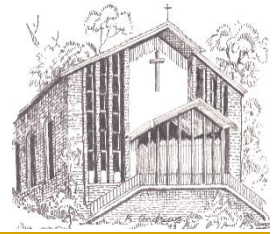




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



24 / 25 NOVEMBER 2018
FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING ✦ YEAR B
November: we remember the deceased

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

The Kingdom of God is ...

The Kingdom of God is a space. It exists in every home where parents and children love each other. It exists in every region and country that cares for its weak and vulnerable. It exists in every parish that reaches out to the needy.

The Kingdom of God is a time. It happens whenever someone feeds a hungry person, or shelters a homeless person, or shows care to a neglected person. It happens whenever we overturn an unjust law, or correct an injustice, or avert a war. It happens whenever people join in the struggle to overcome poverty, to erase ignorance, to pass on the faith.

It happens on Manus Island and in every detention centre and prison when people protest and stand up for justice and mercy. The Kingdom of God is in the past (in the life and work of Jesus of Nazareth); it is in the present (in the work of the Church and in the efforts of many others to create a world of goodness and justice); it is in the future (reaching its completion in the age to come).

The Kingdom of God is a condition. Its symptoms are love, justice, and peace.

Jesus Christ is king! We pray today that God may “free all the world to rejoice in his peace, to glory in his justice, to live in his love.”

“Jesus enters human history as God’s anointed son who announces the nearness of the reign of God (Mark 1:9-14). This proclamation summons us to acknowledge God as creator and covenant partner, and challenges us to seek ways in which God’s revelation of the dignity and destiny of all creation might become incarnate in history. It is not simply the promise of the future victory of God over sin and evil, but that this victory has already begun—in the life and teaching of Jesus.”

US Bishops, *Economic Justice for All*, 1986: 41

Today’s feast is a relative newcomer to the Church’s liturgy – it was established by Pius XI in 1925 as the Church’s response to the emergence of totalitarian regimes. There is a certain irony in the fact that when it was established earthly kings and queens had become little more than figureheads. The gospels of the liturgies of this feast in the three-year cycle, however, make it clear that this symbolic theme can still invite us to deepen our appreciation of the role of the Saviour in the designs of God. The first and second readings – from the book of the Prophet Daniel, concerning ‘the Son of Man’, and from the Book of Revelation proclaiming the fulfilment of the prophecy in Christ – remind us of the deep roots this theme has in the Scriptures. This year’s gospel reading from John takes us to the heart of the drama being enacted before the Roman governor – as, according to the words



✠✠ of Jesus at the Supper, the ‘Son of Man’ is being ‘glorified’, and in him God is being glorified. Jesus will reign, but he assures Pilate that his kingdom – ‘not of this world’ – is not in competition with the earthly powers Pilate represents. He will establish God’s reign, not by power and violence, but by bringing his ‘truth’ to the world, the truth that is one of the principal themes of John’s gospel (‘Father, consecrate my disciples in the truth, your word is truth’, John 14:6; ‘I AM truth and life’, John 14:6). This truth is a sharing in the wisdom of the Father, the personal truth in which we come to know who we are in the plan of God, the truth that ‘sets us free’ (John 8:32). The Kingdom announced and inaugurated by Jesus is a renewed creation, ruled by the ways of God – shaping all things, liberating them and leading them to their fullness. When Jesus teaches that this reign of God has already begun in a hidden way (Mark 4:26 etc.) he is telling us that we can know something of this final achievement of God, when the truth he has brought to the world shapes our lives.

The exchange between Jesus and Pilate also makes it clear that the execution of Jesus is a consequence of his rejection by the establishment of the Jewish nation. In John’s gospel, this conflict is described in terms of the ‘truth’ that he has brought from his Father: ‘It is because I speak the truth that you cannot believe me’ (8:45). He has urged his people to find again their true calling in the designs of God, to be ‘a light to the nations’, showing the world the life and joy of a people living according to the ways they have learned from his Father.

John’s gospel, as we have seen, portrays Jesus as reigning on the Cross. His exchange with Pilate echoes through the continuing narrative, ‘Here is your king’, Pilate declares (18:14); the governor’s ‘notice’ reads ‘King of the Jews’ (18:19); Jesus entrusts the beloved disciple – standing for us all – to his mother (19:26); ‘the blood and water’ from his side are solemnly proclaimed as a blessing upon us all. What Jesus foretold early in his ministry has been realized: ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life’ (John 3:14). The symbol of kingship may become archaic, but what it speaks of in the Scriptures, concerning the role of the Saviour in reign of God, has an everlasting relevance, far removed from the politics of this world.



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 in our garden: **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**, 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**.

TWILIGHT CHRISTMAS MARKETS: 7 DECEMBER

This year our Parish and School are joining together to hold the Twilight Christmas Markets. This will be in place of the school fete and parish Christmas party held in previous years. **Friday, 7 December, 4:30pm to 8:30pm** in the grounds of our Parish Primary School. **All are welcome, so please come along and enjoy yourself: Artisan Market; Local Makers; Gourmet Food and Produce; Live Music – FREE entry!** It's a great chance to look for that special gift for a special person. This is a fun event for **all the family**.



VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL BEGINS NEXT WEEKEND

Today is the last Sunday of the Church year. Next weekend we begin again, **Advent**, preparing for Christmas, the coming of the Christ-child. As usual, there will be annual **Vinnies Christmas Appeal**, along with the preparation of **hampers** and ‘**Giving Tree**’ gifts for distribution in our local area. The actual **Appeal** will be over two weekends, **1-2 December** and **8-9 December**.



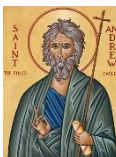
Hampers and gifts will need to be **returned by the weekend of 15-16 December** for distribution before Christmas. Also, next weekend at all Masses there will be the **Blessing of the Christmas Tree**. Thanks to you for your generosity and Vinnies for their ministry!
YOUR GIFT COULD CHANGE PEOPLE'S LIVES.



URGENTLY NEEDED: volunteers to take Communion to those in Coledale Hospital.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Monday 26 Nov CWL Bus Trip 8:30am
 Friday 30 Nov St Andrew, apostle
 Saturday 1 Dec First Communion (20)
 Sunday 2 Dec First Communion (5)



**ONE NON-PERISHABLE ITEM PER FAMILY EACH WEEK
 TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE LOCAL ILLAWARRA AREA**

NO FLAGS – NO SWIM ... Sharks don't swim between the flags

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



SWIM SAFELY AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE BUS TRIP – MONDAY

The annual Catholic Women's League bus trip is on **Monday, 26 November**. Members are asked to assemble at the **rear of the church by 8:15am** for an **8:30am** departure.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Bishop Brian encourages 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. Archbishop Coleridge states that 'everything is on the table' for Plenary Council. 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.



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

47 Candidates for First Communion, starting on 1 Dec (20), 2 Dec (5), 8 Dec (14) ...

THIS 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

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

First Sunday of Advent • Year C
 1st Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16
 2nd Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
 Gospel Luke 21:25-28,34-36

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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 ☎ 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