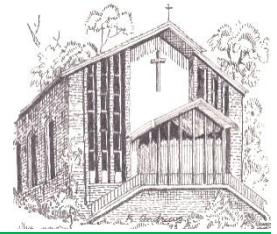




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



10 / 11 NOVEMBER 2018

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR B

100 Years 11am 11-11-18 – Lest We Forget

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Teaching Us Charity


Today's liturgy reveals some important facts about the poor.

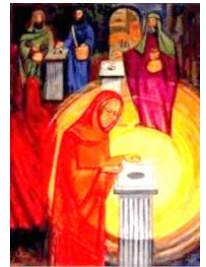
- 1) The poor are blessed because they have a greater recognition of their need for God. The two widows in the readings give up everything, totally trusting in the goodness of the Lord.
- 2) The poor are therefore more generous than others. Jesus made it very clear that "this poor widow contributed more than all the others who donated to the treasury." Recent studies in the United States reveal the same phenomenon: relative to their resources, lower income people are the most generous. Australia is no different.
- 3) The poor may or may not have society on their side, but there is no doubt where God stands: The Lord "secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry, sets captives free, gives sight to the blind, raises up those that were bowed down, protects strangers, and sustains the fatherless and the widow."

Those among us who are not poor receive the challenge to be poor in spirit. We pray at the start of this liturgy for freedom of spirit "... so that we may more willingly give our lives in service to all."

"In teaching us charity, the Gospel instructs us in the preferential respect due to the poor and the special situation they have in society: the more fortunate should renounce some of their rights so as to place their goods more generously at the service of others."

– Pope Paul VI, *Octogesima Adveniens*, 1971: 23

Today's reading from Mark's gospel reminds us what a great teacher Jesus was. The object lesson he gives, as he watches people making their donations, is one of the best remembered stories of the world's religious traditions – the 'widow's mite' has become proverbial. Mark sharpens the lesson by linking this incident with what Jesus has to say about 'scribes' who 'swallow the property of widows while making a show of lengthy prayers'. The situation of widows was insecure. The 'scribes', so often mentioned in the gospels, were interpreters of the Law of old Israel – the lawyers of the day. They benefited as trustees for the estates of widows, and a reputation for piety could be good for business. Jesus' words, of course, have a lesson for all of us – people who make a selfish show of their piety, instead of making it a 'secret' they share with their heavenly Father (Matthew 5:6), give Christianity a bad name. Mark gives the little widow a privileged place in his telling of the story of Jesus. Having entered Jerusalem to meet his fate, Jesus is giving his final instructions concerning the discipleship to which he is calling those who wish to follow him. Using the widow's example, he goes to the very heart of the matter – a giving that counts. Is there any more telling way of expressing the fundamental truth, that as responsible persons we are made in 



✠✠ the image of God, than by unselfish giving to others? The most precious things in life – in our family, in the community in which we live – come through the selfless generosity with which we give to others. We know from experience that it is a giving that costs us something that brings real happiness to ourselves and to those around us.

Mark is linking the generous giving of the widow with the great drama of God's generosity soon to take place – as Jesus gives himself into the hands of his Father for the sake of the whole human family. Our liturgy takes up Mark's lesson. Today's reading from Hebrews – a central passage in this great treatise – explains how the ritual of old Israel was only a foreshadowing of the Saviour's Paschal Mystery. The old sacrifices, offered time and again – in a 'man made' temple that was only a model of God's dwelling place, and making use of the blood of animals – have now given way to the world's final act of worship. The Saviour enters 'the actual presence of God on our behalf', making a gift of himself 'once and for all'. He shows us how true it is that a giving that really counts brings true blessings – in his total gift of himself he has become the source of all the blessings that will fill our eternity.

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, 11 November**, immediately after the 8am Mass, the ashes of **Brian Lehane** will be placed in the Columbarium.

During Masses **this 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 talk:

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**. **Bookings close Tuesday.**

WANT TO BE BAPTISED? WANT TO BECOME A CATHOLIC?

Anyone over the age of seven (7) who has not been baptised and who wishes to become a Catholic, NOW is the time to let the Parish Office know. Preparation begins this month for the three Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. The preparation is called **RCIA** or **RCIC**, the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults/Children*. Similarly, **if you have been baptised in another Christian Church and you want to become a Catholic**, you won't be re-baptised, but there is a preparation period prior to you receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. **If you or if you know anyone who wants to become a Catholic, please call the Parish Office THIS WEEK**, to obtain the "inquiry" form and to begin the preparation. People in the RCIA and RCIC programs will receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil, **20 April 2019**. Welcome to anyone wishing to become a Catholic. **Please call the Parish Office THIS WEEK.**

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.*



CENTENARY OF ARMISTICE: 11AM ON 11TH DAY OF 11TH MONTH

One hundred years ago on 11 November 1918, four bloody years of brutal conflict came to an end. Almost 62,000 Australians died fighting for our freedom and in service of our nation – if only it were that simple! People around the Commonwealth will be reflecting on the lives that were changed irrevocably, and those that were lost. Some **65 million men** were mobilised across Europe during World War I. Nearly a **third of them** – some 21 million – were **wounded**. Another **8.5 million were killed** and some **7.7 million were taken prisoners** of war. All of them had family and friends whose lives were changed forever by the events of 1914-1918. This year gives us the chance to remember, but also to **pray and work for peace**, looking forward with hope.

100 years ago on Sunday, the antagonists in the deadliest conflict the world had ever witnessed signed an armistice, ending the First World War. In his book of that name, John Keegan's first paragraph begins: "The First World War was a tragic and unnecessary conflict. Unnecessary because the train of events that led to its outbreak might have been broken at any point during the five weeks of crisis that preceded the first clash of arms, had prudence or common goodwill found a voice; tragic because the consequences of the first clash ended the lives of ten million human beings, tortured the emotional lives of millions more, destroyed the benevolent and optimistic culture of the European continent and left, when the guns at last fell silent four years later, a legacy of political rancour and racial hatred so intense that no explanation of the Second World War can stand without reference to those roots."

One cannot seriously consider World War One and forget that 11 November was first commemorated as Armistice Day. After World War II the Australian Government agreed to the United Kingdom's proposal that Armistice Day be renamed Remembrance Day to commemorate those who were killed in both World Wars. Today the loss of Australian lives from all wars and conflicts is commemorated on Remembrance Day, but we would do well to remember the original significance of this day.

Red poppies are often worn on Remembrance Day. The tradition has its origins in a poem written in 1915 by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a doctor in the Royal Canadian Medical Corps. Lieutenant Colonel McCrae noticed that, despite the devastation caused by the war to towns, farms and forests, thousands of small red poppies began growing everywhere in Spring. This inspired his poem, *In Flanders Fields*.



Significance of Rosemary: Traditionally, sprigs of rosemary are worn on ANZAC Day and sometimes on Remembrance Day. Rosemary is a herb which is usually added to cooking. However, since ancient times, the herb has been believed to have properties to improve the memory. Perhaps for this reason, rosemary became an emblem of remembrance in ancient folklore. Rosemary is now worn as a symbol of remembrance and has particular significance for Australians as it is found growing wild on the Gallipoli peninsula.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Monday 12 Nov St Josaphat, bishop, martyr
 10:00am Cenotaph School Service

Saturday 17 Nov St Elizabeth of Hungary, religious



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Next **Tuesday, 13 November**, commencing 11:00am in the McCarthy Centre, Pat from our Parish Plenary Council team will join us to conduct a listening and dialogue session. Light luncheon to follow. **All welcome!** Monthly meeting 1:30pm.

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

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

SWIM SAFELY AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME



PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Our Local Animator and Plenary Team members will represent our community at a Diocese of Wollongong Plenary 2020 regional listening day on Sunday, 11 November. They will be presenting to Bishop Mascord about themes and questions that have emerged from our local listening and dialog sessions and informal conversations, as well as a written submission on the same. A copy of the written submission from our community will be provided with this week's Bulletin. Thank you for your prayers for our local Plenary Team. There will be more opportunities to contribute in the coming months, before the closing date of 6 March 2019. **We need to hear from you!**



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

THIS 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

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B

1st Reading Daniel 12:1-3
2nd Reading Hebrews 10:11-14
Gospel Mark 13:24-32

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