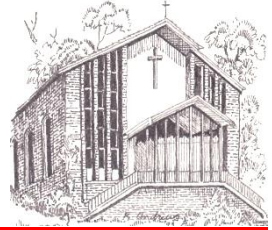




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



13 / 14 APRIL 2019
PASSION [PALM] SUNDAY + YEAR C
Holy Week    **The Easter Triduum**

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

What Kind of King?

We are shown two kinds of king in the bible story for Sunday.

One king has power, wealth, pride, and the forces of war. This king had room only for what he pretended was the welfare of the people. Instead, he took only what he himself wanted – he's a "trumped up" king. At the other end of the spectrum is a king or queen who has empathetic care for each person, for the well-being of the populace.

This idea could apply easily to the political condition of many countries today. But, this Sunday, let us look at the biblical grounding of such an idea. In TH White's story of King Arthur (*The Once and Future King*), Arthur was slated to be the good kind of ruler, not the power monger. As you may know, Merlin the magician, in White's version, kidnapped Arthur the baby from his father's great castle and began to train him in a far away bedraggled court, in order to teach him about the small and modest beings of the world around him.

The remainder of that story remains for another day, but it is interesting to note that nearly the same thing happened to Jesus. Not that he was kidnapped, but that he was brought up in quite unpretentious circumstances, and that he loved the small and beautiful parts of his dusty childhood.

Then, this Sunday, Jesus suddenly receives the pomp and glory of power! What happened? Has he changed into the bad kind of king? Let us look.

The custom was for a royal person to ride on a colt, or as it is often translated, a donkey. This was not a sign of humility but of kingly status! People would strew their cloaks on the roadway, along with the tall palm fronds they had picked, in order to shield the King from the dirty road.

Jesus did not shy away from such honours; in fact, in the Processional Reading we hear that he caused them to happen! He sent disciples to get the colt/donkey. Then he rode it into Jerusalem. People honoured him with cloaks and palms as Saviour King.

Why did Jesus submit to such treatment?

Liturgy has an answer. Peter, who had vowed and sworn that he would never ever deny Jesus, goes ahead and denies him three times. Jesus says out loud that Peter must be "counted among the wicked" (Luke 22:37, quoting Isaiah 53:8-12). Then Jesus sweats blood in the garden, and at last gives himself over into the devil's hands, saying in effect, "This is your hour, the time for your darkness." A mock trial follows and our King joins simple thieves in bloody death.

So, there was no king at all. Had the throwing the Palms been a mistake?



👉👉 Look again.

Leadership has, at its root, service. The real reason for kingship is not dominance, riches, honour or power. These give siren calls to entrap the leader. Kingship and all leadership exist in order to secure the welfare of the kingdom and especially the welfare of those who are in it.

Jesus comes to bring this kind of kingdom, one of service and humility, not of pride and competition. The way of the cross is the greatest fulfillment of his kingship, as opposed to cheering and accolades.

Palm Sunday brings us the real thing.

Today's liturgy begins with the familiar commemoration of the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. This year we hear Luke's account. Its majestic tone is an appropriate prelude to the greatest week of the Church's year – emphasising the unique authority of Jesus, and ending with the joyous cry of 'the whole group of disciples': proclaiming that the miracles worked by Jesus are a breaking in of 'heaven' itself. In Luke's account, his preoccupation with the issues of riches and poverty finds expression; it is not palms, but 'cloaks' – the proud possessions of the rich – that are spread on the road.

The reading from Isaiah invites us to learn from the example of the Saviour, the trust we should have in our Father in heaven, whatever trials we may face. But it is something else that makes the reading an appropriate one, as we find ourselves on the threshold of Holy Week – with God's true Servant, we must have minds and hearts open to a new meeting with our God in what lies ahead. Like him we should be glad that the Lord 'wakes us to hear, to listen like disciples'

In the second reading, from the letter to the Philippians – echoing a hymn used in the liturgy of the first generation of the Church – Paul summarises with majestic brevity the drama of the Paschal [Easter] Mystery we are about to celebrate: how Jesus 'emptied himself', shared our human condition, even to 'accepting death on a cross', and how finally, for our sake, he is 'raised high', one with the Father in the glory of the divine name.

Luke's account of the Lord's passion has been put together with great care, as this faithful disciple of Jesus makes reference in the course of his narrative to many of his favourite themes: the example of Jesus' prayer during his ordeal (on Calvary; for Peter); the good news of a merciful and forgiving God ('Father forgive them'; 'Today you will be with me in paradise'); the attitudes of true discipleship ('The leader must be as one who serves'; the presence of the disciples, men and women, on Calvary – 'at a distance'); the great titles of the Church's confession of faith in the Saviour are skilfully woven into the narrative, often on the lips of those who are rejecting him ('Son of Man', 'Son of God', 'Christ of God', 'King of the Jews', 'Chosen One'; and significantly it is the gentile centurion who is given the final word, 'This was a great and good man').

The liturgies of Holy Week will teach us, not with fine oratory, but by recounting the great events in which the divine Truth found expression in our human history. Let this recognition set the tone for our participation in the liturgies of these days.

One of the dominant images of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke is that of Jesus as the Spirit-filled prophet. That prophetic fire, courageous fidelity and sense of justice would drive Jesus throughout his ministry and bring him to the climax of his mission in Jerusalem.



PROJECT COMPASSION

100% INCLUSION **Nguyet** is a teenager living with a disability in a small town in Vietnam. She lived the first 14 years of her life isolated at home. Her disability restricted her movements and any chance of going to school.

Around 7% of people in Vietnam are living with a disability. They often have poorer health, fewer education and employment opportunities and higher poverty rates.

The future appeared bleak for **Nguyet**, until a Caritas Australia program, implemented by our partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS), changed her life forever. Around 4,000 people have now benefitted from this inspiring Caritas program.

The program is helping people like **Nguyet**, by focusing on inclusive education, health services and building strong community networks to help to break down stigma and discrimination for those with disabilities and their families.

Two years after she featured in Project Compassion 2017, **Nguyet** has built a successful online business selling t-shirts, accessories and home-cooked snacks made by her sister. She is also more confident in communicating with people – and is riding a motorbike she bought from her profits.

“I can go out independently now,” **Nguyet** says. “I would like to have my own shop in the village one day. And I hope that other people with disabilities in Vietnam will receive help like I did.”

Nguyet has great hope and a real commitment to succeed in her future. She hopes her story will inspire others to see what is possible for a person once isolated and unheard.

Please return your Project Compassion boxes or envelopes anytime during this week or on next weekend.

NEEDED FOR THE EASTER LITURGIES

Rosemary for Good Friday, 19 April: please bring them in by **Thursday, 18 April**, cut into strips about 10cm long. *We also need rosemary for ANZAC Day, 25 April.*

Helpers needed on Thursday, 18 April – 9am to 10am to help prepare for the Easter Triduum ... no heavy lifting involved at all. *Please help if you can.*

EASTER LITURGY TIMES

The **Easter Triduum** is the highpoint of the Church's entire liturgical year. It begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, continues with the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil and closes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday. **Please join us if you can.**

Tuesday	16 April	7:00pm	Chrism Mass at Wollongong Cathedral
Holy Thursday	18 April	7:30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday	19 April	10:30am	Way of the Cross
		3:00pm	Liturgy of the Passion
Holy Saturday	20 April	7:00pm	Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday	21 April	8:00am	Mass of the Resurrection and baptisms



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Tuesday	16 Apr	5:30pm	Liturgy of the Word with Communion
		7:00pm	Chrism Mass at the Cathedral
Thursday	18 Apr	9am to 10am	preparing for the Easter Liturgies
		Parish Office is open 10am to 3pm	
		7:30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday	19 Apr	10:30am	Way of the Cross
		3:00pm	Liturgy of the Passion
Saturday	20 Apr	7:00pm	Easter Vigil [no 5:30pm Mass]
Sunday	21 Apr	8:00am	Mass of the Resurrection, Infant Baptisms
Thursday	25 Apr	6:00am	ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Cenotaph
		8:30am	ANZAC Day Mass at Thirroul
Monday	29 Apr	9:15am	ANZAC Day School Service <i>McCarthy Centre</i>
Friday	3 May	9:30am	Anointing of the Sick
Monday	13 May	6:00pm	Enrolments for Confirmation 2019 close



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

4,963 rescues performed since 1 July 18 – last week **4,844**

SWIM SAFELY – BETWEEN THE FLAGS WHERE THE WAVES BREAK



BLOOD DONORS ARE NEEDED OVER EASTER ☎ 13 14 95

“The **ultimate injustice** is for a person or group to be treated actively or abandoned passively as if they were non-members of the human race. To treat people this way is effectively to say that they simply do not count as human beings.”

– US Bishops, *Economic Justice for All*, 1986: 77

THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Passion [Palm] Sunday • Year C

1st Reading Isaiah 50:4-7

2nd Reading Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel Luke 22:14–23:56

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Easter Sunday • Year C

1st Reading Acts 10:34,37-43

2nd Reading Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel John 20:1-9

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 [Liturgy] Tuesday 5:30pm

Wednesday 9:00am

Holy Thursday 7:30pm

Good Friday 3:00pm

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