak and hurries forward to ask for the miracle that had been promised as a sign of the messiah of Israel’s hopes. His readiness is instantly rewarded, and he joins the company of Jesus’ disciples. It is unusual for a person miraculously healed to be named in the gospels. Perhaps Bartimeus was a character who became well known in the apostolic community – soon to be dramatically enlightened by the blessings of the Saviour’s Paschal Mystery.

The reading from Hebrews develops the theme of Christ, ‘given the glory of becoming high priest of the order of Melchisedech’ by the Father. Through his resurrection, in the Paschal Mystery, he is revealed as a messiah far greater than Israel’s expectations – the eternal Son who comes forth from the Father.

ADULT FAITH TALKS AT THIRROUL CONTINUE

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

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.

SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: TUESDAY, 30 OCTOBER

“Pastoral Care in 2050 – Will there be space for Christians in a spiritual but not religious Australia?” Speaker: Reverend Geoffrey Flynn. Geoff is currently the Minister of the Wollongong Mission of The Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) which has a long history of supporting persons in crisis through Lifeline South Coast and its Community Care Centre. Geoff has 20 years’ experience serving in leadership positions within the Church including the NSW/ACT Boards of the UCA Synod and Uniting and is currently a Director of Lifeline Australia. Geoff is passionate about promoting mental health, and is an experienced Defence and Mental Health Chaplain, and Clinical Pastoral Educator. Currently he visits South Coast Private Hospital as the Chaplain in the Post-Traumatic Stress ward. Geoff has a strong interest in Public Theology and the integration of Christian proclamation and community service. He is a founding member and President of the Illawarra People for Peace. Woonona Bulli RSL Club on **Tuesday 30 October, 7:30pm – 9:00pm. All Welcome.** Please come and join in the conversation!



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 – last chance this week.**

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.**

HERBS IN OUR PARISH GARDEN

Thanks to **Pat Mirabito, Genevieve Nowlan** and others, our Parish Garden in front of the Columbarium and against the presbytery wall is thriving. Among the beautiful flowers are several **herbs**. Thanks to **Richard Phillpott**, signs indicate which herb is planted where. The herbs that are growing are: **CHAMOMILE; CHOCOLATE MINT; CORIANDER; DILL; LEMON BALM; MARJORAM; MINT; PARSLEY (two varieties); SAGE, ROSEMARY and THYME.** The herbs are doing so well now that **all parishioners are welcome to ‘help yourself to any of the herbs’** – nothing beats fresh herbs to add extra flavour to a delightful meal. *Scissors or secateurs in the Sacristy for you.*



CATECHIST SUNDAY

In our diocese, each week 640 Catechists visit 140 schools, sharing our Catholic faith for 30 minutes with about 9,000 Catholic children in State Schools. **Thank you to our Catechists**, especially to **Anne and Bob Bower**, and **Lisa Metcalfe** who have given **ten years** of service as Catechists in our Parish. Why not join them as a Catechist or an assistant?! **You can really make a difference.** Contact our Parish Office or one of the Catechists.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Wednesday 31 Oct **HALLOWEEN** 1st Penance 7pm
 Thursday 1 Nov **All Saints Day** Mass 9:00am
 Friday 2 Nov **All Souls Day** Mass 9:30am



NEWMAN LECTURE, SATURDAY, 10 NOVEMBER, 6:30PM

Bulli Knights of the Southern Cross welcome all to the annual Newman Lecture to be held at the Railway Institute Hall, Thirroul. Guest speaker is **Fr Frank Moloney sdb**, world-renowned Scripture scholar. Topic: **“Pope Francis and the Word of God in the Catholic Tradition.”** Cost \$30, includes a two-course meal. Tickets Tyrone Phillips ☎ 4283 6954.

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

183 rescues performed by surf lifesavers since 1 July 18 – last week **167**

SWIM SAFELY AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME



WORLD MISSION DAY

Thank you for your prayers and generous contributions to last week's Mission Appeal.

PLenary COUNCIL 2020

Have you had your say in preparation for Plenary Council 2020? We want to hear from everyone! There will be a gathering on **Thursday, 1 November at 7pm** at the presbytery. Come along and have your say. *If you would like to join a session at a different time, contact the Parish Office or put your name on the sheet on the front seat of the church. We are invited to speak freely, honestly.*



PlenaryCouncil2020
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B
 1st Reading Jeremiah 31:7-9
 2nd Reading Hebrews 5:1-6
 Gospel Mark 10:46-52

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B
 1st Reading Deuteronomy 6:2-6
 2nd Reading Hebrews 7:23-28
 Gospel Mark 12:28-34

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
HALLOWEEN Wednesday 9:00am
All Saints Day Thursday 9:00am
All Souls Day 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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📧 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