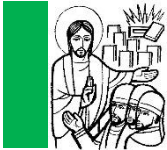




# Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



**9 / 10 NOVEMBER 2019**  
**32<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR C**  
**November: we remember the deceased**

## **THIS WEEK'S READINGS**

## *Love After Death*

Death is hard to talk about. But life after death is even harder. Since both are in this week's readings, let's try it.

Death brings many images and experiences to mind. Often much suffering accompanies them.

People who have been with a fair number of people as they died, to them each time the event has seemed miraculous. Someone we had known and spoken with, someone whose every movement came from a mysterious source of life within them, burning bright as a candle in darkness, that someone has vanished. The body is the same one we knew before. The mouth is the same one that talked and laughed. But in the blink of my eye, the individual is gone.



"Where did she go?" "Where did he go?"

But even that way of talking is inaccurate. We "go" by means of walking, using our arms and legs, and thus changing locations. In death "going somewhere" is deceptive. It is accomplished by cessation of all motion whatsoever. Any "going" has to be at a much, much deeper level.

Only the thing called "hope" can tell us where these people go. One of the brothers in the first reading says it this way: "One cannot but choose to die at the hands of humans and to cherish the hope God gives of being raised by him."

Hope, not surety.

And we have only to glance at the crucifixion to see that Jesus chose to die this way. He knew his Abba so well that he kept hope alive even when everything screamed against it. God is God of life, the Gospel says; "to him all are alive," even the dead.

Why are they alive? Because God keeps love.

What?

Yes. Real love is like a piece of rich earth that nurtures great trees. Roots dig deep down in this earth for nourishment and moisture. The green selves grow out of this earth. And notice something obvious: the earth does not grow out of them! Life grows out of love, not vice versa. Their life and our lives are rooted in the rich loam of love.

It is difficult to say the last sentence correctly. Let me try again. Love is a force much deeper than life. When life ceases, love stays. It becomes the home, the embracing arms that enfold us. Love is the substance; life is the outgrowth.

So, the "place" dead persons go, leaving their bodies behind, is into the heart of love, into the arms of God who is love.



Here is how the poet Hopkins put it: “Hither then, last or first, to hero of Calvary, Christ’s feet—never ask if meaning it, wanting it, warned of it—men go.” – Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ, “*The Wreck of the Deutschland*”.

Christ’s feet are where you and I will be, honouring the perfect fullness of love he has achieved. Oh yes, we have to release our tight grip on the treasures we have hoarded, things we have chosen instead of love.

If we have a hard time “meaning it and wanting it” during our lives, even so we are still folded into the luxuriant soil of God’s love. Of course, sometimes we refuse it, and then our roots go dry in the sun. Yet love forgives and invites us and helps us back.

It is hard to talk about. But worth it.

Jesus has completed his journey. Having arrived in Jerusalem, he teaches boldly in the Temple, aware that his enemies, ‘the chief priests and the scribes, with leading citizens’ want to ‘do away with him’ (Luke 19:47). At this point, Luke includes several incidents of ugly confrontation. That chosen for today’s gospel reading – concerned with resurrection – has intimations of the tragic drama that lies ahead. Jesus is confronted by ‘some Sadducees’, members of a conservative priestly establishment, who saw popular movements as a threat to their interests. Seeing Jesus as a dangerous troublemaker, they set out to discredit him in the eyes of the people by making a fool of him. The Sadducees rejected the belief in a future resurrection that had emerged in the final period of Old Testament times – as unfaithful to the original traditions of God’s people. The Old Testament was a time of preparation, a time in which the awareness that made it possible to recognise God’s decisive intervention in creation – in the life, death and resurrection of our Saviour – developed gradually. The faith of the Old Testament engendered immense hopes; and with the passing of time these hopes cast a new light on the full implications of the astounding intimacy to which the God of the covenant called his people, and the generosity of God’s great promises – so evident in the Psalms, the popular prayer songs that gave expression to Israel’s faith. The Sadducees, like many religious conservatives, were too shut in by their comfortable ways to be open to the blessings of an expanded faith – for their outlook, so identified with worldly benefits, a future life could only be a resumption of the affairs of this present life. If our faith and hope have not matured, we too can have very distorted and inadequate notions of what our eternal life with God will be. For this reason, the teaching of Jesus for the Sadducees, is worth pondering.



Jesus points out that there is a unity in God’s designs from the beginning. From the first, God has been the Lord of life, not of death. The unending life we will have, in God – the source and origin of all that we admire and hold dear – will certainly be a new existence, beyond all adequate imagining in this life. But this unimaginable fullness will also be the realisation of all the realistic hopes and longings we have ever known. Life in God will be, not the negation, but the affirmation of all that makes us human – a full human existence, in a new heaven and a new earth. In the Risen Lord, and his teaching concerning the life-giving ‘reign’ of God, we catch a precious glimpse of what lies ahead of us.

Devoted spouses will be prompted to ask how what Jesus says affects their marriage union. Properly understood, what Jesus affirms is that they will have all the joy of their most special intimacy, and infinitely more – the immediacy to the reality and life of God that will shape our very existence will bring an intuitive presence in love to all who share in God’s life, a presence that includes and goes far beyond the benefits of the union with their beloved they have known in their married life.

## CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE 1600s, 2019

The law locks up the man or woman who steals the goose from the common, but leaves the greater villain loose who steals the common from the goose. — Anon. 17<sup>th</sup> century

“Our planet is a gift of God, but we also know that we are living the urgency to act in the face of an unprecedented socio-environmental crisis. To respond adequately we need an ecological conversion. Therefore, as Amazonian Church, faced with increasing aggression to our biome, threatened with its disappearance with tremendous consequences for our planet, we set off inspired by the proposal of an integral ecology. We acknowledge the wounds caused by the human being in our territory; we want to learn from our brothers and sisters of the native peoples, in a dialogue of knowledge, the challenge to give new answers, seeking models of just and solidary development. We want to look after our ‘common home’ in Amazonia and we propose new ways to do so.” — Amazon Synod #65

## PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 – DISCERNMENT STAGE

This is a process of communal discernment in which we pray, reflect, share, think nationally, think locally and respond with proposals for action will take place across three of the Northern Suburbs Parishes over the next few months. You are invited to read about the national themes for discernment, prayerfully contemplate them, and then come to one or more of the sessions across our parishes. Each session has a cut-off date for registrations to allow the Animators time to distribute materials and prepare.

Session times and dates are below. How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is ☩:

	☩ 2:00pm ☩	☩ 7:30pm ☩	at	☩ Register by ☩
prayerful and Eucharistic	Saturday, 23 Nov	Monday, 25 Nov	Bulli	Sunday, 10 Nov
joyful, hope-filled, servant	Saturday, 30 Nov	Monday, 2 Dec	Thirroul	Sunday, 17 Nov

**Sign-up sheets are in the church ... sign up to make practical suggestions.**

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE MEETING

Next Tuesday, 12 November, commencing at 11:00am in the McCarthy Centre, our guest will be Ayden speaking about his visit to Nepal. Light luncheon to follow. All welcome! Monthly meeting 1:30pm.

## BOOK OF THE DEAD

All during November we remember especially those who have died: our relatives, friends and those who have no one to pray for them. If you would like the name of someone who has died placed in the Book of the Dead, there are special forms available next to the baptism font in the church. Please complete them and put them on any of the collection baskets and the name will be added after November. May they rest in peace.

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

## NATIONAL PRAYER CAMPAIGN FOR THE GIFT OF RAIN

The faithful across Australia are encouraged to pray for the gift of rain, for people affected by the drought and to provide practical support, where possible. The Australian bishops note that large parts of the country are directly affected by the drought, but the impact is national—and so should the response be national. For access to prayer resources and links to donate to the Diocese of Bathurst Drought Appeal and the Vinnies NSW Drought Appeal, visit: [www.catholic.org.au/drought](http://www.catholic.org.au/drought)

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Monday 11 Nov 10:30am Remembrance Day Service at Thirroul Cenotaph  
St Martin of Tours, bishop  
Tuesday 12 Nov 3:45pm Class #1 for First Communion  
St Josaphat, bishop, martyr

## SWIM BETWEEN THE FLAGS

Our surfing season runs until 26 April 2020! **Please be safe on our beaches and waterways.** So far, since 1 July, there have already been **476** rescues – that's **142** since last week! Please **be safe** on our beaches: **FLAG SWIM FLAG**



## PRAYER FOR RAIN AND THOSE AFFECTED

Eternal God, in wisdom and love you created our earth to sustain us and give us life. We turn to you now in faith, hope and love, asking you to look with favour on our drought-stricken land, on our starving animals, on our failing crops. Strengthen, sustain and give new heart to our farmers and to all who are affected by drought; be with those who support them. In your loving providence, send abundant rain and restore our parched earth. Father of all compassion, hear our prayer through Jesus Christ your Son, in whom the promise of new life has dawned, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life: Renew your faithful people. Renew the face of the earth. Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Mary, help of Christians – Pray for us. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – Pray for us.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL will take place on 30 November, 1 December – the same weekend First Communions begin – and 7 and 8 December. Thank you for your anticipated generosity, as usual.

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

32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C  
1<sup>st</sup> Reading 2 Maccabees 7:1-2,9-14  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 2 Thessalonians 2:16–3:5  
Gospel Luke 20:27-38

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

33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C  
1<sup>st</sup> Reading Malachi 3:19-20  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12  
Gospel Luke 21:5-19

### 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](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



[www.thirroulcatholic.org.au](http://www.thirroulcatholic.org.au)

Parish School of St Michael 📞 4267 2560