

Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul



16 / 17 OCTOBER 2021
29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR B
2022 FRANCISCAN CALENDARS AVAILABLE

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah

In the gospel reading, James and John ask Jesus if they can sit on his right and on his left in his glory. The other ten apostles are indignant when they learn of it.

In response to the apostles' indignation, Jesus gives them a lesson in glory. On worldly views, the great ones are the rulers. On Jesus' view, the servants are the truly great ones. Real glory doesn't come from lording it over others, but from serving others. Jesus is most glorious in his crucifixion, when he has lost everything but love.

So Jesus' response to the indignation of the apostles shows us that they were thinking of glory as kingship. And they were indignant with James and John, because they thought that kind of kingship was what James and John were asking Jesus for.

But notice that Jesus does not respond to James and John by explaining to them what true glory is. What Jesus says to James and John shows us what those two apostles were thinking, just as Jesus' response to the others shows us what they were indignant about.

To James and John, Jesus says, "Can you drink the cup that I drink?" This is the cup that Jesus prayed might pass from him. It is his crucifixion. So James and John have the right idea of glory. They are not asking for thrones in heaven, as the other apostles think they are. They are asking whether they might be crucified with Jesus, on either side of him.


And here is the most powerful thing to notice in this story. Jesus does not rebuke James and John for their request. He grants it. They will drink his cup with him.

But Jesus denies them their request to be beside him in his glory. That gift is already prepared by God for others, Jesus says. And which others? Well, for those two thieves, crucified on either side of Jesus. Who else?

God gave that great gift that James and John wanted, not to any of the apostles, but to two unknown, low-down, petty criminals.

And what happened?

One of those thieves wasted the gift. The other one was glorious, wasn't he?

In Mark's telling of the story of his final journey to Jerusalem, Jesus three times warns the twelve of the fate that will overtake him in the Holy City. During this time, Jesus must have reflected frequently upon the Servant Songs of the Isaian writings, and their paradoxical anticipation of the way in which God would fulfil the hopes of Israel. Our first 



reading is a brief excerpt from the greatest of these Songs. The Servant who will bring to realisation the true destiny of Israel will know great ‘suffering ... offering his life as an atonement’; he will take the ‘faults’ of the people ‘upon himself’. But by doing so he will turn the nation’s failure into God’s final triumph, as he achieves ‘what the Lord wishes’. ‘By his suffering my servant shall justify many’.

With these things in his mind, Jesus has to contend with the naïve ambitions of James and John – and with the indignation of the ‘other ten’, resentful that the sons of Zebedee have tried to steal a march on them. Given the context we have described, it comes as no surprise that the response of Jesus refers to the ordeal that lies ahead of them. ‘You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink with me the cup of suffering, share in the ordeal in which I am soon to be plunged?’



Our Christian language often speaks of ‘conversion’. The incident we are considering points to the fact that true conversion is much more than a reform of personal morals. It is a revolution in our understanding of what our life ‘in Christ’ means; it is the starting point of true discipleship. Jesus now urges the twelve to be converted, to broaden their vision, change their values – by identifying with the paradoxical ways of God that are the subject of his reflections as he journeys to Jerusalem. If they are to be leaders and guides in the community of disciples, their exercise in authority must be more than the realisation of their ambitions for a place of prestige and power. If they want to be truly great, they must make themselves ‘servants’ – even ‘slaves’ – of all.

Jesus will teach us, not merely by his words, but also by the living witness of his example: ‘For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve’ – words that sum up the whole tenor of his life. The reading from Hebrews reminds us how truly he lowered himself to share our life: ‘feeling our weaknesses with us ... tempted in every way that we are, though without sin’. These are amazing words; truly, God’s Servant is also our brother. This reading introduces the great theme of Hebrews, Jesus ‘the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven’. This theme will interpret the saving mission of Jesus to Jewish converts – for whom the temple observances meant so much – by a comparison with the role of the priests in temple worship.

We live in the time of fulfilment. The Spirit of Christ has been given to the Church; and great heroes down through the ages have followed Christ’s example, making themselves servants of all. Genuine renewal is linked with such a conversion to God’s ways making the Church a sign of hope in a world without hope, a true foreshadowing of the final Kingdom in which God’s ways will shape all things.

SURFING SEASON 2021-2022

Since 1 July 2021, there have been **353** rescues [353 last week] performed by Surf Lifesavers in Australia, and **784** first aids [784 last week]. Every day our lifesavers rescue 30 people. What are signs you that indicate where a rip is? **Stay safe and swim between the flags.**



FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH ... LISTENING TO ALL

As the Universal Church is about to embark on the synodal journey, Pope Francis on last Saturday invoked the Holy Spirit on the People of God so that they will be able to move forward together, to listen to one another and discern our times, in solidarity with the struggles and aspirations of all humanity.

The Pope prayed as he presided over a moment of reflection in the Vatican's Synod Hall, on the eve the official inauguration of the diocesan phase of the Synod for all the dioceses around the world, marked by a solemn Mass in Rome's St Peter's Square on Sunday, 10 Oct. Dioceses across the world will inaugurate the synodal journey at the local level on 17 Oct.



The theme of the upcoming 16th Synod of Bishops is: **“For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission”**. **Synodality** indicates walking together and listening to one another but above all to the Holy Spirit. To deepen this essential characteristic of the Church, the upcoming synod is unlike any previous one. It starts with, and involves all the faithful at local Churches across the world, promising to listen to all, especially to laypeople. That is why this Synod is a 2-year process, starting from 10 October 2021 to October 2023.

The diocesan listening phase will run until April 2022 and will be followed by a continental phase from September 2022 to March 2023. The final “universal Church phase” will culminate in the traditional assembly of the Synod of Bishops in the Vatican in October 2023.

In his discourse at Saturday's moment of prayer and reflection, Pope Francis dwelt on how the synodality of the Church is achieved, namely, through communion, participation, and mission. He also pointed out the dangers it can run into and the opportunities it offers.

“In the one People of God, therefore, let us journey together, in order to experience a Church that receives and lives this gift of unity, and is open to the voice of the Spirit,” Pope Francis said, stressing that the Synod is an “ecclesial moment”, not a parliament or an investigation into opinions, but “an ecclesial moment” whose protagonist is the Holy Spirit. “Without the Spirit, there is no Synod,” he stressed.

Explaining the Synod's three key words - **communion**, **participation**, and **mission** – he said that communion and mission describe the mystery of the Church. Communion expresses the very nature of the Church, according to the Second Vatican Council.

According to Saint Paul VI “communion, that is, cohesion and interior fullness, in grace, truth and collaboration... and mission, that is, apostolic commitment to the world of today”. Saint John Paul II stressed that *koinonia* gives rise to the Church's mission of serving as a sign of the human family's intimate union with God.

For this reason, Pope Francis said, Synods must be well prepared for, especially at the local level with the participation of all.

He pointed out that ‘communion’ and ‘mission’ can risk remaining somewhat abstract, unless synodality is concretely expressed at every step of the synodal journey and activity, encouraging real involvement on the part of each and all”. “All the baptized are called to take part in the Church's life and mission.”

He acknowledged the frustration and impatience felt by many pastoral workers, members of diocesan and parish consultative bodies, and women, who frequently remain on the fringes. “Enabling everyone to participate is an essential ecclesial duty!” he stressed, adding, it is an indispensable ecclesial commitment based on the “identity card” of the baptism.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK – AND BEYOND

Monday 18 Oct Saint Luke, evangelist

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*.

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.



RAYMOND'S FAVOURITE RECIPES

This week **Easy Savoury Loaf**: 500ml natural yoghurt; 2 x 30g vegetable soup packet; 3 cups self-raising flour; ½ cup parmesan cheese finely grated. Grease a loaf tin and pre-heat oven to 180°C. Mix yoghurt, soup mix & flour together in a bowl. Place into loaf tin, sprinkle top with grated parmesan cheese and bake at 180°C for 40–50 mins. ☺. *I used 2 packets of Continental Spring Vegetable soup. Note: requires 2 of the 30g soup packets (not cup-a-soup sachets). Great with soup or just on its own and spread with butter. Thanks, Raymond Cummins!*



THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year **B**

1st Reading Isaiah 53:10-11

2nd Reading Hebrews 4:14-16

Gospel Mark 10:35-45

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year **B**

1st Reading Jeremiah 31:7-9

2nd Reading Hebrews 5:1-6

Gospel Mark 10:46-52

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	09:00
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

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Parish Office

Hours

Lauren Faulks – Parish Secretary

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

🌐 www.thirroulcatholic.org.au

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