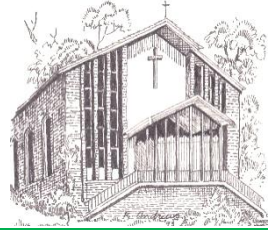




# Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



**9 / 10 FEBRUARY 2018**  
**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + YEAR C**  
**Welcome Back to Our Weekly Bulletin**

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

*Am I Worthy?*

We are now well into Jesus' Galilean ministry, the one he began in Nazareth in Galilee.

This Sunday contains a surprise development. Sunday finds three of the greatest witnesses in the Bible—Isaiah, Paul and Peter—expressing their own worthlessness!

Well. What is your attitude toward worthiness? Do you agree with the current psychologized sentiment that, "I AM worthy," or "I'M ok, YOU'RE ok," or "I buy this product because I'M WORTH it"?

Let's look at Isaiah, Paul and Peter and see if they would utter such sentiments.

*First*, (First Reading), Isaiah receives a vision of heaven itself. The Lord is seated on a high and lofty throne and the Seraphim angel choir is crying out, "holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts! All the earth is filled with his glory!"

But Isaiah reacts with shame! He says,

"Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

In response an angel swoops down with a burning coal and begins to cleanse his lips!!!! He is doomed, alright, but doomed to be made clean through suffering, to be made able to speak of God.

*Second*, (Second Reading). St Paul says that Christ appeared to him last of all, as to one born abnormally, "For I am the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God." He is unworthy but did the grace of God discard him? No, it did not. It appointed him as an Apostle, even though he had never even met Jesus.

*Third*, Gospel. This week's famous story is where Jesus tells Peter James and John to fish in the deep water (where they had been fishing and fishing and fishing all night with no result). Without warning their nets become bloated with fishes. Peter cries out, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man."

We have a problem here. Isn't the experience of God supposed to lead to peace, forgiveness, and joy instead of shame?

So, make a distinction. The reaction of all three figures is not really shame, which would mean concluding that every one of them is worthless. Instead they are finding their place in reality. They are expressing a kind of humility. How?

Each of these persons is forced to compare himself directly to the presence of God. ↗ ↗





But when people meet the holiness of God head-on, they become able to see humanness in great relief, truly full of holes like a sponge. None of these—except Jesus—could pretend that he or she shone like the stars, since they saw the real star bursting with light. Jesus translated that light into human living.

Experience of God lets us understand that we are far, far less than God. This is not bad, it is good. Our own being cannot make us holy but God's can. We can be proud to be unworthy, if reception of God's love is the result.

So, at Mass we echo the Roman centurion: "Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed." When we react with shame, God does not say in return, "I reject you," but "I love you dearly. Come be with me, you fine human being."

Scholarly analysis of today's gospel reading shows how skilfully, and prayerfully, Luke has made use of the materials available to him. Presenting elements that are used differently in other gospels, he creates a tableau rich in meaning, expressing the optimistic outlook of the Church community in which Luke has been nurtured in the faith – probably Antioch in Syria. Jesus is portrayed bringing the Good News of the 'word of God' to an eager crowd. He calls Peter and his associates to join him, becoming 'fishers of people'; and they leave everything to follow him. Luke's narrative is centred, of course, on the Lord; but the figure of Peter stands out in a remarkable way. It is Peter's boat that Jesus teaches from; Peter speaks up for the group; it is Peter who falls on his knees, overwhelmed by his sense of unworthiness. We are left in no doubt that Luke reveres Peter. His warm portrayal invites us to share his reverence for the man to whom Jesus had given a new and symbolic name. Reference to Peter's human frailty is not lacking – Luke is the only evangelist to refer to Christ's prayer for Peter: that 'his faith not fail', so that he may 'strengthen his brothers' (Luke 22:32). In the Acts of the Apostles – Luke's story of the early Church – Peter is leader and anchor-man. Luke is reflecting the importance Peter had for the first generation of Christians.

In his portrayal, Luke is anticipating the outlook of the Fathers of the early Christian centuries, who not only saw Peter as the leader and spokesman of the apostolic Church, but also saw him as giving expression to all that the Church is called to be: in his faith and his response to the call of Jesus – sharing in Jesus' way of life, given completely to the spreading of the Good News of God. There is a rich symbolism to be found in this portrayal of the origins of the Church's response to the call of the Saviour: Peter is the first person in Luke's gospel to respond to the call of Jesus (as time and again, in the Acts of the Apostles, Peter will be the first to make decisive moves in the life of the emerging Church); it is from the boat of Peter that Christ's true teaching is heard; Christ's encouraging words, 'Put out into the deep for a catch', echo down through the ages, bringing encouragement to the Church in all its difficulties and setbacks; Peter's humility in the presence of what Christ has done is an eloquent reminder to all members of the Church, great and small, that the successes of the Church – as it responds to Christ's call – are all the Lord's doing.

For all the human warmth with which it is portrayed, Peter's call is a mystery that has its origins in the eternal designs of God's love and freedom. We are reminded that we too have a place in those designs. Today's first reading – describing the awe-inspiring call of the prophet Isaiah – provides, therefore, a suitable complement to the gospel reading, inviting us to join in the response of the prophet, 'Here I am. Send me'. Paul, too, was to respond to the call to become a 'fisher of people'. In today's second reading, he assures us that the teaching through which he carries out his ministry is one with the teaching of those who first responded to Christ's call.



## COMMISSIONING SUNDAY

This weekend our Parish commissions the following ministers: **Catechists** (who teach Special Religious Education in our four local State Schools); **Leaders of Children's Liturgy of the Word** (held on Sunday mornings); and **Staff of our Parish School**. These parishioners make their annual commitment and receive our blessing as they are commissioned in their ministry for the year ahead. *Thank you to all these ministers.*

## PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 – We Want to Hear from You

**The closing date for submissions to the Plenary Council is almost here – 6 March. There is no limit to how many submissions you can make and all topics are on the table. No submission is too big or too small, whether it be about our local parish or the broader Church. The Spirit speaks to us all. We want to hear from you!**

There are forms or books on the front seat near the lectern for you to write down any submissions, and they can be done anonymously.

## FIRST COMMUNION

Congratulations to **Alexa Emery** who will receive the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time this Saturday evening.

## SACRAMENTS IN 2019

The Sacrament of Confirmation for Year 6 students or older will be held in our Parish on 26/27 June this year. Details of the preparation and Enrolment Forms are obtainable on our Parish website – **enrolments close on 13 May**.

The Sacraments of First Penance (Reconciliation) and Communion are held during Term 4 for seven-year-old students (Year 2) or older. Details of the preparation and Enrolment Forms are obtainable on our Parish website – **enrolments close on 10 September**.

## THE THIRD RITE OF PENANCE (RECONCILIATION)

On 2 December 1973, in accordance with the mandate of Vatican Council II, the revised rites for the Sacrament of Penance were promulgated. There were to be three rites: for individual penitents (Rite I); for several penitents (Rite II); for several penitents with general confession and absolution (Rite III). The 1973 document stated that Rite III cannot be used “unless: (a) the danger of death is imminent and there is no time for a priest or priests to hear the confessions of the individual penitents; [and] (b) a serious need is present, namely, given the number of penitents, not enough confessors are available to hear the individual confessions properly within a reasonable time ...” The decision about the use of Rite III was left to the local diocesan bishop. In 1983 the new Code of Canon Law was promulgated and canon 961 restated, word-for-word, the 1973 document. In Australia, celebrations of Rite III became fairly common. However, in 1998, Pope John Paul II told the Australian bishops that the use of Rite III was to be curtailed and this strict interpretation of the law meant that we now no longer have Rite III – *unless the plane runs out of noise*.

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE MEETING

Our first meeting for the year will be held in the McCarthy Centre next **Tuesday, 12 February**, at **11:30am** for luncheon at 12noon. **All welcome!** Monthly meeting 1:30 pm.

## PARISH BBQ ON SATURDAY, 16 FEBRUARY AFTER 5:30PM MASS

If you are going to the BBQ on Saturday, 16 February, for catering purposes, please let Judy Bull know by 10 February: ☎ 4267 2417 or 0407 672 417 or [judy.bull@bigpond.com](mailto:judy.bull@bigpond.com)

# WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Monday 11 Feb** until Thursday, 14 February, Ken will be at Baulkham Hills for Marriage Tribunal ministry  
*Thank you to Andrew for celebrating the Eucharist on Tuesday, Wednesday*

**Thursday 14 Feb** St Cyril, monk and St Methodius, bishop  
 Valentine's Day

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

**3,535** rescues performed since 1 July 18 – last week **3,315**

**SWIM SAFELY – BETWEEN THE FLAGS WHERE THE WAVES BREAK**



### POPE FRANCIS CELEBRATES BAPTISMS

In a homily at Mass on the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord, Sunday, 13 January, during which he **baptised 27 babies**, Pope Francis urged parents to take care to transmit the faith to their children within the home, but never to argue in front of them. “The important thing is to transmit the faith with your life of faith,” Francis said. “I would like to give advice – never fight in front of children, never. It is normal for spouses to quarrel. The opposite would be strange. Do it, but that they do not hear, that they do not see. You do not know the anguish a child receives when he sees his parents quarrelling.”



### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD LEADERS NEEDED

The Parish **urgently needs two more** Leaders of Children's Liturgy. **4268 1910 now.**

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

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Isaiah 6:1-8

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

**Gospel** Luke 5:1-11

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

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Jeremiah 17:5-8

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** 1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20

**Gospel** Luke 6:17,20-26

**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**

<b>Wombarra</b> [ <i>Liturgy</i> ]	Monday	4:30pm
<b>Thirroul</b>	Tuesday	<b>5:30pm</b>
	Wednesday	<b>9:00am</b>
[ <i>Liturgy</i> ]	Thursday	<b>9:00am</b>
	Friday	<b>9:30am</b>

### 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

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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