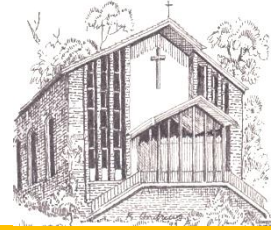




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



18 / 19 MAY 2019
5TH SUNDAY OF THE 50 DAYS OF EASTER ✦ YEAR C
Congratulations to the newly baptised

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

A Love We Can Understand

Glory.

We will hear a lot about glory in Sunday's Gospel. God will be glorified at the Last Supper and will glorify Jesus, we are told. And will glorify him at once.

Most of us admit that we do not understand what it means to give glory to God. Let us look.

By definition, the word glory means "very great praise, honour, or distinction bestowed by common consent." At a concert a number of years ago the audience gave unrestrained praise and glory to three performers, all of it deserved. All at the concert thundered applause and shouted and whistled after every song in the two and a half hour concert.




At that time the performers were not much past twenty years old, but they had complete musical mastery. Half-way through the concert people noticed that they had, without intending to, been smiling the whole time.

When at last they tried to close the concert, the audience threatened to mob them. One of the performers called out, "Everyone deserves this experience! We are going to line up the whole audience and each of you gets to come up here and have everybody go crazy over you!"

Maybe so, but how would we deserve it? Which of us could merit this?

There is a song called "The Hand Song" that might show the real meaning of glory. In it a young boy picks roses for his mother. Trouble is, she has been raising these roses with great care, and he has now broken off the beautiful flowers. As he brings them to her, thorns dig into his hands. She lovingly extracts these, reminders of her roses, ... "and she knew it was love. It was one she could understand. He was showing his love and that's how he hurt his hands."

Sometime later, held close on her lap, the boy listened to her read stories from the bible. He saw a picture of Jesus and cried out, Momma, he's got some scars just like me. "And he knew it was love. It was one he could understand. He was showing His love and that's how He hurt His hands."

Grown up, the young man is conscripted into the military. His "number" is drawn, and he throws himself in front of a friend to shield him from gunfire. He gives his life, 

✠✠ a deed he had learned from the roses and from the cross. “And they knew it was love. It was one they could understand. He was showing his love, and that’s how he hurt his hands.”

Does the boy/man qualify for the word “glory” in the sense we are using? He had learned what love was and he gave it on the battlefield. It is a small story, with no stadiums of people to give applause. And yet, isn’t such love the very essence of human life? Jesus seems to say so in this Sunday’s Gospel: “I give you a new commandment that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”

This is a love we can understand. Jesus had learned what love is and he gave it without reserve on the cross. It hurt his hands. It took his life. The beauty of the pain and death he incurred for others is quietly filled with glory.

Therefore, can we love each other as he loved us?

We may hurt our hands. In glory.

During these Sundays of Easter, the liturgy has led us to reflect upon how the disciples came to faith in the Risen Lord, and how they came to terms with the future it opened up for them. Clarifying the message of faith they must bring to the Church of all ages, must have involved looking back upon the frightful drama that led to the Saviour’s resurrection, and coming to understand how a ‘crucified Christ’ could be proclaimed as ‘both the power and the wisdom of God’ (1 Corinthians 2). In today’s gospel reading we hear how the community inspired by the beloved disciple remembered the words of Jesus at the Last Supper as pointing the way towards understanding.



The drama of the passion had begun – Judas had left to carry through his decision to betray his Master – and Jesus makes an astounding declaration: ‘Now has the Son of Man been glorified’. Jesus declares himself to be the ‘Son of Man’ foretold in the Book of Daniel – the one who will establish God’s ‘everlasting rule’ (Daniel 7). We are helped to understand what the declaration of Jesus means, if we consider the basic meaning of ‘glory’ in the Scriptures. We instinctively associate the word with fame and acclaim; but the original meaning of the term is associated with weight or heaviness. God’s ‘glory’ is the incomparable density of God’s being. Jesus is saying that his passion is an expression of the divine mystery itself, in the depths of a lost world – through what he is now undertaking, he is giving expression to the incomparable greatness that is the life he shares with the Father. The Father’s response, Jesus continues, will be the Resurrection – the Father will ‘glorify’ him by taking him, in the humanity he shares with us, into the incomparable greatness of the Father ‘himself’. Paul expresses this Paschal Mystery in simpler terms: ‘he emptied himself even to accepting death on a cross. And for this God raised him high and gave him a name which is above all names’ (Philippians 2). But in what follows, our gospel reading leads us deeper into the mystery of God’s ‘glory’.

‘I give you a new commandment’, Jesus continues, ‘Love one another, just as I have loved you’. In the love that led him to lay down his life for us, Jesus gives expression to the ‘glory’, the incomparable mystery of all that he shares with the Father. God’s ‘glory’ is shown to the world – not in power and display – but in an act of selfless love that is the expression in our midst of a decision made from all eternity in the depths of the divine freedom. Making our own the ways of God, and making this ‘new commandment’ our rule of life, we must lead the world to a meeting with the mystery of God and all the blessings this meeting can bring. The vision of the second reading from the Book of Revelation tells of what may be hoped for, when the whole of creation is caught up in the ‘glory’ the Saviour has brought into the world. Meanwhile, the reading from Acts reminds us, the cross is the way to a sharing in God’s ‘glory’: the ‘hardships’ of life should not surprise us, as we make our way towards ‘the kingdom of God’.

WELCOME TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

On Saturday evening, the following will be baptized: **BEDE BRYCE; MACY TURK.** And on Sunday morning, the following will be baptized: **TAJ WHITTON; HUNTER O'CONNOR; KYE MORRIS.** Welcome to our Parish community.



Next Baptisms in our Parish will be during the weekend Masses on **16/17 June**. If you want your infant daughter or son baptized on 16/17 June, at least one parent needs to attend the Baptism Preparation Class which will be held at 7:15pm on **Thursday, 30 May**. Enrolment forms are obtainable from the Parish Office.

Baptism, the first sacrament of initiation, prepares us to celebrate the Eucharist. Baptisms are usually held on the third weekend of each month [except January and Lent], during either of the weekend Masses. *Please note, just for this year there will be no baptisms during October.* Baptism forms are obtainable from the Parish Office.

SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB

All are invited to a discussion on *Why Do We Have Scapegoats? Some Insights From René Girard*. The speaker is **Sr Susan Connelly**, a Sister of St Joseph who has been involved in education as a primary school teacher and principal. She also has taught Scripture in State schools full-time for ten years. Her involvement with the Timorese people has been extensive, mainly in cultural pursuits and justice advocacy. The people of West Papua are also of concern, as are asylum seekers. Susan has gained a PhD applying René Girard's insights on violence to Australia's relationship with East Timor. Venue: **Woonona Bulli RSL Club**, 455-459 Princes Highway, Woonona, **7:30pm–9:00pm on Tuesday, 28 May. All welcome!**

THE BOOK OF REVELATION



The Book of Revelation is an exhortation and admonition to Christians of the first century to stand firm in the faith and to avoid compromise with paganism, despite the threat of adversity and martyrdom; they are to await patiently the fulfilment of God's mighty promises. The triumph of God in the world of men and women remains a mystery, to be accepted in faith and longed for in hope. It is a triumph that unfolded in the history of Jesus of Nazareth and continues to unfold in the history of the individual Christian who follows the way of the cross, even, if necessary, to a martyr's death. Though the perspective is eschatological—ultimate salvation and victory are said to take place at the end of the present age when Christ will come in glory at the parousia [second coming of Christ]—the book presents the decisive struggle of Christ and his followers against Satan and his cohorts as already over. Christ's overwhelming defeat of the kingdom of Satan ushered in the everlasting reign of God. Even the forces of evil unwittingly carry out the divine plan, for God is the sovereign Lord of history. The Book of Revelation had its origin in a time of crisis, but it remains valid and meaningful for Christians of all time. In the face of apparently insuperable evil, either from within or from without, all Christians are called to trust in Jesus' promise, "Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). *[more next week]*

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK AND BEYOND
 Friday 24 May Our Lady Help of Christians
 Weekend 25/26 May Propagation of the Faith Appeal



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

5,728 rescues performed since 1 July 18 – last week **5,688**

SOCIAL JUSTICE

“God’s faithful people and the Church’s mission continue to suffer greatly as a result of abuses of power and conscience and sexual abuse, and the poor way that they were handled, as well as the pain of seeing an episcopate lacking in unity and concentrated more on pointing fingers than on seeking paths of reconciliation. This situation forces us to look to what is essential and to rid ourselves of all that stands in the way of a clear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. What is being asked of us today is a new presence in the world, conformed to the cross of Christ, one that takes concrete shape in service to the men and women of our time.”
 – Pope Francis, 1 January 2019

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL Next Weekend

Pauline-Marie Jaricot founded the Society for the Propagation of the Faith (the largest Society of Catholic Mission) in 1822 in Lyon, France. Born in 1799 to a wealthy family, Pauline at 18 years old was young, rich and beautiful. She was said to have a quick temper and an even quicker tongue – but a great deal of love in her heart. While growing up, Pauline was well aware of the deprivation and trouble in France and other countries around the world. She wanted to raise money for the ‘missions’ in far off places, so every Friday she went down to the factories to collect money from the workers and servants. *Next weekend in our Parish there will be a special collection for the ‘Missions’ – the Propagation of the Faith Appeal.*

THIS Sunday’s Readings *on our website*

Fifth Sunday of Easter • Year C
 1st Reading Acts 14:21-27
 2nd Reading Revelation 21:1-5
 Gospel John 13:31-35

NEXT Sunday’s Readings *on our website*

Sixth Sunday of Easter • Year C
 1st Reading Acts 15:1-2,22-29
 2nd Reading Revelation 21:10-14,16-17,20
 Gospel John 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

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