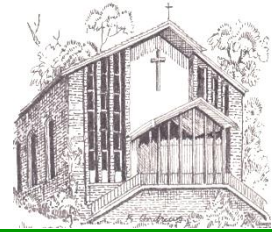


# Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



**15–16 JANUARY 2020**  
**6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ❖ YEAR A**  
**‘Welcome back’ to our Weekly Parish Bulletin**

## **THIS WEEK’S READINGS**

## *Fulfilling the Law*

In the Gospel Reading, Christ says that he has not come to do away with the law but to fulfil the law. In fact, no one will get into heaven unless their righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the law-observing scribes and the Pharisees.

The scribes and Pharisees thought that murderers and adulterers are shut out of heaven. As Christ explains it, simply having hatred or lust in your heart is enough to shut you out of heaven.

So, Christ’s saying is perplexing, isn’t it? Isn’t the law of the old covenant replaced by the new covenant of grace? What does Christ mean when he says that he has come to fulfil the law? What happened to salvation by faith and not by works?

It’s troubling, as well as perplexing. Isn’t the burden of guilt for us heavy enough without Christ’s telling us that we will be excluded from heaven unless our righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees? The burden of the Law was great enough, wasn’t it? What happened to Christ’s saying, “Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28)?



But think about heaven. Those in heaven have eternal – everlasting – life. What would that eternal life be like if Christ’s saying were false?

If it were false, a person who hated their brother or sister, or lusted after someone else’s wife or husband could still have eternal life in heaven. And now think about living forever in the psychic pain of surreptitious hatred or secret lust. How could anyone with such a psyche be in heaven? Anywhere such a person goes ceases to be heaven, just because they are there. Their own unrighteousness – improper relationships – will make them miserable. They carry the absence of heaven in their unrighteous heart.

And that is why no one can enter into heaven whose righteousness – right relationships – do not exceed the righteousness – right relationships – mandated in the law.

This is a very heavy burden indeed. What could anyone do to carry it?

The solution is to listen when Christ says, “Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” The rest we want and the righteousness we need in order to get that rest comes to us only when we come to Christ.



✠✠ In today's long gospel reading we continue the 'Sermon on the Mount'. As we have seen, in this discourse Matthew gathers fundamental teachings of Jesus which constitute a charter for the 'Kingdom'. Since Matthew's gospel was written for a community of Jewish converts, it is not surprising that this charter includes teaching concerning the attitude of Jesus to the traditions of old Israel. Understanding this teaching is important for Christians of later generations if we are to understand how we, as the new people of God, are related to the old Israel, and how we should understand the scriptures of the Old Testament.



During his earthly life, Jesus was a faithful observer of Old Testament customs – though he was critical of the narrow interpretation given them by the leaders of the Jewish people. Clearly, the challenge he brought to the scribes and Pharisees led to confrontations in which he made it clear that he did not seek an abolition of the traditions of old Israel: his words, 'not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the Law' were spoken, no doubt, in such a debate. But the words which follow – 'until all is accomplished' – help us to understand what he meant when he declared, 'Do not think I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets (i.e. the Old Testament scriptures and the traditions they fostered), I have come not to abolish but to fulfil.'

The Old Testament was an expression of the Word of God, but it was an expression that was to give way to the absolutely final expression of the divine Word, in the life, death and resurrection of the one who was the divine Word Incarnate. The Old Testament gave witness to the eternal truth of God and God's designs for humanity, but it was only a witness in hints and shadows, giving rise to boundless expectations concerning the future. These expectations were fulfilled in Jesus Christ; but as Paul tells us in the second reading, this fulfilment was to be a stumbling block to those whose hopes were shaped by expectations of an earthly triumph of God's people – God's final self-expressions in the Saviour's Paschal Mystery was something greater, a 'hidden wisdom that God predestined to be our glory before the ages began'. The New Law, that 'completes' and 'achieves the purpose' of the Old Testament's hints and shadows, must, of course, be promulgated by the divine Lawgiver himself. Jesus intimates this in the remarkable series of instructions he gives to his followers. Referring to the divine commands of the Old Law ('you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times') he goes on to declare, as a Lawgiver of the same authority, 'But I say to you'. The first Christians loved the Old Testament – its hints and shadows gave them a fuller understanding of what God did for the world in Christ.

## SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB – TUESDAY, 25 FEB

Spirituality in the Pub Wollongong invites you to a discussion on: *The Diocese of Wollongong – Then and Now*. Speaker: Bishop Brian G Mascord.

Venue: Woonona Bulli RSL Club, Tuesday, 25 February 2020, 7:30pm–9:00pm. **All welcome.** Please come and join in the conversation!



## PALMS NEEDED FOR BURNING FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Please bring in your palms from last year's Palm Sunday. They are needed by the weekend of 22/23 February. Drop them into the church [box in front of the altar] or to the Parish Office. They will be burned after 5:30pm Mass on Pancake Tuesday, 25 February.

## USED STAMPS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Please bring in any used stamps and put them in the small box just inside the sacristy.

## BAPTISMS – WELCOME TO ELLE, EWAN AND MILES

Welcome to **ELLE BRADLEY** baptized in our Parish this Saturday evening, and, on Sunday, welcome to **EWAN HARVEY** and **MILES SAMMUT-ALESSI**. Welcome to their family and friends!



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 week-

end Masses. Baptism enrolment forms are obtainable from the Parish Office.

Next baptisms in our Parish will be during the Mass on **Easter Sunday, 12 April 2020**, and then on **18/19 April**. If you want your infant daughter or son baptized during April, at least one parent needs to attend the Baptism Preparation Class which will be held at 7:15pm on **Thursday, 27 February** or **Thursday, 26 March**. Enrolment forms are obtainable from the Parish Office.

## VINNIES NSW BUSHFIRE APPEAL

**Thanks to you for your generosity over the past months for the Vinnies NSW Bushfire Appeal.** There will be ongoing help needed for many people over a long time.

Your gifts were as follows:

	through Parish	through Vinnies
Christmas Masses Collection 2018	\$5,000	
Vinnies Christmas Appeal 2019		\$8,100
Christmas Masses Collection 2019	\$6,379	
Further Donations to Vinnies directly		\$2,373
Further Donations through the Parish	\$2,320	
Local Coffee Shops Fundraiser *		\$8,670
Totals	\$13,699	\$19,243

**Grand Total**

**\$32,942**

\* The local coffee shops fundraiser decided to give half the proceeds to the Vinnies NSW Bushfire Appeal and half to another charity for the bushfire victims.

Vinnies are distributing money and goods to people, especially to those who have had their homes or property destroyed: \$1,000 immediately, then another \$3,000 if needed, then ongoing assistance as is needed. Some members of Vinnies have travelled and others will travel to the bushfire affected areas to provide practical assistance to those in need.

**Thank you for your generosity, and to Vinnies for their ministry.**

## SIGN UP FOR LENTEN PRAYER GROUPS

Lent begins on Wednesday, 26 February. As usual, during Lent, small groups will gather throughout our Parish to follow the Diocese of Wollongong's 2020 Lenten resource. Lenten groups are a great way to meet other parishioners and to prepare for Easter. **Now** is the time to sign up to join one of the groups meeting in the evenings or on Thursday mornings. There are **FOUR** groups: Monday evenings; Tuesday evenings; Thursday mornings after 9am Mass; and Thursday evenings. **Sign-up sheets are in the church, or contact the Parish Office for details of the groups. Sign up this weekend.**



## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Monday to Thursday	Ken at the Tribunal meeting in Baulkham Hills Andrew will celebrate the Eucharist Tues–Thurs
Saturday 22 Feb	Feast of the Chair of St Peter 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Bishop Brian
Weekend 22/23 Feb	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A Bring in your palms from last year's Palm Sunday Collect your Project Compassion boxes or envelopes
Tuesday 25 Feb	Pancake Tuesday 5:30pm Mass followed by the burning of the palms 7:30pm Spirituality in the Pub with Bishop Brian Mascord
Wednesday 26 Feb	Ash Wednesday – the start of Lent 9:15am Mass and 7:00pm Mass
Thursday 27 Feb	7:15pm Baptism Preparation Meeting
Friday 28 Feb	9:30am Opening Mass for the School Year

## SWIM BETWEEN THE FLAGS

Please be safe on our beaches and waterways. So far, since 1 July 2019, there have already been **3,574** rescues – that's **2,483** since 20 Dec 19! *Please be safe on our beaches.* Dangerous surf at the moment. **FLAG SWIM FLAG**



## ASH WEDNESDAY: 26 FEBRUARY

There will be two Masses on Ash Wednesday, **9:15am** and **7:00pm**. At both Masses there will be the blessing and imposition of the Ashes. All are welcome. *If you know of anyone who is not able to be at the Masses on Ash Wednesday, and if they would like the Ashes, please bring a small container or foil to take some Ashes to them.* Project Compassion boxes or envelopes will be available from next weekend, 22/23 February.

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

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year **A**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Sirach 15:15-20  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 1 Corinthians 2:6-10  
 Gospel Matthew 5:17-37

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

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year **A**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 1 Corinthians 3:16-23  
 Gospel Matthew 5:38-48

### 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