



Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



3 / 4 NOVEMBER 2018
31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR B
November: we remember the deceased

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

The great commandment of the Hebrew covenant, ratified by Jesus as the greatest commandment, is to love God above all else and with all we have.

Already in ancient times it was the most abused commandment, as the people of Israel struggled with different forms of idolatry.

In our own day we continue to violate this commandment with the various idolatries that infect our public life: worship of the almighty dollar; adoration at the altar of capitalism; religious reverence for 'the rich way of life'; and more.

Jesus did not invent the second greatest commandment, either. His contribution was to link it with the first, to tie together love of God with love of neighbour.

Just as we violate the first commandment, so we violate the second one as well: we discriminate against our neighbour; we use our political and economic power to oppress our neighbour; we overwork and underpay our neighbour; we sexually harass our neighbour; we physically abuse our neighbour; we lock our neighbours up (*in detention centres or prisons*) and forget about them; we seem to do many things that are not love of neighbour.

"Love God with all your heart, and love your neighbour as yourself." It seems so simple, doesn't it? Our experience tells us otherwise.

"One may not take as the ultimate criteria in economic life the interests of individuals or organized groups, nor unregulated competition, nor excessive power on the part of the wealthy, nor the vain honour of the nation or its desire for domination, nor anything of this sort. Rather, it is necessary that economic undertakings be governed by justice and charity as the principle laws of social life." – Pope John XXIII, *Mater et Magistra*, 1961, 38-39

Jesus approaches the end of his journey. He has already entered Jerusalem when a 'scribe', who is evidently well disposed, asks which is the greatest of the commandments of the Law. As interpreters of the Law, the scribes had listed 613 ordinances calling for observance; it is not surprising that they often discussed their relative importance. This man seeks Jesus' view on the matter. This last exchange Jesus has with the leaders of Israel, in Mark's account, raises an issue important for his disciples. The incident illustrates how Jesus taught with an 'authority' that was different from the approach of the scribes (Matthew 7:29). The scribes backed their interpretation by appealing to the authority of recognised

The Principal Laws of Social Life



☞☞ interpreters; the response that Jesus gives is backed by his own authority. He underlines the commandment given in today's reading from Deuteronomy, familiar to all faithful Jews as part of their daily prayer: 'You must love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength' – in other words, with your whole being; to love anything in preference to the Lord is idolatry. Jesus is calling his hearers back to the radical faith and trust that so often finds expression in the Old Testament – especially in the prophets and the psalms – a faith and trust that was a true response to the God who had entered into covenant with the chosen people. Jesus goes on, however, to show great originality and wisdom, by linking the 'first' commandment with a 'second': 'You must love your neighbour as yourself' (Leviticus 19:18).



The Covenant was intended to make old Israel 'a light to the nations' – their life, shaped by the ways of God, learned through the covenant relationship, was to be an invitation to all peoples of the earth to find the one, true God – 'The Lord our God is the one Lord' – and the blessings life with God can bring. The Saviour links the two commandments under the rubric of 'love'. The love true believers have for fellow human beings is a love that has been learned from God.

The theme of 'love', so important to every human heart, was soon to emerge, we know, as the very heart of the Gospel, the good news that 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son'. (For Paul, 'Love is the fulfilment of the Law', Romans 13:10; as we live 'in Christ', God's own love 'has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit', Romans 5:5. Similarly, according to John, a 'new commandment' rules our Christian life, 'Love one another just as I have loved you', John 13:34; indeed, John declares, 'God is love', 1 John 4:8). The response of the scribe and the praise it won from Jesus, 'You are not far from the kingdom', point towards this fulfilment. Mark is reminding us that not all the leaders of the people were closed to the message of Jesus. Is it not likely that this scribe was soon to share in the faith inaugurated by the Lord's Paschal Mystery? This faith is interpreted in the reading from Hebrews, where Christ's saving work is compared with the role of priests of the Old Testament. But there is also a great contrast. The old role ended with death, and was compromised by sinfulness. The Old Testament ideal of clinging to God with one's whole being must have seemed a daunting, almost impossible one; now, however, faith in the Paschal Mystery assures us that the risen Saviour – 'holy, innocent and uncontaminated', and 'made perfect for ever' – gives us a share in his life with the Father.

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BOOK OF THE DEAD



All during November we remember especially those who have died: our relatives, friends and those who have no one to pray for them. If you would like the name of someone who has died placed in the Book of the Dead, there are special forms available next to the baptism font in the church. Please complete them and put them on any of the collection baskets and the name will be added after November. **May they rest in peace.**

On **Sunday, 4 November** after the 8am Mass, the ashes of **Veronica and Bryan Algie** will be placed in the Columbarium. And on **Sunday, 11 November**, immediately after the 8am Mass, the ashes of **Brian Lehane** will be placed in the Columbarium.

During Mass **next weekend, 10/11 November**, there will be a special ceremony to mark the **100th Anniversary of the End of World War I, Armistice Day, Remembrance Day.** At 11am, **Sunday 11/11** at the **Thirroul Cenotaph** there will be a special RSL Service.

ADULT FAITH TALKS AT THIRROUL CONTINUE

Details of the remaining talks:

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.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE ANNUAL MASS AND LUNCHEON

Thirroul Catholic Women's League will be celebrating their 54th Anniversary on **Wednesday, 21 November**, with **Mass at 10:30am**, followed by a Luncheon at Thirroul Bowling Club at 12noon. **ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US!** Cost \$30. Bookings/enquiries/payment to **Lucy ☎ 4268 5405** or **Margaret ☎ 4268 5097**.

TEN YEARS AS CATECHISTS – CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Anne and Bob Bower and to Lisa Metcalfe for completing ten years' service in the ministry of Catechists. On Saturday, 10 November, they will be presented with their Awards at the annual Catechist Mass at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong at 10:30am. **Congratulations!** If you would like to be a Catechist or would like to be an assistant to help out, please call the Parish Office on 4268 1910.

Draft Mission Statement for Our Parish

Thank you to those who responded, giving their opinion of the Draft Parish Mission Statement. The Parish Pastoral Council will now consider the responses and finalize the statement. Thank you to those who responded.

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.*



SOCIAL JUSTICE: MAKE OUR PARISH A WELCOMING PLACE

“People experiencing poverty are never to be regarded as ‘a problem’, but as principal partners in the work of building up bonds of unity and social cohesion.” *Social Justice Statement 2018–2019, p.12*

Start a conversation about how our parish can extend a welcome to everyone who comes to our church. How can people experiencing housing difficulties be protected from falling by the wayside?

- Are there ways our parish can identify those needing help?
- Is there someone in our parish who knows what resources are available for people with housing needs?
- How can we make our parish a better welcoming place?

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Friday 9 Nov Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Saturday 10 Nov St Leo the Great, pope, doctor



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 ... FREE RIDE TO THE MORGUE

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

SWIM SAFELY AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME



MELBOURNE CUP – GOOD LUCK TO YOU!

The Melbourne Cup was first run in 1861 and from 1875 was on the 1st Tuesday in November.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Local Animators are currently preparing to represent their local community at one of four Diocese of Wollongong Plenary 2020 regional listening days. Animators will have the opportunity to address Bishop Mascord about processes, express what they have heard and encountered in their community and provide a written reflective submission. Please pray for your local animator who will represent your community at these regional sessions.



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

THIS 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

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B

1st Reading 1 Kings 17:10-16

2nd Reading Hebrews 9:24-28

Gospel Mark 12:38-44

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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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