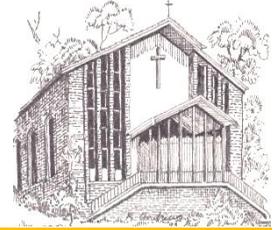




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



11 / 12 APRIL 2020

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION ❖ YEAR A

Rejoicing in New Life ❖ Happy Easter to all!

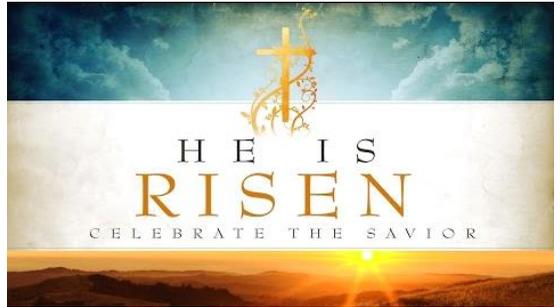
THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Easter Joy

The Psalm for Easter Sunday says, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Above all days, Easter is a day of joy.

But what is joy? The answer St Francis of Assisi gave to this question is famous. St Francis said to his Brother Leo, "When we come to St Mary of the Angels [our house], soaked by the rain and frozen by the cold, all soiled with mud and suffering from hunger, and we ring at the gate of the place and the brother porter comes and says angrily: 'Who are you?' And we say: 'We are two of your brothers.' And ... he does not open for us, but makes us stand outside in the snow and rain, cold and hungry, until night falls—then if we endure all those insults and cruel rebuffs patiently, ... oh, Brother Leo, ... perfect joy is there!"



Whatever we may think of St Francis' explanation of perfect joy, Easter reminds us that Francis' kind of joy is not the end of the story. At Easter, we celebrate the other kind of joy, the kind each of us longs for, when every tear is wiped away, and there is no sorrow anymore—no more suffering from weather or hunger or hurtful human beings. As we sing in a much-loved hymn at Easter there is only "the cross and passion past; dark night is done, bright morning come at last!"

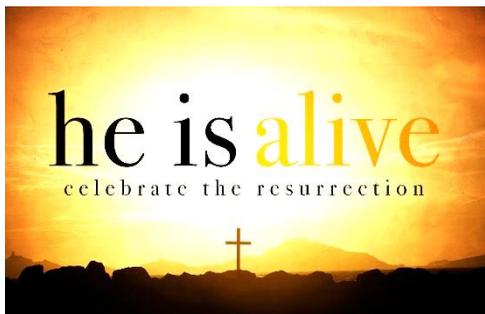
When we ourselves rise to meet our risen Lord, in that bright morning we will hear the Lord say, "Come away, beloved. The winter is past; the rain is gone, and the flowers return to the earth" (Song of Songs 2:10-12). In the loving union of that encounter, all the heartbrokenness of our lives will be redeemed. That will be perfect joy.

If all we had was the joy St Francis describes, our courage might fail us in this life. Easter celebrates now the perfect joy waiting for us when we and all creation are reborn with our resurrected Lord into the everlasting love of God. This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day for which we have been preparing since the beginning of Lent. Jesus believed that his Father would not abandon him but would take him from the cross into his eternal embrace. It was this faith that sustained him especially throughout his suffering and crucifixion, the terrible ordeal on which we have been accompanying him over the past few days. Today, with great joy, we celebrate the triumph of love over death. Jesus is alive –



✠✠ in a new way – and we know that what God did for Jesus, God will do for all of us who place our trust in God. God made everyone for love and the faith which we have caught from Jesus is that it is God's will that every person be saved from sin, that is to say, from everything that separates us from God's love and hardens us against receiving God's loving Spirit. It is God's will that everyone be saved from death to enjoy forever the communion of love for which we are created. All of this we celebrate on this day of Easter, the foremost feast of the Church's liturgical year. Every Sunday Mass is a reliving throughout the year of the Easter Mass that we are celebrating together today.



In today's readings we hear from Peter, Paul and John, three leaders in the early Christian community. In the First Reading, Peter witnesses to the fact that Jesus who died on the cross has made his living presence known to Peter and to others in the community. This experience was so convincing that Peter has emerged from the fear and despair that he experienced consequent upon Jesus' death, and we see him fearlessly reaching out to everyone to share with them what he has come to know. He knows that it is especially our sins that drag us down and we hear him assuring us that Jesus came to show us that God does not condemn us because of our sins. No, God overwhelms us with his love so that we can find the courage to leave sin and to commit ourselves to a life of love. The Resurrection of Jesus is the proof that Jesus was right and the guarantee that we have the Spirit of Jesus to continue sustaining us through the ups and downs of our lives, through our suffering and death. Since Jesus is raised into God's eternal embrace, we too will be raised with him.

In the Second Reading, Paul begs the people of Colossae not to get so caught up in the surface distractions of this life that they forget to raise their minds and hearts to heaven where Jesus is drawing us, through his grace, into the real love for which our hearts long. Paul uses the image of below and above to make his point. We could make the same point by speaking in terms of surface and depth. We don't have to go up to be with God. God does transcend the whole of this created universe, but God, as we know, is at the heart of everything, sustaining everything and everyone in existence. Jesus taught us to find God at the heart of things: in the market squares, in the desert wastes, at a wedding banquet and by the side of the road where a blind man is begging for sight. Jesus whose resurrection we are celebrating today is forever in God's embrace. Wherever God is, there we find the Spirit of Jesus our brother praying for us and offering us and all those we love a share in his joy.

The resurrection of Jesus is the proof that God is as Jesus believed him to be. It is the proof that though everyone else abandoned Jesus, God did not. It is the proof that good will ultimately triumph over evil, and that the wielders of unjust power do not have the final say. The resurrection of Jesus encourages us, as it encouraged Jesus' first followers, to follow the way he showed, even through apparent failure, for it proves that there is a justice that transcends death and the limited horizons within which we tend to live our lives.

Today's feast gives us hope for those we love who have died. It also gives us hope for ourselves. As Paul says in the Second Reading: 'When Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him'.

There were those in Jesus' day whose only reason for hope was Jesus himself and the way he mirrored God's love to them. May all of us, especially those who are without hope this Easter, find ourselves looking at the love of Jesus' disciples and crying out in wonder: 'Jesus is risen! Praise be to God!'

PROJECT COMPASSION 2020

Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia!

Thank you for supporting us this year as we demonstrate how love and compassion for our global community can transform lives. You will be helping to empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

When we Go Further Together in love and compassion, the whole world thrives.

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2020 Lenten appeal.

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion
#projectcompassion 1800 024 413

Please keep your Project Compassion boxes or envelopes at home – until you can safely drop them into the Parish Office during Parish Office hours. Thank you!

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**
GO FURTHER TOGETHER



MASS IN TIME OF PANDEMIC – PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith we pray look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

ONE NON-PERISHABLE ITEM PER FAMILY EACH WEEK

Don't forget, you can bring in one non-perishable item per family each week and leave items on the front verandah of the presbytery. Thank you!

COLLECT FROM THE FRONT VERANDAH

Whenever you wish and it's safe to do so from Easter Sunday onwards, please collect these from the front verandah of the presbytery:

- ✓ palms blessed on Palm Sunday
- ✓ rosemary blessed on Good Friday
- ✓ Easter Holy Water blessed at the Easter Vigil
- ✓ items left by the 'substitute' Easter Bunny – yum!

ANZAC DAY 2020

As you would be aware, there are no formal, public ANZAC Day services. The Australian War Memorial will go ahead with a private, nationally televised ANZAC Day commemorative service on 25 April 2020. This revised ceremony will be held in the Commemorative Area and Hall of Memory of the Memorial at 5:30am on ANZAC Day. The event will not be open to the public but will be broadcast live across Australia by the ABC and streamed online.

You can do something to commemorate ANZAC Day: light a candle and put it in your front window at 5:30am/6:00am on ANZAC Day – OR – stand at the front of your house or in the driveway at 6am and observe a minute's silence. Mass will be celebrated just after 6am at Thirroul and emailed by 8am.



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Saturday 11 Apr **Easter Vigil**

Sunday 12 Apr **Easter Sunday**

↳ collect Easter Water+ from the presbytery verandah

Weekend 18/19 Apr Blessing of April Wedding Anniversaries and Birthdays

Saturday 25 Apr ANZAC Day – light a candle or stand in front of your house

NEEDED FOR ANZAC DAY

For **ANZAC Day**, Saturday, 25 April, rosemary (cut up into small strips) will be needed. **Please put cut rosemary on the front verandah of the presbytery by Friday, 24 April.**

ACTS OF APOSTLES

During the Easter Season – which lasts **50 days** (*Lent was only 40 days!*) – the first Scripture reading on Sundays and weekdays is taken from the book “Acts of the Apostles”. Acts and the Gospel of Luke make up a two-part work, Luke–Acts, by the same anonymous author, usually dated to around 80–90AD. The first part, the Gospel of Luke, tells how God fulfilled God’s plan for the world’s salvation through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, the promised Messiah. Acts continues the story of Christianity in the 1st century, beginning with Jesus’ ascension to heaven. The early chapters, set in Jerusalem, describe the Day of Pentecost (the coming of the Holy Spirit) and the growth of the Church in Jerusalem. Initially, the Jews are receptive to the Christian message, but soon they turn against the followers of Jesus. Rejected by the Jews, under the guidance of the Apostle Peter the message is taken to the Gentiles. The later chapters tell of Paul’s conversion, his mission in Asia Minor and the Aegean [Greece, Turkey, etc.], and finally his imprisonment in Rome, where, as the book ends, he awaits trial. The early Church had its share of troubles!

Have you “checked in” on another parishioner this week to say “Hi!”?

THIS Sunday’s Readings *on our website*

Sunday of the Resurrection • Year A

1st Reading Acts 10:34,37-43

2nd Reading Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel Matthew 28:1-10

NEXT Sunday’s Readings *on our website*

Second Sunday of Easter • Year A

1st Reading Acts 2:42-47

2nd Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel John 20:19-31

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

Thirroul Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

This week, all liturgies will be recorded and a link will be emailed

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