



# Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



17 / 18 NOVEMBER 2018

33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR B

November: we remember the deceased

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

## Teaching Us Charity

We are indeed in a “time unsurpassed in distress.” A fifth of the world’s population lives in absolute poverty. About three billion people lack adequate nutrition. In Yemen, there are millions who have lost everything – homes, jobs, loved ones – in nearly four years of civil war. The conflict has pushed the country of 29 million people to the brink of famine. At least 8 million have no food other than what aid agencies provide. The figure is likely to rise to 11.5 million as more people become unable to afford food because the worsening economic crisis caused by the war.

**Every three days**, more people die from malnutrition and disease than from the bombing of Hiroshima. **Every year** more people die from preventable hunger than died in the Holocaust.

**One out of every four** human beings has no access to safe drinking water.



There are somewhere between **one billion and two billion** unemployed adults in the world. The poorer countries have 60 percent of the world’s students and 12 percent of the world’s total education budget. More than half of the world’s adult population cannot read or write. More than half of the countries of the world have used violence against their own citizens in the form of torture, brutality and summary executions. About 4 million people died in wars in the 18<sup>th</sup> century; about 8 million people died in wars in the 19<sup>th</sup> century; at least **108 million** people died in wars in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Already in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the death toll from wars is over at least 2 million people.

**Of the past 3,400 years, humans have been entirely at peace for 268 of them, or just 8 percent of recorded history.** Estimates for the total number killed in wars throughout all of human history range from 150 million to 1 billion.

One day we “will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory,” (Mark 13:26) to bring vindication, to right all the wrongs done by human beings to each other.

“The present situation of the world, from the point of view of development, offers a rather negative impression ... In today’s world, including the world of economics, the prevailing picture is one destined to lead us more quickly towards death rather than one of concern for true development which would lead all towards a ‘more human’ life.”

– Pope John Paul II, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, 1987:13, 24

The cycle of the Church’s year is coming to an end. The ‘end of the world’ – when

✠✠ God's great plan for creation will be realized – will be one of the themes of the liturgy during the coming weeks. In the time of Jesus, centuries of frustration under occupying powers had given rise among the Jewish people to a form of literature (today called 'apocalyptic') that expressed a confidence that, despite all appearance to the contrary, God's promises – so important in the faith of old Israel – would be fulfilled in 'a new heaven and a new earth'. Some of this literature is included in the Scriptures – the prophecy of Daniel, from which our first reading comes, is an example. This literature has often been misunderstood by 'fundamentalist' interpreters. Its startling images of the passing away of the present world were not intended to describe how the end will come; its essential message was an assurance that God's designs will be fulfilled, despite all appearances to the contrary. Jesus preached the coming of the final reign of God; it is not surprising, therefore, that he used some of the images and expression of this literature – as he does in today's gospel, the final section of a long passage that gathers together recollections of this teaching of Jesus.

The title, 'Son of Man' – adopted by Jesus as a subtle intimation of his role in the designs of God – comes from the prophecy of Daniel. Coming from God, the 'Son of Man' will fulfil the great destiny of Israel, bringing all the peoples of the world under God's reign (see Daniel 7:13-14). The community that gave us Mark's gospel rejoices in the knowledge that the Son of Man has truly come – Israel's hopes have been realized. For the early Christians, this confidence raised challenging questions, that took some time to resolve (see St Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2) – if, in the Saviour's Paschal Mystery, God's final achievement in creation has been realized, what are we to make of our life in a world that seems to go on as before? In the face of this problem, today's gospel reflects the outlook of a community that is finding a healthy balance. Though it speaks with certainty of the coming of the end, it acknowledges that 'nobody knows' when it will be fully manifest 'but the Father'. Echoing the language of literature such as the prophecy of Daniel about the signs of the end, it nevertheless urges constant vigilance, lest believers be taken unawares – one of the themes of the preaching of Jesus. We know God's final achievement has been realized in the Christ's risen greatness; but we wait in faith and hope for our full sharing in all that Christ has promised. With Mark's community, we place our trust – whatever lies ahead of us – in the one who said: 'Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away'.

## 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.**

## 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

Feel **free** to take home for your cooking pleasure any of the herbs that are growing are: **Chamomile; Chocolate Mint; Coriander; Dill; Lemon Balm; Marjoram; Mint; Parsley (two varieties); Sage, Rosemary and Thyme.**



## DISABLED SURFERS ASSOCIATION @ THIRROUL, 1 DECEMBER

**9am to 1pm on Saturday, 1 December** at Thirroul Beach, the Disabled Surfers Association will again provide a surfing experience to our region's disabled people. Come along and help out ... **anyone from 10 years old upwards** is needed as a volunteer. Please come along and help! Barbecue is provided, and a great experience is guaranteed!



## CHRISTMAS EVE MASS IN OUR PARISH SCHOOL

Christmas Eve Mass will be in our Parish School grounds at **6:30pm on Monday, 24 December**. Children are involved in the readings and “walk-on non-talking” parts, e.g. carrying up candles, the bread and wine etc. If you would like your daughter or son to be involved, **please email the Parish Office on [thirroul@dow.org.au](mailto:thirroul@dow.org.au)**, giving name, phone number and any “job” they would prefer to do. Also, **singers are needed** to help lead the singing ... anyone from 5 years to 105 year are welcome! Also, **adult parishioners** are needed as “**Safety Officers / Ushers**” at the 6:30pm Mass – you don't have to be on the usual Safety Officers Roster. Please contact the Parish Office by **22 November**.

Other Christmas Masses are: **9:30pm at Wombarra** and **9:00am at Thirroul**.

## 10 INSPIRING QUOTES FROM POPE FRANCIS' *Gaudete et Exsultate*

1. *“The Lord asks everything of us, and in return he offers us true life, the happiness for which we were created. He wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence.” §1*
2. *“Every saint is a message which the Holy Spirit takes from the riches of Jesus Christ and gives to his people.” §21*
3. *“We need ‘to acknowledge jubilantly that our life is essentially a gift, and recognize that our freedom is a grace. This is not easy today, in a world that thinks it can keep something for itself, the fruits of its own creativity or freedom.’” §5*
4. *“[T]here is a hierarchy of virtues that bids us seek what is essential. The primacy belongs to the theological virtues [faith, hope, charity], which have God as their object and motive. At the centre is charity.” §60*
5. *“We must never forget that when the New Testament tells us that we will have to endure suffering for the Gospel's sake, it speaks precisely of persecution.” §92*
6. *“Those who really wish to give glory to God by their lives, who truly long to grow in holiness, are called to be single-minded and tenacious in their practice of the works of mercy.” §107*
7. *“Humility can only take root in the heart through humiliations. Without them, there is no humility or holiness. If you are unable to suffer and offer up a few humiliations, you are not humble and you are not on the path to holiness.” §118*
8. *“The Christian life is a constant battle. We need strength and courage to withstand the temptations of the devil and to proclaim the Gospel. This battle is sweet, for it allows us to rejoice each time the Lord triumphs in our lives.” §158*
9. *“When, in God's presence, we examine our life's journey, no areas can be off limits.” §175*
10. *“Mary our Mother does not need a flood of words. She does not need us to tell her what is happening in our lives. All we need do is whisper, time and time again: ‘Hail Mary...’” §176*

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Wednesday 21 Nov Presentation of Mary  
 10:30am Mass with CWL  
 no 9:00am Mass Wednesday

Thursday 22 Nov St Cecilia, virgin, martyr

Saturday 24 Nov Sts Andrew Dung-Lac, priest and companions, martyrs



**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 MOR GUE**

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

**SWIM SAFELY AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME**



## PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

The Thirroul Plenary Team presented to Bishop Brian last Sunday, along with other animators from the Illawarra region. Bishop Brian encouraged us all to continue to listen deeply to what the Spirit is calling us to, and to put forward with courage what we hear – even if what we hear seems radical. He reminded us of Archbishop Coleridge's statement that 'everything is on the table' for Plenary Council. He also encouraged us to keep talking, listening and providing input – submissions are open until 6 March 2019. Thank you to all of our parishioners who've contributed either through our listening and dialog sessions, informal discussions, the written sheets or online – so far! There is no limit to the number of submissions you can make. We really want to hear from everyone!



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

**47 Candidates for First Communion, starting on 1 Dec (21), 2 Dec (5), 8 Dec (14) ...**

**THIS 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

**NEXT Sunday's Readings** *on our website*

**Christ the King • End of Year B**

**1st Reading** Daniel 7:13-14

**2nd Reading** Revelation 1:5-8

**Gospel** John 18:33-37

### 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

**CWL Mass Wednesday 10:30am**

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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💻 [thirroul@dow.org.au](mailto: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](http://www.thirroulcatholic.org.au)

Parish School of St Michael ☎ 4267 2560