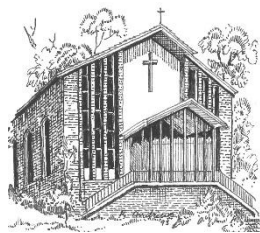


# Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul



**9 / 10 OCTOBER 2021**  
**28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR B**  
**2022 FRANCISCAN CALENDARS AVAILABLE**

## **THIS WEEK'S READINGS**

## *Inheriting Eternal Life*

In the gospel reading, a rich young man asks Jesus, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" In response, Jesus says to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor".

Selling what you own is a pretty radical thing to do. Just think what you own: a house, a car, a bed. And that's just the beginning, isn't it? There's also the computer, the cell phone, the TV—and on and on.

Early in Christian history, people who sold everything they owned set up religious orders, so that they could live together and share what they needed. And so Jesus' exhortation to sell what you have and give to the poor is usually taken as a call to religious life. Understood in that way, Jesus' advice to the rich young man is one of the counsels of perfection. It explains what you have to do to be perfect in this life.

But here's a puzzle worth noticing. You don't have to be perfect to go to heaven. You don't have to be a member of a religious order to go to heaven. But going to heaven is what the rich young man was asking Jesus about: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" And so the answer Jesus gave the rich young man should have explained to him what you have to do to get to heaven. A counsel of perfection is by its nature not an answer to the rich young man's question.

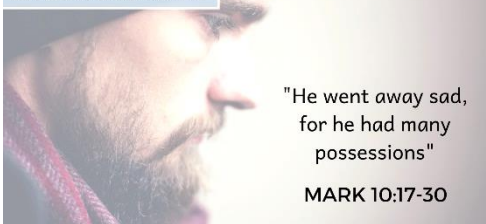
Or put it this way. If selling all he has and giving it to the poor is what the rich young man needs to do to inherit eternal life, what about everybody else? Does everybody have to sell what he has in order to attain heaven? If you don't sell everything you have, are you going to hell?

The solution to the puzzle is to think about the description of the man asking Jesus the question: he is the rich young man. In other words, his gifts lie in his wealth.

Now gifts are highly various. There are lots of gifts, gifts of learning, of music, of many other things. But whatever a person's gifts are, they are meant to be given back in service to the Lord. You cannot bury your talent—your gifts—in the ground and hope to please the Lord.

So, here is what you need to do to inherit eternal life: You need to follow Jesus and use your gifts to the full when you do. 'Lord, what should I do?' – a question essential to a Christian life well lived. The alternative – drifting along without responsible

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"He went away sad,  
for he had many  
possessions"

**MARK 10:17-30**





reflection – is a wasted life. The reply of Jesus to the young man who puts this question to him is surprising. The community that gave us Mark's gospel certainly believed that Jesus was God's unique Son. The response given by Jesus reflects a constant pattern in his teaching: he wanted to lead his hearers to the Father. Like the young man, we will only find the answer to the question of what direction our life should take in the presence of the One Jesus called his 'God' and 'Father'. The life of all who live 'in Christ' is one and the same; there are, however, different forms of discipleship. This paradox has given rise to some confusion in the Church's life when 'states of life' have been compared. The first response of Jesus in this incident is to urge fidelity to 'the commandments' – the pattern of life to which most of the Lord's disciples are called. However, this man was seeking a way that went beyond what had been recommended. Jesus 'looked steadily at him and loved him', and he urged him to 'sell everything he owned and give the money to the poor', and to join Jesus in the radical detachment that was Jesus' own way of life – for the sake of the Kingdom. For many centuries, the comparison of the two ways of life indicated by Jesus has been expressed in misleading terms. The radical following has been spoken of as a 'higher' form of Christian life. But life in Christ, as has been said, is one. The life that is better for each person is the life that they are called to by God – there they will find the way to the greatness that is to be theirs in the designs of God. Since Vatican II this confusion has been left behind. Today, however, it is being suggested that as we have recovered an appreciation of the fact that no baptised Christian is in an 'inferior' state of life, we have obscured the fact that the Lord's call to individual disciples involved different means of living discipleship. As far as means are concerned, a life lived according 'the evangelical counsels' – the radical renunciations of Christ himself – has a heroic excellence that needs to be more clearly affirmed, if we are to foster the 'vocations' the Church so sorely needs.



The reaction of the young man leads Jesus to develop a theme important for all forms of discipleship: earthly possessions can prove a great obstacle to growth of life in Christ. The disciples were amazed, because many texts of the Old Testament seemed to imply that material wellbeing is a sign of God's blessing on a good life. Our reading from Wisdom shows that old Israel was already looking beyond this point of view. The whole life of Jesus is a corrective of this superficial interpretation of God's ways. His final words have a lesson for disciples, whatever the form of following to which they have been called – authentic fidelity is a gift of God, 'Everything is possible to God'. Our reading from Hebrews can serve as a commentary on the call of Jesus to make our life decisions in the presence of the Father. The 'Word of God' is a theme of great importance in the Old Testament. It is a Word that confronts believers with the ways of God. In Jesus we know the Word of God in person, a Word giving expression to the boundless love and generosity of the Father who calls each one of us.

The man in today's gospel comes up to Jesus full of a beautiful desire. He wants what Mark calls 'eternal life' – that is, a life that knows no bounds, a life that is not limited by space and time and circumstance, but that keeps on filling his heart from the fount of all life who is God. This same desire is expressed frequently in the psalms: 'As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?' (Psalm 42:1-2). 'O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, like a dry and weary land without water' (Psalm 63:1).

# SURFING SEASON 2021-2022

Since 1 July 2021, there have been **353** rescues [222 last week] performed by Surf Lifesavers in Australia, and **784** first aids [630 last week]. Every day our lifesavers rescue 30 people. Can you spot a rip ... what are signs you can see of a rip? **Stay safe and swim between the flags.**



**ONE NON-PERISHABLE ITEM PER FAMILY EACH WEEK  
TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE LOCAL ILLAWARRA AREA  
STILL NEEDED DURING LOCKDOWN**

**DROP ITEMS ON THE FRONT VERANDAH OF THE PRESBYTERY**

## PRAYERS IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

When this is over, may we never again take for granted a handshake with a stranger, conversations with neighbours, a crowded theatre, Friday night out, the taste of Communion, a routine check-up, the school rush each morning, coffee with a friend, the stadium roaring, each deep breath, a boring Tuesday, life itself.

When this ends, may we find that we have become more like the people we wanted to be, we were called to be, we hoped to be. And may we stay that way – better for each other because of the worst.

In this age of anxiety and stress, we ask for your Presence to be made clearly amongst us. Be with us as we confront illnesses that leave many of us in a state of worry for our families, our friends, our colleagues, our communities, our nation and our world. As hospitals and health care providers seek to continue the healing ministry of You, may they have fortitude for the road ahead, knowing that you are walking this journey with them with your mighty Hand. Remind them of both their strength and Your strength. We ask for Your comfort upon those who have already lost loved ones during this time of viruses. And, may healing be upon those who are physically suffering and spiritually suffering through this season. May the wilderness of this time and the uncertainty we may feel, strengthen our resolve to lean on your word, abide in your presence, and be guided by your enduring and powerful Spirit. You have been with us in every age and will remain a refuge – to take solace, to recollect our thoughts, to remember that all things of this world are fleeting, and this too shall pass. Let us recall the calming of the storm by your Hand. Let us today and tomorrow and the days ahead lean on Your fortitude, and resolve to care for each other and support each other through this difficult journey before us in our lives both collectively and individually. Amidst the darkness, the confusion and the storm of worry, may your Presence be made abundantly revealed so that Your light, Your hand and Your strength, gives us steadiness, refuge, clarity of purpose, and hope. Amen.

## RAYMOND'S FAVOURITE RECIPES

This week **Cornflour Butter Cake**: 1 cup sieved cornflour; ¼ cup sugar; ½ cup icing sugar; ¾ cup partially melted/solid butter; 1 teaspoon baking powder; 1 egg; ¼ cup milk; 1 teaspoon vanilla essence. Preheat oven to 170°C. Beat vanilla, butter and both sugars well, add the egg and continue beating until nice and creamy. Mix in the cornflour and baking powder and slowly add the milk, mix gently until combined and then beat well again – I like to alternate between high speed and low speed. Pour into a cake tray and bake for approximately 40 minutes or until when poked through the poker comes away clear with no residue. Serve warm, and spread with butter 😊. *Thanks, Raymond Cummins!*

# WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK – AND BEYOND

Friday 15 Oct Saint Teresa of Avila, virgin, doctor

Our church is currently closed – until further notice. Please **KEEP IN TOUCH**.

## FRANCISCAN CALENDARS

2022 Franciscan Calendars are now available: from the **Parish Office**, or **call** or **email the Parish Office** and one will be delivered to you. This year, the cost is just a *song in your heart*. – and soon, **on-line!**



## GET VACCINATED

Bishop Brian is supporting the #Vax-TheIllawarra campaign because promoting the common good and ensuring the safety of every unique, valuable person, especially the most vulnerable, is our duty.

## PLENARY COUNCIL 2021 – 3 TO 10 OCTOBER

The Plenary Council ends on Saturday, 9 October, and formally with the concluding Mass on Sunday, 10 October. Each days members have met from 11am (Sydney time) until about 6:45pm – except on Thursday, which was a day of prayer. That was the First General Assembly. The Second General Assembly is scheduled for 4 to 9 July 2022.

## DIVINE RENOVATION AUSTRALASIA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 2021

A spirit-filled time of prayer, live keynotes, inspiring panel aiming to support parish renewal.  
**20 Nov:** <https://www.divinerenovation.org/dr-aus-called-to-discipleship-conference>

### THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year **B**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Wisdom 7:7-11

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Hebrews 4:12-13

Gospel Mark 10:17-30

### NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year **B**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Isaiah 53:10-11

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Hebrews 4:14-16

Gospel Mark 10:17-30

### SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Church of St Michael • Thirroul

Saturday – 5:30pm • Sunday – 8:00am

**Church closed because of lockdown  
now closed until further notice**

### LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Thirroul

**Church currently closed  
because of lockdown  
until further notice**

Monday 17:30  
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 four Northern Illawarra Parishes*

Patrick Vaughan • Parish Priest ❖ Andrew Granc ofm, Ken Cafe ofm • Assisting

📍 325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive

📮 PO Box 44 • Thirroul 2515

☎ 4268 1910 📠 4268 1976

📧 [thirroul@dow.org.au](mailto:thirroul@dow.org.au)

Parish Office

Hours

Lauren Faulks – Parish Secretary

Tuesday, Wednesday 9:00am–3:30pm Friday 9:30am–2:30pm

🌐 [www.thirroulcatholic.org.au](http://www.thirroulcatholic.org.au)

Parish School of St Michael ☎ 4267 2560