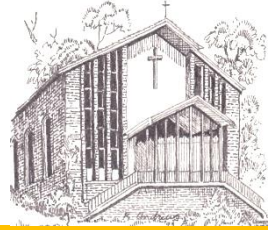




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



1 / 2 JUNE 2019

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD ✦ YEAR C
THE 43RD DAY OF THE 50 DAYS OF EASTER

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

A recent homily might shed some light on the Ascension. The school year was ending. The University would soon be vacant. A school is like a small town, with patterns of life, friends, cohorts, revolving relationships, all in an irregularly regular rhythm of life.

The fabric of school life is like the cushion behind your back that is starting to come to pieces, disbursing its fillings abroad. School life and presence seems to do the same thing. It comes to pieces.

The presider in the homily said with a beautiful poignancy how much he missed the students when they scattered. You could hear it in his voice: a network of life flew away each year. Empty halls and rooms; broad and unnaturally undisturbed yards of grass.

This is how the disciples felt, and especially the women who had loved Jesus so well. His suffering was the worst part, but then suddenly Jesus was alive again in their midst. He had truly died, and now he truly was back, with the real nail-holes still in his body. If you looked closely, though, or—just think of it—if you if you put your hand into his wounds as Thomas was invited to, you would have noticed that these wounds were somehow different. They had been burnished, had become beautiful, had been made lovely by love.

Jesus now was more real than before.

But he could not stay here as he probably wanted to. He had already travelled out of this world, through the narrow passageway of death. Out of sheer love he had given everything to the Father and now he was taking humanity with him to the heart of that dynamic, swirling, Trinitarian circle of love from which he had come in the first place. He had lingered after the Resurrection only in order to tell us about it, to comfort us, to ease the loss.

This is confusing. Which was it? Take us with him to the Trinity, or somehow let his presence stay with us after he went?

Both.

He told them to wait for “the promise of the Father” (First Reading) rather than departing from Jerusalem. They were not going to be abandoned but were called. In a wonderful metaphor, Paul prays, “With the eyes of your heart enlightened, may you know what is the hope to which he has called you” (Second Reading).

Do you understand how Jesus could leave them but still be with them? The Gospel from the Seventh Sunday of Easter puts it in the following way, in Jesus' words to God 

He Is Really Gone?



✠✠ the Father: “I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.” (John 17:26)

Jesus was to be within us. His Spirit was going to be within you and me, the fullest possible presence of Christ, the very love with which the Father loved Jesus! How could this happen?

Answer: the Trinity. Because of the immense act of modest love that was the resurrection. Loss and absence turned into real, loving presence. Our lives can now be a quiet immersion in the Trinitarian reality of Christ, which is the Holy Spirit.

In today’s liturgy we have two readings from Luke, the conclusion of his gospel, and the opening passage of the Acts of the Apostles. Comparing them can give us an insight into how Luke tells the story of the origins of our faith. In the concluding passage of the gospel, Jesus, on the evening of his resurrection day, ‘withdraws’ from the eleven and their fellow disciples, and ‘is carried up to heaven’. John’s gospel paints a similar picture – the Risen Lord, we recall, tells Mary Magdalene on the morning of his resurrection, ‘Do not cling to me, because I have not yet ascended to my Father’. In fact, we do not find in any of the gospels – Luke’s included – the sequence in Acts with which we are so familiar: Resurrection; Ascension (after 40 days); Pentecost (after 50 days).

Skilful teacher that he is, Luke wants, in these two accounts, to spell out for his readers different aspects of the Saviour’s Paschal Mystery. The gospel account is, before all else, an affirmation of the faith and worship given by the apostles to the Risen Lord: brother of us all in his wounded humanity, whose sufferings are to be recognised as according to the preordained plan of God, sending the disciples to give witness to the whole world, promising his Spirit, blessing them and receiving their worship, now gone to the Father and no longer with them as before.

The gospel is the story of the Saviour. Luke’s second volume, Acts of the Apostles is the story of the Church’s beginnings. So, Luke tells this second story in a way that emphasises the sure foundations of the Church’s faith – what the disciples learned from the Risen Lord, who ‘for forty days, continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God’. As we have seen in the past weeks, all the gospels imply this learning process, making reference to the initial doubts and hesitations of the disciples in their encounters with Christ after his resurrection. Of course, Luke may have his own factual basis for his account – there was certainly a large influx of pilgrims to Jerusalem on the feast of Pentecost, 50 days after the Passover; on the other hand, as we know, 40 is used by biblical writers, as a round number. Through the gift of the Christ’s own Spirit at Pentecost this foundation laid by the Saviour will shape the Church’s mission: ‘not many days from now you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit’. Luke, in Acts, tells the story of the early Church as the work of the Holy Spirit.

Luke’s presentation of the Ascension brings out something else of great moment in the life of the pilgrim Church. ‘I am going away’, Jesus had said to the disciples more than once. Gone to the right hand of the Father he will be present in a new and more intimate way: ‘I am with you always; yes, to the end of time’ (Matthew 28). In one of his homilies Pope Leo the Great wrote: ‘The visible presence of our Redeemer passed over into the sacraments. For, in a mysterious way, once he had returned to the glory of his Father’s majesty, the Son of Man began to be more present’.



PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL

Thank you for supporting this year's Catholic Mission Church Appeal through your kind gifts and prayers, and for reaching out to children and communities in need in Ghana and throughout the world.

Your generosity makes it possible for programs such as the Nazareth Home for God's Children to provide love and support for children rescued from life-threatening situations. Thank you also to so many parishioners who have become monthly giving partners through our Ghana Mission Partners Program.

For more information about the work of Catholic Mission or the Extraordinary Missionary Month in October, please contact our friendly team at the freecall ☎️ **1800 257 296** catholicmission.org.au/Ghana or at catholicmission.org.au/about-us/contact



KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS CHARITIES DINNER

The Knights of the Southern Cross Annual Charities Dinner will be held on Saturday, 22 June at 7:00pm at the Thirroul Railway Institute Hall. Guest speaker, Fr Patrick Vaughan, "*The Spiritual Benefits of Pilgrimage*". Tickets \$35. Paul Tuckerman 4267 2535. BYO.

ARE YOU AVAILABLE FOR THE NEXT ROSTER?

Thank you to all who volunteer for the many parish ministries: AV Operators; Leaders of Children's Liturgy; Cleaning; Communion to Coledale Hospital; Communion Ministers; Counters; Flowers; Laundry; Morning Tea; Mowing; Readers and Safety Officers!

Your ministry in our Parish is truly appreciated and **essential**. Thank you!

If you would like to join any of the rosters to help out, **please call or email the Parish Office this week**. We especially need more **AV Operators** (who operate the computer) and **Safety Officers** (who greet people when they arrive and organize the collections).

The current roster finishes on 14 July, and the next roster period goes from **20 July until 3 November**. If you are unavailable during that period, please contact your **Roster Coordinator** — *not the Parish Office* — to let your Roster Coordinator know your availability.



TRANSPORT HERITAGE EXPO 2019

TRANSPORT HAPPENINGS

On the Queen's Birthday long weekend, Saturday, 8 June to Monday, 10 June, the annual Transport Heritage Expo is held: steam train rides; the Great Train Race; vintage electric train rides; railmotor rides; vintage bus rides; heritage displays ... all at Central Station ... and there's more, so check out the website: <https://www.transportheritageexpo.com/>

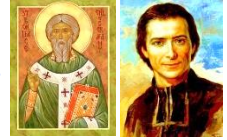
On Monday, 27 May, the first full day of operation of the new Metro train to north west Sydney, about 21,000 people hopped on or off single-deck metro trains between the start of services at 4:45am and 10am. For one commuter from Kellyville to North Sydney, the Metro train took 3 minutes longer than his usual driving the route ... *and about \$100 cheaper per week*. For some other commuters the new train took an hour off their journey time.

VIVID SYDNEY is where art, technology and commerce intersect. Three weeks of game changing ideas and seminars, amazing music and light sculptures that transform the city, **24 May to 15 June every night 6pm to 11pm**. www.vividsydney.com

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK AND BEYOND



Monday	3 Jun	St Charles Lwanga and companions, martyrs
Tuesday	4 Jun	Confirmation Information Evening for Parents Enrolments for Confirmation 2019 are now CLOSED
Wednesday	5 Jun	St Boniface, bishop, martyr
Thursday	6 Jun	St Marcellin Champagnat, religious
Friday	7 Jun	Anointing of the Sick during 9:30am Mass



SOCIAL JUSTICE

“The Church, in spreading the message of charity and justice of the Gospel, cannot remain silent in the face of injustice and suffering. Many encounters have confirmed to me that the Gospel is not a utopia but a real hope, even for the economy: God does not abandon his creatures... God invites them to not grow tired of collaborating with everyone for the common good. I cannot fail to denounce with the Gospel the personal and social sins committed against God and against the neighbour in the name of the god of money and of power. First as a simple Christian, then as a religious and a priest, then as a pope, I believe that social and economic issues cannot be foreign to the message of the Gospel. Economy is a vital component for every society, it determines in a good part the quality of life and even of dying, contributes to making human existence worthy or unworthy. Therefore, it occupies an important place in the reflection of the Church, which looks at man and woman as people called to collaborate with God’s plan also through the work, production, distribution and consumption of goods and services. I have seen the paradox of a globalized economy which could feed and house all the inhabitants of our common home, but instead concentrates the wealth in the hands of only a few people.” – Pope Francis, 31 January 2018

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

THIS Sunday’s Readings *on our website*

Ascension of the Lord • Year C

1st Reading	Acts 1:1-11
2nd Reading	Ephesians 1:17-23
Gospel	Luke 24:46-53

NEXT Sunday’s Readings *on our website*

Pentecost Sunday • Year C

1st Reading	Acts 2:1-11
2nd Reading	Romans 8:8-17
Gospel	John 14:15-16,23-26

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
Anointing of the Sick	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
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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