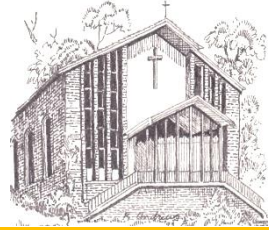




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



9 / 10 MAY 2020
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ❖ YEAR A
Day 29 of the 50 Days of Easter

THIS WEEK'S READINGS *Being Small and Being Great in the Service of the Lord*

The problem reported in the first reading has to do with food for widows. The Greeks thought that their widows were being neglected and that the widows among the Jews were getting the best of things, and so the Greeks complained to the Apostles. The Apostles said, sensibly enough, that they couldn't be expected to handle food distribution. Their job was to evangelize and spread the Gospel. And so they picked some people to do the small job of supervising food handouts for them. Stephen was one of those picked.

Who would have wanted to be in that group with Stephen? The people in Stephen's group were chosen to do a job that was not nearly as important as the work the Apostles were doing. That's why the Apostles wanted somebody else to do it. By comparison with important things, like spreading the gospel, or anything else great and admirable, watching over food distribution is a very small job. *So some would have us believe!*



But Stephen didn't complain that the job was beneath his talents and abilities. He didn't insist on being given a role in the great work of the Apostles. He just took the small job he had been offered, and he served the Lord whole-heartedly in it.

Later in the book of Acts (Acts 7) we learn what came of Stephen's humility. His whole-hearted service of the Lord in food distribution attracted the attention and the hatred, of those outside the growing Church; and they went after him. In the worst of circumstances, with his life at stake, he gave a powerful witness to the Lord he loved, and the surrounding crowd stoned him to death.

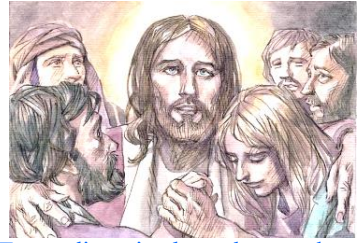
In his witness and his martyrdom, he was not small. He was glorious. His life and work for the Lord became part of Scripture itself, and for over two thousand years all Christians have honored and admired him – the first martyr, feast day 26 December.

And so his whole-hearted service of the Lord in the little job of food distribution, the job that was not worthy of being compared with the job of the Apostles, made Stephen a participant in the great work the Apostles did. In the witness of his death, he became a partner in the gospel-spreading of the Apostles and more than worthy of being in their company.





During the Easter Season, the Church seeks a greater appreciation of all that the Saviour's Resurrection means for the human family. Christ's Resurrection is far more than his coming back to life. It is nothing less than the final achievement of God's work of creation. It is God's intention that, ultimately, the whole human family, together with creation itself, shall be caught up in this great event. To help us find a fuller understanding of this truth, the gospel readings of the Easter liturgies have been taken from the treasures of John's gospel. Today's reading takes us to the heart of this gospel's understanding of the Saviour and what he came to give the world.



The second reading, from the letter of Peter, serves as a splendid complement to our gospel reading. Peter describes the achievement of the Saviour in biblical terms – his words echo, no doubt, the first Christian preaching, as it presented the Risen Lord as the fulfilment of Old Testament hopes. Peter refers to a verse of Psalm 118:22: 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the work of the Lord, how wonderful in our eyes.' This stone is proving a 'stumbling block' to unbelievers; but it is precious to God; and those who are believers recognise in him the realisation of Israel's hopes. Peter sums up these hopes in a series of biblical allusions. The Lord's promise to Moses on Sinai – 'Out of all peoples, you shall be my personal possession. For me you shall be a kingdom of priests, a holy nation' (Exodus 19) – has now been fulfilled. United in the Risen Lord, believers are 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood' offering 'the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God'.

It is good to nourish our faith and hope in this way, from the long biblical tradition of God's dealings with his people. The gospel of John, however, brings us a presentation of what the Saviour can mean for us in a different key. The great disciple of Jesus who inspired the deep meditations of this gospel, appeals to themes that speak to the common experience of humanity. In today's gospel we meet several of such themes. As we ponder them, we should recall that the Saviour is portrayed in the fourth gospel, bathed, as it were, in a subtle light that is the expression of his risen glory.

What 'way' should our personal journey take us, if we are to avoid life's frustrations and disappointments? – Jesus assures us that 'in him' our journey will lead to authentic life – 'I am the Way'. In a world filled with the voices of false hope and self-indulgence, where are we to find 'truth', a truth that we can 'see for ourselves'? – 'I am the Truth. To have seen me is to have seen the Father'. Where shall we find the 'place' where a truly loving welcome brings an end to our seemingly endless wandering? – 'I shall take you to my Father's house'. And, in the end, what manner of 'life' may we look forward to? – Something that is beyond the imagining of the human heart, nothing less than sharing all things with God – 'I am in the Father and the Father is in me'.

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!

USED STAMPS



Used stamps are worth money! That money can be used to help people in need in many and various ways. If you have any used stamps, please drop them in to the Parish Office or front verandah – there is a special box on the front verandah for used stamps.

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

Mothers Day is celebrated with great zeal and fanfare all across the world, including Australia. Australians celebrate the day on the second Sunday of May every year. The day marks an excellent opportunity to thank and express the deep-felt gratitude to one's mother. It is dedicated entirely to the 'leading lady' of the family. Whilst the Super Moms sit back and relax on this particular day, children take up all their responsibilities. People of all the ages, from preschoolers to adults, contribute to make the day a special one for their mother.



Presenting gifts to mothers on the occasion of Mothers Day is a customary practice that is enrooted in the history of Australia. The tradition of presenting gifts to mothers on Mothers Day can be traced back to 1924 when Mrs Janet Heyden, a resident of Leichhardt, Sydney, started to visit patients at the Newington State Home for Women. The hospital was home to a number of abandoned mothers with nobody in the world to give care. To bring happiness in the lives of these forlorn mothers, Mrs Heyden decided to present gifts to them with the help of community. Another unique thing that sets apart the Australian Mothers Day is the chrysanthemum flower. This autumn flower is specially presented to mothers. In Australia not only mothers, but step-mothers, mother figures, relatives, and close family friends are also honoured on the occasion. The event also encompasses social activities, where some organizations with specially employed Mothers Day patrons collaborate with the media and general community to raise awareness on Mothers Day. Together they collect donations for altruistic causes. **Happy Mothers Day.**



"Until I became a mother, I didn't know the true meaning of '24/7'."



Mothers Day or Mother's Day or Mothers' Day ... Your choice ...

Mothers Day: the argument here is that Mothers do not own the day, so no possession is involved. No apostrophe is thus needed. We are describing a day *for* Mothers, not a day *belonging to* Mothers.

Mother's Day (an apostrophe before the s): the argument is that the day belongs to one specific Mother (yours presumably). So, because possession is involved, Mother's Day needs an apostrophe. In the USA, the legislation for this day uses Mother's Day.

Mothers' Day (an apostrophe after the s): the argument is that the day is shared among all Mothers collectively. We thus need an apostrophe after the s.

SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR?

Are you celebrating a significant wedding anniversary this year, **25, 50, 60 or more years?** If so, please contact the Parish Office **as soon as possible**, so we can celebrate with you.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK – AND BEYOND

Weekend 9/10 May Fifth Sunday of Easter
 Mothers Day ... with a
Special Blessing for Mothers

Thursday 14 May St Matthias, apostle

Weekend 16/17 May Sixth Sunday of Easter



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM 2020

At present, except in case of emergency, all baptisms have been put on hold until such time as our Parish church is open for Masses on the weekends. However, **if you want your child baptized this year, please call or email the Parish Office** so that you will be contacted with details regarding the reopening of the church for Masses, including baptisms.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2020

Confirmation in our Parish was to be celebrated on 2 July. However, it is postponed to an unknown date at the moment ... The Sacrament of Confirmation in our Diocese is for young people in Year 6 or older. Enrolment Forms are available on the Parish website – if you want your daughter or son to receive Confirmation this year, please download the Enrolment Form from the Parish website and for complete the form **NOW**, so that you will be contacted with details regarding Confirmation as they come to hand.

DELIVERING THE BULLETIN to those without the Net

If you know of anyone who would like our Parish Bulletin, but who is not on the Internet, please call the Parish Office so that a Bulletin can be mailed to them. **Have you "checked in" on another parishioner this week to say "Hi"?**

SWIM SAFELY – WHERE THE WAVES BREAK – OR IN AUSTINMER POOL

THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Fifth Sunday of Easter • Year **A**

1st Reading Acts 6:1-7
 2nd Reading 1 Peter 2:4-9
 Gospel John 14:1-12

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Sixth Sunday of Easter • Year **A**

1st Reading Acts 8:5-8,14-17
 2nd Reading 1 Peter 3:15-18
 Gospel John 14:15-21

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Church of St Michael • Thirroul

Sunday Mass at Thirroul
 will be celebrated about 4:45pm Saturday,
 and then will be emailed usually by 6:00pm

LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Thirroul

Monday
 Tuesday
 Wednesday
 Thursday
 Friday

Masses
 will be recorded
 and will be
 emailed usually
 by 7:30am

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

🌐 www.thirroulcatholic.org.au

Parish School of St Michael ☎ 4267 2560