



Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
25/26 JUNE 2022
13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + YEAR C
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

In the first reading, Elisha is called by the Lord to be the helper and successor of the prophet Elijah. When in response to God's call the prophet Elijah comes to get Elisha, the latter really wants to follow the prophet. Only he wants to kiss his mother and father goodbye first.

The prophet responds negatively to Elisha's desire to go home first. "Go back!" the prophet says to him—and he seems to mean, "who wants you anyway?"

Why does the prophet take such a stern attitude?

Well, it is not actually the prophet who is calling Elisha. It is God. So, think of it this way. If the Pope were to call you and ask you to meet him, would you pause for anything? Wouldn't you race out in excitement? Pausing before going indicates that you don't really understand or don't really care who it is that is calling you.

And then, too, if you don't care very much about who is calling you, you might in the end fail to answer their call. It is undeniably easier to stay at home in the midst of what is small and familiar than to hazard the perils that come with answering a great call.

In Elisha's case, Elijah's dismissive response to Elisha's temporizing [*avoiding making a decision*] puts the fire of God in Elisha. He kills all his family's oxen; then he uses their yokes for firewood to roast the oxen, and he gives the flesh to his servants to eat. Elisha is making sure that he can't go home now, isn't he? How could he, after what he did to the family oxen and their yokes?

So here is the moral of the story: there isn't room for hanging back when the Lord calls you. If you hesitate, if you think of an excuse to postpone answering the call, you aren't really hearing the Lord calling; and so, you aren't really going to follow him either, not now, not later. That is why in the gospel reading Jesus says that no one who sets their hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of heaven.

But each human person is called to follow the Lord, to turn his back on their own sins, to live a life of love and holiness. Answering that call can't wait for later; there is nothing more important that needs to happen first. There is no place for temporizing when the Lord calls. The Lord's call has to be answered *now*.

Where is my life leading? A question many people ask themselves today – as the things that really matter are lost sight of in a haze of materialism and hedonism. We read in the weekend papers of people seeking to give their lives a new direction, because wealth and acclaim have left them with a sense of emptiness. If this spiritual emptiness is more widespread in today's world, the problem is not new. St Paul's advice for the Galatians, in our second reading – describing the 'self-indulgence' of the times as a kind of bondage – is as meaningful today as when it was first written.

It is our fundamental decisions that give direction to our lives. In today's gospel reading from Luke, Jesus begins to instruct his disciples, preparing them for the decisions that lie ahead of them. The example of Jesus, in the direction he gives to his life, is clearly affirmed – 'the time draws near for him to be taken up', and 'Jesus resolutely took the road for Jerusalem'. He shared our life to the full; he too had to make the painful human decisions that gave direction to his life. In these decisions, he was 'resolute', faithful to the end in expressing the generous ways of his Father. Our lives are shaped by the basic decisions we have made – concerning family priorities, concerning our professional responsibilities, concerning our attitudes as neighbours and citizens. As this gospel reading takes us into the company of Jesus, let us ask ourselves how responsible we are in the making of these life decisions, and how resolute we are in putting them into practice.

Luke presses home the lesson, recalling, at this point, three surprising responses made by Jesus to those who sought to become his followers. Jesus used words to great effect. The crowds followed him to hear his words of wisdom and encouragement. Many of his off-the-cuff sayings have become proverbial. But the prophet from Nazareth was not the ordinary kind of storyteller, he overturned people's expectations. In the usual way of things, a good story reconciles us, in the end, to the wholesomeness that is inherent to our human affairs; and proverbs sound a note that reassures us that there is a predictable order in things. The parables of Jesus, however, invite us to leave behind the reassurances of our familiar world, and to enter into the new order of things he called the 'Kingdom' of his Father – where the last may be first, and the one who shows himself to be our true friend may be a traditional enemy. Similarly, the three responses in today's gospel, though they are like proverbs, are meant to bring a shock that confronts us with the radical nature of our decision to be a follower of Jesus. They should be taken in this spirit, rather than as literal prescriptions. There may be a little ironical humour implied, also – for instance, if the father who is to be buried is still hale and hearty. Those who take seriously the invitation to follow Jesus, with all its radical implications, will never regret their decision – as the history of the Church has proved age after age.

Temporizing = Avoiding Making A Decision



QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading 1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21

- ✚ What was Elisha doing when he was called? Does God call other people in the bible in the same way? Does God call you to make changes in your everyday life?
- ✚ Were the people whom God called to be prophets highly educated or socially elite? Does God have prerequisites for prophets? What would your issues be if you were called as a prophet today?

Second Reading Galatians 5:1, 13-18

- ✚ “For you were called for freedom.” What is the source of such freedom? Is “going out of yourself” a freeing experience? What about the act of loving your neighbour?
- ✚ St Paul says, “if you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” Under the direction and guidance of the Spirit, could some Church laws change?

Gospel Luke 9:51-62

- ✚ The man said, “Lord, let me first go bury my father.” This would be a good thing, but is there reason for urgency in proclaiming the kingdom? Where do you see such a need today? Ecojustice? Immigration? Incarceration? Changing the gun laws? Sustainable energy? Conservation? Reconciliation? ...
- ✚ Why does Pope Francis say that Jesus was homeless or itinerant? Why does the Church need to be itinerant or in motion and “not sedentary within her enclosure”?

The first character promises him: “I will follow you wherever you go” (Luke 9:57). Generous! But Jesus replies that the Son of man, unlike foxes that have holes, and birds that have nests, “has nowhere to lay his head” (Luke 9:58). The absolute poverty of Jesus. Indeed, Jesus left his paternal home and gave up all security in order to proclaim the Kingdom of God to the lost sheep of his people. In this way Jesus pointed out to us, his disciples, that our mission in the world cannot be static, but is itinerant. The Christian is itinerant.

The Church by her very nature is in motion; she does not stay sedentary and calm within her enclosure. She is open to the broadest horizons, sent forth—the Church is sent forth—to bring the Gospel through the streets and to reach the human and existential peripheries.

– Pope Francis, *Angelus 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C*, 30 June 2019

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

FLOOD AND UKRAINE APPEALS – THANK YOU!

Thank you for your **incredible** generosity over the last month. Totals *so far* ... as donations keep coming in:

VINNIES FLOOD APPEAL – **TOTAL TO BE DONATED IS: \$13,950. THANK YOU!**
UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL – **TOTAL TO BE DONATED IS: \$11,370. THANK YOU!** } **TOTAL \$25,320**

To donate: **BSB 066 711, Account Number 001788**, and in the “Reference” indicate **FLOODS or UKRAINE**.

PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL, THIRROUL – PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Lyn Woodley, Henry Idziak and Judy Bull (Chairperson) have completed their terms on the Parish Pastoral Council. Members of the Parish Pastoral Council serve for three years, and ideally, there are nine members of the Parish Pastoral Council. Thanks to Lyn, Henry and Judy for their service to our Parish. Other current members of the Parish Pastoral Council are: Anne Clark; Marie Grace; Kerrie Hennessy. Welcome to new member Natalie Shelley. The Pastoral Councillors will be seeking other new members.

CENTENARY OF THE PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL, THIRROUL, IN 2023

On **31 October 1923** the parish of Thirroul was established, separating it from Bulli. The new parish covered the area from Bulli Pass to Bald Hill. A Centenary Committee is being formed, under the auspices of the Parish Pastoral Council, to organize celebration activities. Anyone interested in joining this committee or with suggestions for the celebrations **please contact Judy Bull** on ☎ **0407 672 417** or judy.bull@bigpond.com

2022 SIGNIFICANT MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS

If you are celebrating 25, 40, 50, 60 or over 60 years of marriage this year, and would like an invitation to the Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord at St Francis Xavier Cathedral on **Sunday, 7 August 2022** at 2pm, please register online at www.dow.org.au/events/ – or contact **Helen Bennett** at the Office of the Bishop at **4222 2403**, or via email helen.bennett@dow.org.au by no later than Monday, 11 July. Once you have done so, an invitation and official online registration procedures will be sent to you. This is a great chance to celebrate your anniversary with other couples from our Parish and the Diocese.

PATRONAL FEAST OF THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

Sunday, 26 June 2022 is the Patronal Feast of the Diocese of Wollongong, the **Immaculate Heart of Mary**.

The Icon of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (by Marice Sariola) is at Saint John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow.

As we celebrate the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the whole Diocese of Wollongong looks to Mary, the Mother of the Church. Thanks to the Marian shrines and churches around the Diocese dedicated to the Mother of God, devotion to Mary should be very strong and widespread among the people in our local Church.

May we continue to contemplate the Virgin Mary, who pondered in her heart the mystery of Christ. We know that Mary is present as a mother to us and so shares in the many complicated problems which today beset the lives of individuals, families, parishes, schools and communities. We know that Mary has a heart for the Christian people in our constant struggle between good and evil, to ensure that we do not fall, or, if we have fallen, that we rise again.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is an image of the Church which, nourished by hope, acknowledges the saving and merciful action of God, in whose light our diocese reads our own journey and all of history. Mary helps us to interpret all that happens to us in the light of Jesus her Son. As a new creation moulded by the Holy Spirit, Mary causes the virtue of hope to grow within us.

To the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of hope and of consolation, we confidently lift up our prayer: to Mary we entrust the future of the Diocese of Wollongong.

Loving God, you prepared a fit dwelling place for the Holy Spirit in the heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Graciously grant that through her intercession we may be a worthy temple of your glory.



WOLLONGONG CLERGY IN-SERVICE THIS WEEK

Each year, clergy of the Diocese of Wollongong attend an in-service held at Campbelltown within the Catholic Club facilities. This year the topics being presented include: “The Life Cycle of Employment Relationships”; Clergy Professional (Pastoral) Supervision; the Revised Book VI of the Code of Canon Law (Penalties); Wills and Power of Attorney; Parish Restructuring – Chicago Model; Clergy Remuneration. In addition, it is a time for clergy to pray and celebrate the Eucharist together, and to celebrate together. The In-service commences at 10am on Tuesday, 28 June and concludes at lunch time on Thursday, 30 June. Andrew and Ken will be attending.

LITURGY OF THE WORD – THIS TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY

As Andrew and Ken will be attending the Clergy In-service this week, there will be **Liturgy of the Word with Communion on Tuesday (5:30pm), Wednesday (9am) and Thursday (9am)**.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: 9:30AM THIS FRIDAY

This Friday, **1 July**, being the First Friday of the Month, the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated during the 9:30am Mass.

Anointing of the Sick is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death. The fitting time for any one of the faithful to receive this sacrament is when one begins to be in danger by reason of sickness or old age. The sacrament gives to the sick person the grace of the Holy Spirit by which the whole person is made healthy, is encouraged to trust in God and is given the strength to resist the temptations of the Evil One and avoid succumbing to anxiety about death. The sick are thus able not only to bear their affliction with courage but also to struggle to overcome it. Restoration to health may follow the reception of the sacrament if this will be in the interests of the sick person’s salvation. If such be needed, the sacrament also offers the sick person the forgiveness of sin and the completion of Christian penance. By the sacred anointing of the sick and the prayer of the priests the whole Church commends those who are ill to the suffering and glorified Lord that he may raise them up and save them.

The sacrament is not administered indiscriminately, for example, to anyone over the age of sixty, or to anyone present at the Mass during which there is Anointing of the Sick. However, the sacrament is to be administered to those who are seriously ill, those undergoing surgery in hospital, those who are in danger because of sickness or older age, the elderly if they are weak, those who are weak or in danger because of a chronic illness.

All celebrations of the Eucharist – the Mass – bring healing, through reconciliation and uniting with the Body of the Lord. Thus, to call the Mass during which there is Anointing of the Sick “a Healing Mass” is a misnomer – **all** Masses are “healing Masses”. Rather it is Mass during which there is the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

menALIVE Growing Good Men: Father & Teenage Son Weekend Experience ... 6:30pm, Friday, **21 October** – 1:30pm, Sunday, **23 October 2022** at Cataract Activity Centre, Appin. A good opportunity to cement good relationships. ☎ 4222 2403

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Weekday readings are from **Year II**

Monday	27 Jun	Monday of Ordinary Time Week 13	Amos 2:6-10,13-16	Matthew 8:18-22
Tuesday	28 Jun	Saint Irenaeus, bishop, martyr 5:30pm Liturgy of the Word ✘ Not recorded this week	Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12	Matthew 8:23-27 Andrew and Ken at Clergy Conference
Wednesday	29 Jun	Saints Peter and Paul, apostles 9:00am Liturgy of the Word	Acts 12:1-11	2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18 Matthew 16:13-19 Andrew and Ken at Clergy Conference
Thursday	30 Jun	Thursday of Ordinary Time Week 13 9:00am Liturgy of the Word Half of 2022 has now gone! End of the financial year	Amos 7:10-17	Matthew 9:1-8 Andrew and Ken at Clergy Conference
Friday	1 Jul	Friday of Ordinary Time Week 13 Anointing of the Sick during 9:30am Mass	Amos 8:4-6,9-12	Matthew 9:9-13
Saturday	2 Jul	Saturday of Ordinary Time Week 13	Amos 9+:11-15	Matthew 9:14-17
Sunday	3 Jul	14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C ... Scripture Readings are listed below Plenary Council Session II commences ... concludes Saturday, 9 July Jodi Steel and Ken are members of the Plenary Council and will attend all week		

THIS WEEK'S RECIPE ... Chocolate Chip Banana Bread

2 cups self-raising flour; 1/3 cup brown sugar; 1 cup baking dark chocolate; 2 eggs; 3/4 cup milk; 3 ripe bananas (it's best to use 3 large bananas that have gone brown – the browner the better!); 50g butter melted.

Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan forced). Grease and line a loaf pan (20cm x 10cm) and set aside until needed. Combine the flour, sugar and chocolate chips in a large bowl. Combine the eggs, milk, banana and butter in a separate bowl and whisk together. Add the combined liquid ingredients to the bowl with the dry ingredients and mix well until just combined. Pour mixture into the prepared pan. Bake for 45 minutes or until cooked through. **Favourite recipe to share? Email it to the Parish Office.**

SESSION 2 OF THE PLENARY COUNCIL 3 TO 9 JULY 2022

The four-year journey of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia will reach the second – and final – assembly from 3 to 9 July 2022. The Framework for Motions document that will be considered at the second assembly contains thirty motions across eight mission areas that the 277 Members – clergy, religious and laity – will vote on during the assembly. The Framework for Motions “will form the backbone of our reflection, discussion and decision when we gather”, Plenary Council president Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB wrote. “As we strive to discern, and then to embrace, all that God is asking of us now and as we move into the future, we will be challenged to recognise both the strengths and weaknesses of ‘who we are’ and the hope which lies in ‘who God is calling us to become’. The Plenary Council will be held in Sydney. Jodi Steel and Ken will be attending. The Framework for Motions are here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EIQBQV8U8-T5DemhN1TY-WSIT4uSzy-v/view>

Some Favourite Oxymorons

Assistant Supervisor; New Tradition; Original Copy; Plastic Glass; Uninvited Guest; Live Recording; Authentic Reproduction; Partial Cease-fire; Limited Lifetime Guarantee; Elevated Subway; Dry Lake; True Replica; Almost Ready; Astronomically Small; Deafening Silence; Unbiased Opinion; Plastic Silverware; Negative Income; Deceptively Honest; Devout Atheist; Dull Roar; Eloquent Silence; Unconscious Awareness; True Fiction; Steel Wool; Soft Rock; Shrewd Dumbness; Pretty Ugly; Open Secret; Loud Whisper. Do you have any favourite oxymorons? *Let the Parish Office know so they can be published to make you anonymously famous.*

THIS Sunday's Readings – on website	NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website	SUNDAY MASS TIMES
13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • Year C	14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • Year C	Saturday 5:30pm
1st Reading 1 Kings 19:16,19-21	1st Reading Isaiah 66:10-14	Sunday 8:00am
2nd Reading Galatians 5:1,13-18	2nd Reading Galatians 6:14-18	 Saturday Mass recorded
Gospel Luke 9:51-62	Gospel Luke 10:1-12,17-20	
Parish of St Michael – Thirroul <i>One of the four Northern Illawarra Parishes</i> <i>Moving forward as a Parish Family</i> Patrick Vaughan • <i>Parish Priest</i> Andrew Granc ofm, Ken Cafe ofm • <i>Assisting</i> Lauren Faulks • <i>Parish Secretary</i> Tues, Wed 9am–3:30pm; Fri 9:30am–2:30pm	 www.thirroulcatholic.org.au  325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive  PO Box 44 • Thirroul 2515  4268 1910  4268 1976  thirroul@dow.org.au Parish School of St Michael  4267 2560	WEEKDAY LITURGIES/MASSES Monday ——— Tuesday 5:30pm Wednesday 9:00am Thursday 9:00am Friday 9:30am <i>Anointing of the Sick 1st Friday</i>