

Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



3 / 4 APRIL 2021 EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION DAY 1 OF THE FIFTY DAYS OF EASTER

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

True and Perfect 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 Saint Francis gave to this question is famous. Saint Francis said to his Brother Leo, "When we come to [our house] St Mary of the Angels, soaked by the rain 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 Saint Francis's 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. There is a song for Easter: "the cross and passion past, dark night is over, bright morning comes at last!" When we ourselves rise to meet our risen Lord, in that bright morning we will hear him 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 Saint Francis describes, our courage might fail us in this life. But Easter could not have happened without the events of the past week: the betrayal, the suffering, the death. 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.

We come to Easter Sunday's celebration filled with the memory of the liturgies of the greatest week of the Church's year – liturgies which have spoken for themselves, as they invited us to relive in faith the great things God has done for us, coming to a great climax in the Easter Vigil – captured in the words of St Paul read during the Vigil, 'As Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too' are called 'to live a new life'. The days after Easter have a remarkable atmosphere. The Church's mood is not one of exuberant

✠✠ triumph, but one of wonder and calm. Faith must come to terms with the new creation brought into existence by the Paschal Mystery. And it is impossible to forget the price that has been paid: the one who ‘went about doing good’ has died ‘hanging on a tree’.



Though they proclaim realities which are incomparable in their greatness and importance, the Church’s liturgies do not strive to impress by creating effect. Only faith can fully appreciate the motivation that brought them into existence; they are a reflection of the Church’s living response to what God has done for us. A group of people who have come through a great ordeal or an extraordinary experience will often find themselves in a mood of calm, reflection and gratitude. The liturgies of Easter Week have such a mood.

With Peter, in the first reading, we look back upon the gospel story that has led up to the great event in which we have been given to share. Peter recalls the ministry of Jesus ‘anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power’ and his tragic death; and as a privileged witness he announces the Lord’s resurrection, to be ‘the judge of the living and the dead’, the one witnessed to by ‘all the prophets’.

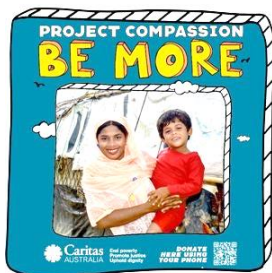
With Paul, in the second reading, we look forward with a hope that has no bounds. The destiny which is ours through the power of the Saviour’s resurrection invites us to ‘look for the things that are in heaven’, because the life we now have ‘is hidden with Christ in God’.

In the gospel reading – the story of Peter and the beloved disciple running to the empty tomb – the Church of the Apostles acknowledges that faith does not come easily: only a generous openness to God will find faith in the Risen Lord. This openness is linked especially with a knowledge of God’s ways to be found in ‘the teaching of scripture’.

The renewal of baptismal promises, which is customary at the Easter Vigil and the Easter Sunday Mass, invites us to reflect upon the immense implications of our sharing in the Saviour’s risen life, for the sake of the whole world.



Easter Sunday 3/4 April 2021



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 have responded to St Oscar Romero’s invitation to “Be More,” putting your compassion into action to support some of the world’s most vulnerable communities. By aspiring to be more, you have helped change lives.

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion 2021 Lenten appeal.

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

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. Thanks to Genevieve, Pat and Susan – and to those on the moving roster.



VINNIES NSW FLOOD APPEAL

It's been called many things. A "once-in-100-year flood", "unprecedented" and "chaotic". Thousands of people were ordered to evacuate, a home floated down the Manning River on the Mid-North Coast and one person died after becoming trapped in their car in Sydney's north-west.

So how do NSW's most recent floods stack up against others in the state? Experts say what makes this flood event a stand-out is the vast area affected. "Its just the sheer scale of having it from the border all the way down south of Sydney and now heading west as well," said Fiona Johnson, a hydrologist from the water research centre at UNSW.

The entire NSW coast has been drowned by at least 200 millimetres, and in some places, more than 400mm of rain. To put that in context, Sydney averages 132mm of rain for the whole month of March. Flooding stretches 600 kilometres from Sydney to the Northern Rivers. More than 11,000 damage claims have been made with the Insurance Council of Australia; many families do not have flood insurance. Farmers reported hundreds of live-stock losses, crop loss and infrastructure damage. Extensive deaths of wildlife occurred. The floods affected hundreds of people, many who were temporarily homeless, and many have lasting mental health problems.

Donations to the Vinnies NSW Flood Appeal can be made by calling **13 18 12**, or at any Vinnies Shop, or at www.vinnies.org.au/NSWFloodAppeal or at the Parish Office, or **this weekend, Easter Sunday, and next weekend**, there will be a special collection.



SING ALLELUIA!

Saint Augustine says rightly, "Singing is for one who loves", and there is also an ancient proverb: 'Whoever sings well prays twice over'.

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.

COLLECT FROM THE FRONT VERANDAH

Whenever you wish 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

**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**

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

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK – AND BEYOND

Friday 9 Apr Anointing of the Sick during 09:30am Mass

Weekend 10/11 Apr Blessing of April Wedding Anniversaries and Birthdays

SURFING SEASON ... BE SAFE

Since 1 July 2020, there have been **4,476** rescues [*last week 4,463*] completed by surf lifesavers, and **15,672** first aid treatments [*last week 15,581*] have been performed. Swim safely.

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 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!

ANZAC DAY 2021

Arrangements for local ANZAC Day dawn services are yet to be finalized. As soon as updates are obtained from local RSL Sub-Branches, information will be provided here.

THIS Sunday’s Readings *on our website*

Easter Sunday • Year **B**

1st Reading Acts 10:34,37-43
2nd Reading Colossians 3:1-4
Gospel Mark 16:1-7

NEXT Sunday’s Readings *on our website*

Second Sunday of Easter • Year **B**

1st Reading Acts 4:32-35
2nd Reading 1 John 5:1-6
Gospel John 20:19-31

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
Anointing of the Sick	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
9:30am to 2:30pm **Magda Pires**

🌐 www.thirroulcatholic.org.au Parish School of St Michael 📞 4267 2560