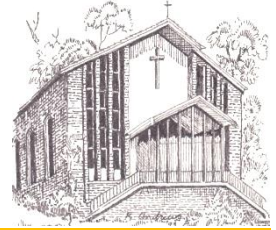




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



23 / 24 MAY 2020
ASCENSION OF THE LORD ❖ YEAR A
Day 43 of the 50 Days of Easter

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

In the Gospel Reading, Christ gives his disciples a last command before his ascension: go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel. And in another Gospel (Mark 16:15-20), Christ adds a list of things that will characterize those of his followers who obey this command: they will drive out demons, speak new languages, handle snakes safely, drink deadly things without harm, and heal the sick by the laying on of hands.

Why *this* list? Isn't it supposed to be just love that characterizes Christ's followers?

Well, think of it this way.

Maybe it is only fair of Jesus to tell those who obey him that they don't need to worry.

When a parent of a child was travelling to Bangladesh for a holiday, the parent made a list of dos and don'ts for him. It was a list intended to help keep him safe.

Finding housing with English speakers was on the list, so that there wouldn't be language problems. "Don't drink the water!" was definitely on the list, and so was "Stay away from people who are obviously sick!" The list finished with this prohibition: "Whatever you do, don't come into contact with the ground!" It sounds ridiculous; but hookworm is endemic in that part of the world, and you can get full of worms if you let a body part with an open wound come into contact with infected ground.

You can see that what was on the list of things to worry about are on Christ's list of things not to worry about: language problems; deadly drinks; sicknesses; even snakes—well, hookworms, anyway. (Demons weren't on the parent's list, but maybe they would have been if the parent could have thought of anything to say about them.)

So, the things on Christ's list are the things that you (or your mother) might worry about if you were travelling in dangerous places. Since Christ is commanding his followers to head out to all the world, maybe it is only fair of him to tell those who obey him that they don't need to worry about any of these things. Like a good mother, Christ has already thought about all these things for his travelling people, and in his mercy, he has made provision for them all.

So here is one way to understand Christ's list of the things that characterize those who believe in Christ and obey him. Whatever roads the journey of your life takes you on, ✈

Travelling Mercies



✠✠ the care of the Lord encompasses you if you walk in his name. You can travel the road of your life without being anxious if you are working for him.

What does the Church celebrate on Ascension Day? We are being invited to have faith in an important aspect of the Risen Lord's Paschal Mystery. The Saviour was present to his chosen disciples after the Resurrection, laying the foundations of the Church's faith. That extraordinary presence was of limited duration, and soon gave way to another manner of presence – as the Saviour guides the Church through the blessings of his own Spirit. Today's liturgy gathers three passages of the New Testament that give expression to the faith of the first Christians in this phase of the Paschal Mystery.



The concluding passage of Matthew's gospel is deceptive in its brevity. It is in fact a masterly summary of the teaching of the whole gospel – as the Risen Lord himself sends his disciples on mission with words of encouragement. He gives expression to the fullness of the divine authority that 'has been given to him' by the Father. He sends them on a mission that is universal: 'Make disciples of all the nations'. They are to teach them to 'observe all his commandments' – the New Law of his Sermon the Mount. They are to carry out their mission by preaching the Good News and by baptising 'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'. And, as he echoes the words of the covenant that was the foundation of Israel's faith – 'I am with you' – he assures them that he is truly Emmanuel.

Luke's account, in the opening passage of the Acts of the Apostles, is the work of a skilful teacher – concerned to help his readers understand the mystery of the Lord's new manner of presence. Luke alone in the New Testament speaks of the Lord's dealing with his disciples as lasting 'forty days' – a round number frequently used in the Scriptures; though it may be linked with the fifty days between Passover and the Pentecost celebration of old Israel. It is made clear that this period is a time of preparation and anticipation – the disciples can look forward to 'what the Father promised'; not many days hence they 'will be baptised with the Holy Spirit'. Luke's account is centred in Jerusalem. (In fact, he has omitted any reference to the disciples' withdrawal in discouragement to Galilee.) Though the divine plan that shaped the Old Testament is being fulfilled, a new era is beginning – shaped, not by false messianic hopes of 'the restoration of the kingdom of Israel', but by the Father's mysterious authority. It is the era of the Church's earthly pilgrimage. The Acts of the Apostles (like a second volume of Luke's gospel) will present the Church as carrying out its mission through the blessings of the Holy Spirit – 'You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth'. Luke, the careful teacher, sketches a graphic word picture for his readers: the Lord is 'lifted up', and a 'cloud' (Old Testament sign of God's presence) takes him from their sight. Perhaps the mystery of the Saviour's heavenly exaltation (see the early hymn of Philippians 2) has given rise to this kind of description in some circles. But Luke subtly modifies the crudeness of such a presentation. The two heavenly messengers make it clear that what is taking place is not an event of this world. Their advice to the disciples is not to stare into the sky, but to give themselves to the Church's earthly mission until the Lord returns.

The reading from Ephesians is an eloquent testimony to the way in which the Church understood this mission, carried out under the authority of the Risen Christ, who has made himself 'the head of the Church which is his body'.

Jesus promised that if we listen to the community we will hear him. Today we thank God in a special way for the Church, for it is there that Jesus continues to dwell in a special way, drawing us to himself. Today, we are meant to allow ourselves to experience in a special way Jesus' absence, as we each walk our own journeys.

ARE YOU AVAILABLE FOR THE NEXT ROSTER?

The next ministry roster period runs from **20 June to 4 October**. The usual rosters will be drawn up by the Roster Coordinators, so that when (*let's hope soon!*) we are permitted to have weekend Masses open to many, then the rosters will be in place. **If you will be unavailable anytime between 20 June and 4 October, please contact your Roster Coordinator – not the Parish Office – by Friday, 29 May to let your Roster Coordinator know, so that the Rosters can be drawn up in plenty of time. Thanks to all on the Rosters!**

**ONE NON-PERISHABLE ITEM PER FAMILY EACH WEEK
TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE LOCAL ILLAWARRA AREA
drop any items onto the front verandah of the presbytery**

30 ENGLISH WORDS that are rarely known to most people

- **Nillionaire** Someone having little to no money
- **Minimus** Your tiny toe or finger
- **Serendipity** Finding something good without looking for it.
- **Quixotic** Unrealistically optimistic.
- **Caruncle** The triangular pink areas at the corner of your eyes.
- **Agelast** A person who never laughs.
- **Osculator** One who loves or one who is loved.
- **Callipygian** Having large, round, well-shaped buttocks.
- **Limerance** The state of being infatuated with someone.
- **Oxter** Armpit.
- **Atrate** Dressed in black.
- **Applepick** To steal someone's iPhone.
- **Axicolous** Something that lives on rocks.
- **Metanoia** Spiritual transformation.
- **Pauciloquent** Concise.
- **Jamais-vu** A sense of never having seen before, something that should be familiar.
- **Laodicean** Indifferent.
- **Cacoethes** Bad idea.
- **Vaticinate** Predict.
- **Zoilism** Criticism.
- **Mephitic** Foul smelling.
- **Dysania** The state of finding it very difficult to get out of bed in the morning.
- **Febrile** Feverish.
- **Tittle** The dot over an "i" or a "j".
- **Idoneous** Appropriate.
- **Kenspeckle** Recognizable.
- **Tergiversate** Equivocate.
- **Gigil** The irresistible urge to pinch or squeeze something cute.
- **Malarkey** Nonsense or balderdash.
- **Bravado** Someone who is full of false kind of courage that masks a hidden fear.



Every language has a list of rarely used words that very few people know. They are not commonly known because they are rarely needed. Why bother learning something that you will not use...right? Tracking down words and what they mean satisfies a curiosity that sits deep within. So, here are 30 words that exist in English that you and many others probably don't know. Don't forget to share your favourite(s).

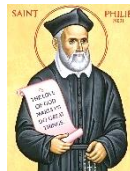
WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK – AND BEYOND

Weekend 23/24 May Ascension of the Lord

Monday 25 May Our Lady, Help of Christians

Tuesday 26 May St Philip Neri, priest

Weekend 30/31 May Pentecost Sunday



POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE World Communications Day

(continued from last week) By immersing ourselves in stories, we can find reasons to heroically face the challenges of life. Human beings are storytellers because we are engaged in a process of constant growth, discovering ourselves and becoming enriched in the tapestry of the days of our life. Yet since the very beginning, our story has been threatened: evil snakes its way through history.

Not all stories are good stories

“When you eat of it ... you will be like God” (cf. Genesis 3:4): the temptation of the serpent introduces into the fabric of history a knot difficult to undo. “If you possess, you will become, you will achieve...” This is the message whispered by those who even today use storytelling for purposes of exploitation. How many stories serve to lull us, convincing us that to be happy we continually need to gain, possess and consume. We may not even realize how greedy we have become for chatter and gossip, or how much violence and falsehood we are consuming. Often on communication platforms, instead of constructive stories which serve to strengthen social ties and the cultural fabric, we find destructive and provocative stories that wear down and break the fragile threads binding us together as a society. By patching together bits of unverified information, repeating banal and deceptively persuasive arguments, sending strident and hateful messages, we do not help to weave human history, but instead strip others of their dignity. But whereas the stories employed for exploitation and power have a short lifespan, a good story can transcend the confines of space and time. Centuries later, it remains timely, for it nourishes life. *(continued next week)*

THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Ascension of the Lord • Year A

1st Reading Acts 1:1-11

2nd Reading Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel Matthew 28:16-20

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Pentecost Sunday • Year A

1st Reading Acts 2:1-11

2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13

Gospel John 20:19-23

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