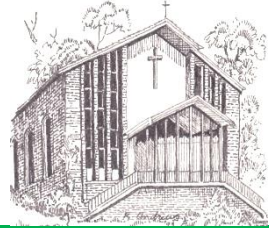




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



31 AUGUST / 1 SEPTEMBER 2019
22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR C
HAPPY FATHERS DAY

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Let Love Live

It is said that we are made in the image and likeness of God. Sometimes this doesn't seem very likely.

Look at the "images and likenesses" that can settle into our hearts. Think about marriage, that institution which cradles the future of—not just of its delicate offspring—but also of the whole society, and which has become just a temporary arrangement, "just for the time being," followed by divorce.

And wouldn't you agree that sexual mores in the Western world are in the process of firmly and finally divorcing themselves from any consideration of commitment, responsibility and even care?

Aren't we tempted to addict ourselves to convenience, entertainment, internet, drinks, drugs, pleasures, pornography and so on?

And how about the increasing number of very well-known people—even priests and even bishops—who have wrecked the lives of children, some well-knowns still reaping pleasure from youths while still professing to be dedicated to the one who said "there is no greater love than to give up your life for your friend"?

Sure, the good has to be factored in as well. But with so much powerful evil stirred into the mix, what can be left of the image of God in human beings?

The poet E E Cummings wrote a particularly strong poem that includes the following lines: "King Christ, this world is all a-leak, and life preservers there are none, and waves that only he can walk who dares to call himself a man."

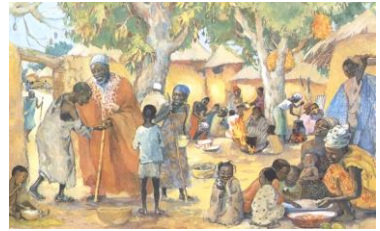
By "man," Cummings means "human being," of course, and the one he refers to in this poem did in fact become a man, one named Jesus. He let his "boat" be rocked and wrecked and finally sunk. Then he arose and walked and continues to walk the waves of our rough, drowning world.

He is a man in the image and likeness of God.

Within himself, in the place where it matters most, Jesus has complete openness to love. He lets it come in and he lets it go out to others.

Do any of us dare to unite with the image of such a human being? Deep within our own selves, in imitation of Jesus, are we capable of making room for such love? Can love-incarnate come to life in us if we gradually allow it to?

Yes.



Love-incarnate wants to unite with us in the deep image and likeness of God. You and I have been created in it. This is the “image and likeness” we are made for. If we addict ourselves instead, if we “exalt” ourselves, as Jesus puts it in the Gospel, we will wrap our souls in layer after layer of fraud. We will try to become our possessions, we will try to become what other people think of us, what culture manipulates us to be.

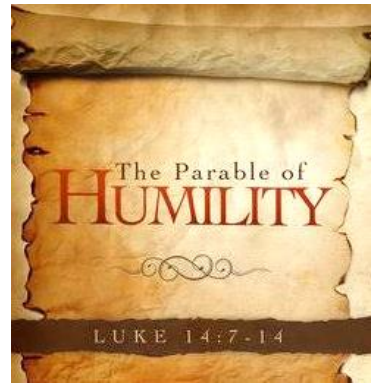
But our tiny boats of life actually are ship-worthy after all. If only we do not think they are ocean liners, able to grab whatever we want, we will “perform our tasks with humility” (first reading); we will allow God to love us and live in us.

And then we will be able to make a difference in the world. We will become the image and likeness of God’s tolerance shining forth.

Jesus was sometimes invited to a meal by those who were curious to hear him. They were sometimes unfriendly to him we know from the gospel accounts. But most of his hosts were probably motivated by curiosity to hear what this teacher who was making such a stir had to say. This reconstruction of one such meal by Luke shows the Saviour’s skills as a teacher; and the kind of challenge he brought to those who were leaders in the community. Those at table with him are ‘watching him closely’; he knows that he is expected to entertain them with his table talk.

He uses as his starting point what has been taking place as the guests assembled. To our modern ears, it all seems rather stilted; but the scene described by Jesus was familiar to his listeners, and taken for granted by them, as the customary way to behave in a culture with rules of status and precedence that were very complex – determined by such things as age, learning, public standing and wealth. This situation provides the material of a parable that invites his listeners to see beyond these old conventions. He who is happy to make himself the servant of all and urges his followers to do the same knows how important the openness and generosity of true humility will be in the life of his disciples when his mission has been accomplished in Jerusalem – for ‘God opposes the proud but gives his blessings to the humble’ (James 4:6). There is a lesson here for every Christian community: the quality of the relationships that make up a community will be the measure of the blessings they receive, and the effectiveness of their missionary outreach.

But Jesus has a deeper lesson to give. He uses the rapport he has established with his audience to speak to them of the revolutionary ways of God, the main burden of his preaching. ‘When someone invites you to a wedding feast’, he begins – not wanting to offend them by making too obvious reference to the behaviour he has observed; but also, probably, pointing to the messianic theme he will take up later, after one of the guests has commented, ‘Blessed is anyone who will share the meal in the kingdom of God’. His reference to seeking the ‘place of honour’ is an echo of his criticism of the Pharisees for liking ‘to take the seats of honour at the synagogue’ (Luke 11:43). His story of ‘invited guests’ probably also challenges the presumption of the ‘leading Pharisees’ that their strict observance marked them out as the ‘elect’, or chosen ones, of God, certain to take part in the messianic feast. This is backed up by the parable to which we have made reference that follows on from today’s reading. It tells of the guests who do not accept their invitation to the banquet, and are replaced by ‘the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame’. In today’s reading, Jesus has already startled his listeners by saying that God will bless those who invite these very ones to their table. These interpreters of the Law, he knows, forbade entrance to the temple to the lame and the blind.



FIRST PENANCE AND FIRST COMMUNION

The Sacraments of First Penance and Communion are celebrated when a child is in Year 2 or seven years old (or older). First Communion is given to children who have reached the age of reason, which is accepted as seven years old, that is, when a child is in Year 2 [Canons 913, 914]. Prior to receiving First Communion, children are to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance [Reconciliation]. In order to prepare for these Sacraments, there is a preparation program consisting of the following:

- **Enrolments close on Tuesday, 10 September 2019**
 - Enrolment Forms for 2019 may be downloaded from the **Parish website**
- **Parent Meeting is on Tuesday, 8 October at 7:30pm** [*NOT 15 October*]
... if you cannot make the meeting on 8 October, contact the Parish Office ASAP.
- Penance: Classes 1 and 2 are on Tuesdays, 22 and 29 October, 3:45pm to 5pm
- Sacrament of Penance is on Wednesday, 30 October at 7:00pm
- Eucharist: Classes 3 and 4 are on Tuesdays, 12 and 19 November, 3:45pm to 5pm
- First Communion is celebrated at either of the weekend Masses on ...
 - 30 November or 1 December ... or
 - 7/8 December ... or ... on any later weekend

1 SEPTEMBER IS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CREATION

This day marks the beginning of the Season of Creation which runs from **1 September** through to **4 October**. It is an opportunity for Christians around the world to celebrate creation through prayer and action. As Pope Francis has said, “The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation offers to individual believers and to the community a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation to be custodians of creation.”

KEN IS AWAY MONDAY TO THURSDAY

The annual Conference of the Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand is being held at Parramatta from Monday, 2 September to Thursday, 5 September. Ken will be attending this Conference

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

NILS: VINNIES NO INTEREST LOAN SCHEME

Borrow up to \$1,500 for essential goods and services. Repay only what you borrow over 12 to 18 months. Vinnies No Interest Loans provide individuals and families on low income access to safe, fair and affordable lending. Once a loan application is approved, affordable repayments are set up over the course of 12 to 18 months. There are no credit checks. Vinnies No Interest Loans are based on trust and respect. If you are interested or know someone who would be ... contact the Vinnies Corrimal Conference for details and applications ... ☎ 4283 3730 or visit www.vinnies.org.au/NILS

LITURGY CORNER

During the Eucharistic Prayer, when the priest holds up the consecrated Bread and Wine, the Body and Blood of Christ, he holds them up in order to show them to the assembly, so you can **look** and **adore** – not so that you bow your head. Similarly, just before Communion ... “Behold the Lamb of God ...”: **BEHOLD** ... means “**look**” — don’t bow your head.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Monday to Thursday Ken at the Canon Law Conference
Tuesday 3 Sep St Gregory the Great, pope, doctor
Friday 6 Sep Anointing of the Sick during 9:30am Mass
Weekend 14/15 Sep Bishop's Annual Appeal in support of ministries
Weekend 21/22 Sep Samaritan's Purse: Christmas boxes for children



O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife.

Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling-block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn away the tempter's power.

God, make the door of this house the gateway to thine eternal kingdom.

BLESSING OF FATHERS

May the God of strength be with you, holding you in strong-fingered hands. May you be a strength to those whose hands you hold. May the God of gentleness be with you, caressing you with sunlight, rain and wind. May God's tenderness shine through you to warm all who are hurt and lonely. May the God of mercy be with you forgiving you, beckoning you, encouraging you. May your readiness to forgive calm the fears, deepen the trust of those who hurt you. May the God

of wonder be with you delighting you, enchanting your senses, filling your heart, giving you wide-open eyes for seeing the splendour in the humble and the majestic. May you open the eyes and hands and hearts of the blind and the deaf and the insensitive. May the God of wisdom and love be with you lighting within you the fires of faith and hope. May your children honour you always with a spirit of profound respect and friendship. **Happy Fathers Day to all fathers and grandfathers ...**

THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C
1st Reading Sirach 3:17-20,28-29
2nd Reading Hebrews 12:18-19,22-24
Gospel Luke 14:1,7-14

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C
1st Reading Wisdom 9:13-18
2nd Reading Philemon 9-10,12-17
Gospel Luke 14:25-33

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

9:00am to 3:30pm Magda Pires
10:00am to 3:00pm Maureen Franciskovic