



Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



20/21 MARCH 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT ❖ YEAR B
Prayer  **Fasting**  **Almsgiving**

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah

In the Gospel, some Greeks ask to see Jesus. Jesus responds by saying that anyone who loves his life will lose it. To gain your life, you have to be like a grain of wheat: it brings forth much fruit only by falling into the earth and dying.

The Greeks must have been baffled. What has this speech of Jesus' got to do with their request to see him?

But consider those Greeks. They accord Jesus rock star status. They don't even ask to talk to the great man. They want only to see him. And they don't dare come to Jesus directly. They just approach one of his friends, Philip, and they call Philip "Kyrie," that is to say, "Lord." Even Lady Gaga's groupies wouldn't call one of her friends, "Lord," would they?



Jesus' response helps those Greeks to see him—the true Lord, not the rock star the Greeks were looking for. The true Lord did not come to get status and power. He came to lose his life, to fall and die, like a grain of wheat.

The point is made emphatically at the end of Jesus' response to the Greeks. He ends with a prayer: "Father," he prays, "glorify your name." Jesus, the true Lord and not the rock star, came to seek God's glory. He did not come to seek not his own.

The final part of the lesson for the Greeks, and for us, comes in God's response to Jesus' prayer. God honours Jesus by answering his prayer out loud: "I have glorified My name, and I will glorify it again!"

"This voice didn't come for my sake, but for yours," Jesus tells the awed bystanders. God's voice came to finish the lesson: God honours those who seek to honour him.

True glory lies not in rock star status, then, but, on the contrary, in being willing to fall and die like a grain of wheat. It lies in being willing to let go, to lose one's life in this world in love for the glory of God's name.

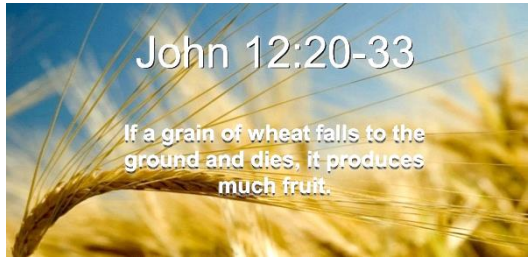
And so, the Greeks do get what they asked for. In the response of Jesus to them, they, and we, see the true Lord, and with the true Lord the pattern for racing for glory in our lives, too. Glory, glory, hallelujah!

As our destination draws near, at the end of an important journey, we may well have mixed feelings. We look forward to arrival; but we may be uncertain and anxious about the outcome.





As we face the challenge of entering deeply into the climax of the Church's year of faith – the commemoration of the Saviour's **PASCHAL MYSTERY** – it is as if the liturgy of this last Sunday of our journey anticipates our mood and reassures us. The readings bring us some of the greatest texts of the Scriptures, texts which – as we stand among the Greek pilgrims who wanted to 'see Jesus' – help us, in the words of the gospel, to come to terms with 'the kind of death Jesus was to die'.



The horror of the Saviour's Cross is plainly stated: his 'obedience' to the Father's will, according to the letter to the Hebrews, is made with 'prayer and entreaty, with loud cries and tears'. And John's gospel tells us, 'his soul was troubled', as his fateful 'hour' approached – in which he was to give all, like 'a wheat grain' which 'falls on the ground and dies'.

If he invites us to share this fate with him – 'wherever I am, my servant will be there too' – he also helps us to trust in his Father, as we face the ordeals of our personal lives. His prayer is 'heard', and through the sufferings which have been a sharing in the destructiveness and darkness of our world, he enters into a new and final existence. In the words of the letter to the Hebrews, he is 'made perfect'; as John's gospel puts it, he is 'glorified'. This is a powerful statement in biblical language – God's 'glory' is the incomparable divine greatness. Having 'emptied himself' to become one with us, the manhood he shares with us is now filled with divine greatness – and the grain which falls to the ground 'yields a rich harvest', transforming the whole of creation.

The outcome is certain, therefore, and beyond all humanity's imagining. It is the inauguration of the 'new covenant written in our hearts', foretold by Jeremiah, and sealed with the Saviour's blood. The Crucified One will become 'a source of eternal salvation' for all who become his followers (Hebrews). Having been 'lifted up from the earth', he will 'draw all people to himself', that they may share in his new existence (John).

The Church's liturgy prepares us well for what lies at the end of our journey. May it prove a faith-filled meeting with the generosity of our God, for each one of us.

EASTER TRIDUUM LITURGY TIMES

Holy Thursday	1 April	Mass of the Lord's Supper	7:30pm
		Night Prayer	9:30pm
Good Friday	2 April	Way of the Cross	10:30am
		Liturgy of the Lord's Passion	3:00pm
Holy Saturday	3 April	Easter Vigil	7:00pm
Easter Sunday	4 April	Mass of the Resurrection	8:00am

TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Marriage breakdown is a distressing experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. The Wollongong Office of the Interdiocesan Tribunal of Sydney extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to apply for an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process. For further information please phone the Wollongong Office of the Interdiocesan Tribunal of Sydney on 4222 2409 or email tribunal@dow.org.au

A REFUGEE CAMP IN BANGLADESH

Halima is raising two children under seven in a refugee camp in Bangladesh, while caring for her mother who has a disability. Widowed at just 21, Halima fled violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State in 2017, arriving at the camp with nothing.

Caritas Australia, through its partner, Caritas Bangladesh, provided Halima with a shelter and cooking equipment so she could feed her family. She participated in hygiene and sanitation training and took on the role of community trainer herself, organising the cleaning of washrooms, wells and toilets.



Halima's training became all the more invaluable as the COVID-19 pandemic struck, and safe hygiene and preventative measures became life-saving.

Halima is proud she is able to earn a small income while maintaining the health of her family and the cleanliness of the camp community. Her children are adapting to life in the camp and are now at school.

Halima aspired to 'Be More' for her family and for the community around her.

"My hope is that our children will be able to do a job, live with pleasure, and find their happiness. That will bring wellbeing for them," Halima says.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 so this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them. *Thank you for your generosity.*

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more." – Saint Oscar Romero

RECONCILIATION RITE II

Tuesday, 23 March at 7:30pm at Thirroul. One great way to prepare for Easter.

PALMS NEEDED FOR PALM SUNDAY

If you have any palms that could be used for Palm Sunday, please drop them on the lawn outside the sacristy by **Friday, 26 March**. Thanks for your help! Palms will be blessed at on 27/28 March and will be available after Masses and during the following week.

ROSEMARY NEEDED FOR GOOD FRIDAY

If you have any rosemary [cut into 10cm strips] that could be used for Good Friday, please drop them into the church by **Friday, 26 March**. Thanks for your help!

SMALL PLASTIC BOTTLES NEEDED FOR EASTER WATER

At the Easter Vigil, water is blessed and **everyone** will be given a bottle to take to bless your homes and cars. *However*, we need more small plastic bottles. **If you have some or can acquire some small plastic bottles, please bring them in by Friday, 26 March.**

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK – AND BEYOND

Tuesday 23 Mar Reconciliation Rite II at 19:30 [7:30pm]

**ONE NON-PERISHABLE ITEM PER FAMILY EACH WEEK
TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE LOCAL ILLAWARRA AREA
drop items in the special white plastic bin if you come to Mass**

SURFING SEASON ... BE SAFE

Since 1 July 2020, there have been **4,295** rescues [*last week 3,898*] completed by surf lifesavers, and **15,430** first aid treatments [*last week 14,743*] have been performed. Swim safely.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE THIRROUL

Thank you from the Catholic Women's League to everyone who supported the World Day of Prayer in our parish. A total of \$325.00 was collected on the day – thank you all.

PARISH GARDENS – YOUR GARDENS

The plants in the Parish Gardens will be thinned and pruned during the next couple of weeks so that there is room to plant pansies. **Please help yourself** to any cuttings you may like for your garden. And any herbs, please feel free to take home a supply.



AUTUMNAL EQUINOX 2021: 8:36PM SATURDAY, 20 MARCH

An **Equinox** is an astronomical event that happens twice, once in spring and once in autumn, each year when the tilt of the Earth's axis is inclined neither away from nor towards the Sun. During Equinoxes the tilt of the Earth (with respect to the Sun) is 0° and because of its duration of the day and the night are almost equal on Equinox day, i.e. ~12 hours.

THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Fifth Sunday of Lent • Year **B**

1st Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34
2nd Reading Hebrews 5:7-9
Gospel John 12:20-33

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Passion – Palm – Sunday • Year **B**

1st Reading Isaiah 50:4-7
2nd Reading Philippians 2:6-11
Gospel Mark 14:1–15:47

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Church of St Michael • Thirroul
Saturday – 5:30pm • Sunday – 8:00am

Restricted numbers apply ... however, there is no need to register beforehand with the Parish Office

LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Thirroul	Monday	—
	Tuesday	17:30
	Wednesday	09:00
	Thursday	09:00
	Friday	09:30

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