



Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul



20 / 21 NOVEMBER 2021
34TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + YEAR B
FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

That Was Then, This Is Now

In the gospel reading, Christ is being held by Pilate, who holds him in his power. In the next part of the story, as we know, Christ is on the cross: poor; dishonoured; in pain; and dying.

Christ's willingness to accept these afflictions sets the standard for all Christians, and it turns all worldly standards upside down. What most people reject as the worst things in life turns out in Christ's crucifixion to be the prize-winning goods. On the cross Christ makes manifest that real winning is what looks to the world like losing. And vice versa too, of course. There is something small and unworthy about a life lived totally at ease.



That is why Paul says that all things work together for good for those who love God—all things (Romans 8:28). Our sins are included in that "all things," not just our suffering. When Paul pleaded with God to take away a sin of Paul's that Paul was impatient with, God told him, "My grace is sufficient for you." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

But now notice in the second reading the very different picture of Christ and of the standard of excellence for Christ's people.

The second reading shows us Christ not as poor, dishonoured, and suffering but as the king of kings, the most powerful and honoured of all rulers. And it shows us Christ's people in the same way: not as afflicted with Christ-like suffering, but glorious in Christ's kingdom. In that picture, all Christ's people are honoured priests for God, and they are also freed from their sin—not some of their sins, but all of them.

So, which of these two pictures—of Christ, of Christ's people—should set the standard for us, the goal at which we aim?

The answer, of course, is "Both of them!"

There is a time for suffering, when all worldly values and all earthly desires are turned upside down, a time when we struggle with sin and suffering. But there is also a time when things turn right-side up again and then all struggle ends.

At that time, each one of Christ's people will say of every affliction, "That was then; this is now!" Only that "now," when all sin and suffering falls away, is an everlasting now.

And the cross is the way to it.

Today's feast is a relative newcomer to the Church's liturgy – established by Pius XI, last century, as the Church's response to the emergence of totalitarian regimes. There is 



a certain irony in the fact that when it was established earthly kings and queens had become little more than figureheads. The gospels of the liturgies of this feast in the three-year cycle, however, make it clear that this symbolic theme can still invite us to deepen our appreciation of the role of the Saviour in the designs of God. The first and second readings – from the prophecy of Daniel, concerning ‘the Son of Man’, and a reading from the Book of Revelation proclaiming the fulfilment of the prophecy in Christ – remind us of the deep roots this theme has in the Scriptures. This year’s gospel reading from John takes us to the heart of the drama being enacted before the Roman governor – as, according to the words of Jesus at the Supper, the ‘Son of Man’ is being ‘glorified’, and in him God is being glorified. Jesus will reign, but he assures Pilate that his kingdom – ‘not of this world’ – is not in competition with the earthly powers Pilate represents. He will establish God’s reign, not by power and violence, but by bringing his ‘truth’ to the world, the truth that is one of the principal themes of John’s gospel (‘Father, consecrate my disciples in the truth, your word is truth’, John 14:6; **‘I AM truth and life’**, John 14:6). This truth is a sharing in the wisdom of the Father, the personal truth in which we come to know who we are in the plan of God, the truth that ‘sets us free’ (John 8:32). The Kingdom announced and inaugurated by Jesus is a renewed creation, ruled by the ways of God – shaping all things, liberating them and leading them to their fullness. When Jesus teaches that this reign of God has already begun in a hidden way (Mark 4: 26 etc.) he is telling us that we can know something of this final achievement of God, when the truth he has brought to the world shapes our lives.



The exchange between Jesus and Pilate also makes it clear that the execution of Jesus is a consequence of his rejection by the establishment of the Jewish nation. In John’s gospel, this conflict is described in terms of the ‘truth’ that he has brought from his Father: ‘It is because I speak the truth that you cannot believe me’ (8:45). He has urged his people to find again their true calling in the designs of God, to be ‘a light to the nations’, showing the world the life and joy of a people living according to the ways they have learned from his Father.

John’s gospel, as we have seen, portrays Jesus as reigning on the Cross. His exchange with Pilate echoes through the continuing narrative, ‘Here is your king’, Pilate declares (18:14); the governor’s ‘notice’ reads ‘King of the Jews’ (18:19); Jesus entrusts the beloved disciple – standing for us all – to his mother (19:26); ‘the blood and water’ from his side are solemnly proclaimed as a blessing upon us all. What Jesus foretold early in his ministry has been realized: ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life’ (John 3:14). The symbol of kingship may have become archaic, but what it speaks of in the Scriptures, concerning the role of the Saviour in reign of God, has an everlasting relevance, far removed from the politics of this world.

OUR GARDEN NEEDS WATER

Thanks to Pat and Genevieve for looking after our beautiful garden. With summer coming on, the plants and the “fountain” need constant watering. So, if you are passing – or would like to spend relaxing and hosing, **drop in and water** – please.

SURFING SEASON 2021-2022

Since 1 July 2021, there have been **1,165 rescues** [1,133 last week] performed by Surf Lifesavers in Australia, and **1,547 first aids** [1,432 last week]. How do you spot a rip? What do you look for? **Stay safe and swim between the flags.**



VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL BEGINS THIS WEEKEND

After losing their home, Heidi and her partner Nikolas had to resort to staying with family and friends for a time, then suddenly it was no longer an option. They had nowhere to go. “We had been couch-surfing for as long as we could before that was just no longer an option. When we moved into the tent it was terrifying, but what else could we do?” – Heidi
It was a terrifying time. And, sadly, they’re not alone.

This Christmas, many families are struggling. Since the pandemic began, many have lost work, and now as the bills continue to mount, they worry about losing their homes, too.

In fact, 1 in 8 Australians are living in poverty - as are 1 in 6 children.

Thanks to two Vinnies Volunteers, Heidi and her partner, Nikolas, were able to find a safe place to live. They’ve since welcomed their beautiful son Jake into the world.

Nikolas has found work, and together they now have hope for their family’s future.

“We’re very grateful to Vinnies. Without them, Jake could have been born in a tent.”



Your kindness can be the turning point, as it was for Heidi and Nikolas.

By helping struggling families meet the cost of food, living expenses and other essentials, or find a safe place to call their home, you can help them through times of crisis.

YOU CAN DONATE ONLINE TO OUR LOCAL VINNIES BY CLICKING [HERE](#)

The annual **Vinnies Christmas Appeal** runs from **27 November** to **12 December**. You can support the Appeal in any of the following ways:

- ✓ **Hampers** – 3 categories (families, single female, single male) *notices in the church*
↳ *if you cannot attend church, but want to make a hamper up, contact the Parish Office*
- ✓ **Giving Tree** – tags on the tree have name and gender of children (up to 12 years)
- ✓ **Donation Envelopes** – available in the church as well as **online** donations
- ✓ **Donations Online** – give to our local Vinnies Conference by clicking **[HERE](#)**
- ✓ **Donations of Individual Items** – *Christmas cakes, puddings, long-life custard, tinned ham, biscuits, lollies, soft drinks, lollies, tinned vegetables, chips, jelly, baby formula, nappies – no cigarette or alcohol products please.*

**ONE CHRISTMAS ITEM [see above] 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**

SYNOD OF BISHOPS ON SYNODALITY

Catholics across Australia are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the next international Synod of Bishops, which has the theme: “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission”. The People of God are invited to use a guided, prayerful reflection method to consider a series of questions and make submissions via an online portal. Find out more at: <http://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

TECHNOLOGY SKILLS WORKSHOPS 2022

CatholicCare will facilitate small group sessions in 2022 aimed at assisting older Australians with improving their digital skills and knowledge: ① **Jane Hollier 0417 018 152**

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK – LAST WEEK OF THE CHURCH'S YEAR

Monday 22 Nov Saint Cecilia, virgin, martyr, patron saint of musicians

Wednesday 24 Nov Saint Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions, martyrs

Our church is currently open –capacity is now **100**. Please **KEEP IN TOUCH**.

PRAYER SEMINARS

There has been an overwhelming response to the Prayer Seminar series that runs each Tuesday evening, 7pm–8:30pm via Zoom. Prayer Seminars are hosted by the CCD Team but are open to anyone and everyone in the Diocese to attend. Each week a different presenter will lead us in a style of prayer that is meaningful to them. The seminars will include information, but also the opportunity to be led by an expert in the prayer experience. You are welcome to come to any or all of the seminars. Registering does not require you to attend every seminar. Please follow the link to register for Prayer Seminars: <https://www.dow.org.au/events/> Please register before the day of the seminar, to ensure you receive your zoom link on time.

GET CONNECTED WITH WHAT IS ON AROUND THE DIOCESE

Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith. To subscribe <https://dow.sh/stayingconnected> or visit <https://dow.sh/weeklybulletin>

RAYMOND'S RECIPE – *Thanks Raymond Cummins!*

This week from Ray, Easy Savoury Loaf: 500ml natural yoghurt; 2x30g 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 40–50mins.

Have a favourite recipe? Willing to share it? Please email it: thirroul@dow.org.au

THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Christ the King • Year B

1st Reading Daniel 7:13-14

2nd Reading Revelation 1:5-8

Gospel John 18:33-37

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

1st Sunday of Advent • Year C

1st Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16

2nd Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:12–4:2

Gospel Luke 21:25-28,34-36

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Church of St Michael • Thirroul

☞ Saturday – 5:30pm • Sunday – 8:00am

**Church: open for 100 people
2m² social distancing applies**

LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Thirroul
**Church:
open for
100 people**

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 four Northern Illawarra Parishes

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

📍 325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive

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☎ 4268 1910 📠 4268 1976

📧 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 Parish School of St Michael 📞 4267 2560