



Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
29/30 JUNE 2024
13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + YEAR B
VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Death and Life

The first reading says that God did not make death.

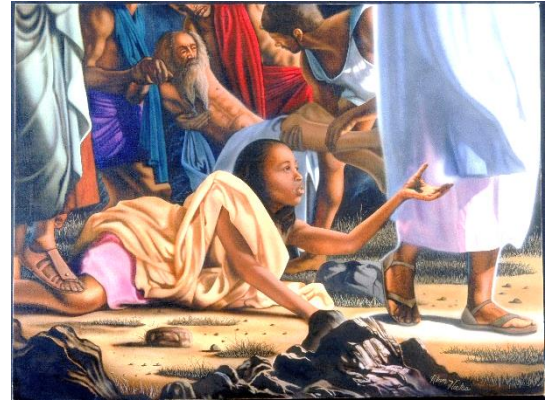
Alright, then, who did? The reading says it entered the world by means of the devil's envy.

This only makes the problem worse, doesn't it, but maybe we can take a stab at understanding it.

The devil's envy. What is envy, and how could it bring about death?

You and I have beheld with our own eyes, greedy eyes sometimes, what another person possesses: wealth or power or good looks or talent or strength or control or whatever else. Their success can sting and give us anguish over our own lack. We feel—well it is hard to describe what we feel. Anger, fear, panic, and who knows what else.

Multiply that by a million and you will understand how the devil felt when he first got to earth. He had been an archangel, one of the greatest beings in God's creation, second only to God's very self. Lucifer, as he was called then (meaning "light-bearer"), was dazzled by God's greatness. He liked it but he did not like being only finitely great in comparison! He found within himself an irresistible envy of God! It was like the positive pole of one magnet when held up to another magnet's positive pole.



Envy.

It propelled Satan straight out of heaven. He landed with a thud on earth. He tumbled across the garden of bounty that God had created. This ex-angel now walked bestially, in stunned silence, and, yes, amid shimmering beauty, innocence and intricacy that now were not his! Then this newly constituted devil came upon the most difficult sight of all. It froze him in his tracks. His eyes lit upon human beings—in their first purity, as yet unsullied. They were "created for incorruption, and made in God's own image," the first reading says.

The poet Milton imagined what the devil must have thought of them: "O Hell! what do mine eyes with grief behold, ... whom my thoughts pursue with wonder, and could love, so lively shines in them divine resemblance, and such grace the hand that formed them on their shape hath poured. ..." [Book Four of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, 356-365]

The father of lies was gravely tempted toward loving these two. But anger and jealous rage knocked this unique temptation aside. He decided to capture them instead of loving them. "I can suck them into myself," he thought, "their beauty and all its traces. If I possess them I will be great again. I will be able to continue my war against God and I can win it! Horror and death are small prices for what I will gain!"

By contrast, let us understand what human life could be like without jealousy and envy. The Gospel says this: "What came to be through [Christ] was life, and this life was the light of the human race. (John 1:1-5)

Jesus is satisfied to be himself. He is humble. Not hostile. He grieves for others instead of for his own losses. The daughter of the synagogue official is just "sleeping," he says. The crowd laughs. Asleep! What a joke.

But Jesus, with God's own assurance, knew that love is stronger than death, and so he walked through their ridicule, woke the dead girl, and nestled her deep into the rich love that had created her.

Only love brings good. Envy brings death.

"Evil, be thou my good," Satan said! [Milton IV, 110]

What do you and I say?

Mark concludes his account of the ministry of Jesus in Galilee with descriptions of some remarkable miracles worked by Jesus during this ministry. In today's reading Jesus shows himself the Lord of life and death – healing the woman 'who had suffered from a haemorrhage for twelve years', and bringing back to life the young daughter of one of the elders of the local synagogue.



Again, the words of Jesus and Mark's telling of the story emphasise the importance of 'faith' in what is to unfold – a trusting openness to the fact that, in the ministry of Jesus, God's great promises to Israel were being fulfilled. This faith, however, finds very different expression in the two cases. The synagogue official, well versed in the traditions of Israel, and with an openness that expresses the true spirit of Israel's faith, makes his request: 'Make my little daughter better and save her life'. His trust in what Jesus can do for him is in stark contrast with the attitude of those who report that the girl is already dead and urge him not to trouble Jesus further, and with the mourners already gathering in his home. The woman's faith is less informed; naïve perhaps, very like the faith of so many



✠ simple believers. But what she knows of Jesus inspires her to seek a healing by ‘touching his clothes’. The reaction of Jesus is to lead her to the personal meeting with him that should take place in an authentic faith.

As was the case with the miracle story which precedes this one – in which Jesus shows his Lordship by quelling the storm – the community for which Mark wrote his gospel would have listened to this narrative, in which Jesus showed himself Lord of life and death, against the background of their faith in his resurrection – the ultimate demonstration of this Lordship. This is confirmed, commentators point out, by the fact that, in the telling of the miraculous events, terms are used which echo New Testament faith in the resurrection: ‘Lay your hands on her that she may be healed and live’; ‘Your faith has healed you’ (The Greek could also be translated, ‘saved’, a powerful word in the vocabulary of Christian faith); ‘Little gift I tell you get up!’ (This Greek word is often used in reference to the Lord’s resurrection). Against this background, the many reference to ‘life’ take on a deeper meaning.

This gospel narrative sheds light on the attitudes of Jesus. The two miracles, both worked for women, show the freedom with which he related to the customs that had grown up in old Israel. According to these customs, the woman’s ailment would have made her ‘unclean’ – and perhaps that is why, when summoned by Jesus, she ‘came forward frightened and trembling’, concerned that she may have offended him. But her fears were brushed aside by the Saviour who came to bring authentic fulfilment to all that the life of old Israel foreshadowed; ‘My daughter your faith has restored you to health; go in peace’. In bringing the little girl back to life, Jesus ‘took her by the hand’. This was a remarkable thing to do. According to Jewish customs it was not acceptable for a man to touch a twelve year old girl – since she was now of marriageable age.

While Jesus was sharing the last meal he would have with his friends before his death, he said to them: ‘Trust in God still and trust in me’(John 14:1). Today’s Gospel is the third in a series of three exceptionally powerful scenes in which Mark, drawing on the memories of Peter, is encouraging his fellow Christians to keep on trusting God, to keep on trusting Jesus even though things can seem hopeless. When the little girl is restored to life, we are not expected to hope that if we trust enough we can avoid death forever. Death is a part of our human existence. Though we have prayed for or heard of people who have been miraculously healed, we know that we must all eventually die. The aim of today’s gospel is not to encourage us to trust that Jesus will come and take us by the hand, or take those we love by the hand, and restore us back to this life, even though that is what we might want for ourselves and for those we love. Our trust is that when we come to die, whatever our age and whatever the circumstances, Jesus will certainly come and take us by the hand and take us through to the life for which we are created, the life of eternal communion in love with God and with all those we love.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24

✠ “For God created man for incorruption, and made him in the image of his own eternity.” (Wisdom 1:14). What in humankind’s nature is made in God’s own image? Is it true of all of humankind or just Christians?

✠ “For he created all things so that they might exist; the generative forces of the world are wholesome.” (Wisdom 1:14). Do you and I have any responsibility to respect the whole of creation and keep everything wholesome that is fashioned by God? What can you do to protect our environment?”

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15

✠ To which do you think many people in the world respond better, a wealthy God or a poor God? Explain your answer. With which do you feel more comfortable? Why?

✠ This reading is about sharing your abundance. What do you have that you can share? How much time are you willing to give to another? How can you share some of your talents? How much of your treasure are you willing to share? When you share do you also receive?

Gospel Mark 5:21-43

✠ Did Jesus leave anything that you might touch if you had a problem and you just wanted to quietly touch/receive something that might help? What? The Eucharist? The woman with the haemorrhage was shunned. Are women in some cultures still oppressed? Is racial bias a type of shunning?

✠ What does Pope Francis say we can do to imitate Jesus in healing people?

The story of this nameless woman—let us call her this way, “the nameless woman”—in whom we can all see ourselves, is exemplary. ... More than her health, her affections were compromised. Why? She had blood loss and therefore, according to the mindset of the time, she was deemed impure. She was a marginalized woman; she could not have stable relationships; ... She lived alone, with a wounded heart. ...

Sister, brother, you are here, let Jesus look at and heal your heart. I too have to do this: let Jesus look at my heart and heal it. And if you have already felt his tender gaze upon you, imitate him, and do as he does. Look around: you will see that many people who live beside you feel wounded and alone; they need to feel loved: take the step. Jesus asks you for a gaze that does not stop at the outward appearance, but that goes to the heart: a gaze that is not judgmental. Jesus asks us for a gaze that is non-judgmental, but rather welcoming. Let us open our hearts to welcome others. Because love alone heals life, love alone heals life.

– Pope Francis, *Angelus*, 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 27 June 2021

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL – 29/30 JUNE AND 6/7 JULY

The St Vincent de Paul Society NSW has launched its annual Vinnies Winter Appeal with a focus on the increasing number of homelessness.

Right now, a staggering **1,600 people** are being forced into homelessness every single month in Australia. The most vulnerable people in our communities have been hit extremely hard by the spiralling cost of living in the last few years. Many families are only just holding on. They've had to cope with sharp rises in the price of food and fuel. And it's pushed them to the very edge. They have so little left; they just don't have the resources to deal with any more financial stress. Australia's ongoing housing crisis means they could lose their homes and everything they've worked so hard to build. The number of rental properties that a person earning minimum wage can afford has dropped below 1%.



It means that more and more people like Luke and many others simply can't find anywhere to live. They need your help. The appeal will be held in our Parish on the weekends of 29/30 June and 6/7 July. **Help end homelessness.**

There will be a special collection at both Masses this weekend and next weekend. You can donate cash or use your credit/debit card. **You can also donate online to Thirroul Vinnies Conference:** go to this link to donate: <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way-conference/st-michael-thirroul-vinnies-winter-appeal>

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION – 27 JUNE

Congratulations to the following young parishioners who received the **Sacrament of Confirmation** on **Thursday, 27 June:** **JAMES MACFARLANE; CHAYCE SCOTT; LOCHLAN VARDY; ELIJAH MUSCAT; MAHLI DUFFIN; MAGGIE LAMBERGER; CLANCY MAYERS; MONTE HASHAM; ELIZA DOUGLAS; AOWYN BATTEN; XAVIER KELLY; TULLY HENDERSON; AUDEN RAGGETT; NATE RUTLEDGE; JACK BLAND; SOFIA LA PALOMBARA; KAI ROSSIGNOL; LOUIS ZANETTI.** Congratulations to the Candidates, their families and their sponsors.



BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND EUCHARIST FOR OLDER CHILDREN

If your daughter or son is **7 years or older** and is not baptised, then their preparation for baptism will be over a few months, as they will receive together the three Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist – this is called **RCIC**, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children. Please contact the Parish Office to enrol in the RCIC program which will be commencing in the second half of July.

SPIRITUALITY ON THE SOFA – WEDNESDAY, 3 JULY AT 19:30

The topic for this month is **Helping celebrate NAIDOC Week**, which is 7-14 July. The speakers are Jasmin L'Green and David Newham. **Jasmin** is a proud Kuungkari woman originally from Worimi Country in Gloucester. **Dave** is a proud Aboriginal man born and raised in the Newcastle area. He proudly identifies as a Wiradjuri descendant and ceremonially as a Ngemba man. To watch and participate, on your web browser, start Zoom and enter the following: Meeting ID: **881 9482 4050** Passcode: **101016** — **Happy Sipping!**

SOME FUN FACTS ABOUT FIJI

1. There are 333 tropical islands in Fiji and only one third of them are inhabited. This means that there are 222 paradise islands waiting to be explored. What do you think you'd find? Hidden treasure? A flock of flamingos? Awesome bamboo waterslide? The possibilities are endless.
2. Fiji welcomes warm weather all year round, with 25°C the average temperature. This is great for splashing in the sea, playing beach games with the family and hanging out with new friends in the resort.
3. The official language of Fiji is Fijian. However, people may also speak English and Hindi.
4. Fiji is home to a method of cooking called 'lovo'. This involves cooking food underground! Don't worry, all of the delicious ingredients are wrapped in banana leaves before the surrounding burning rocks slowly cook them.
5. Just over 900,000 people live in Fiji, compared to the 25 million who live in Australia.
6. Fijians love sport, especially rugby union. It's the most popular sport in the country and nearly ten per cent of the entire population play.
7. You can time travel in Fiji: the island of Taveuni, sits right on the International Date Line (180°). You can stand with one foot in today and the other foot in yesterday!
8. Fiji has a rail network – but only of sugar cane trains!
9. Out of the 28 official airports in Fiji only four have paved runways, Nadi and Suva (Nausori) are two of them!
10. "Fiji Time" is a Religion.

Bula (Hello); **Vinaka** (Thank you); **Vinaka vaka levu** (Thank you very much); **Moce** (Good-bye)



SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Sundays Year B • Weekdays Year II

Monday	1 Jul	Monday, Ordinary Time Week 13	Amos 2:6-10, 13-16	Matthew 8:18-22
Tuesday 	2 Jul	Tuesday, Ordinary Time Week 13	Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12	Matthew 8:23-27
Wednesday	3 Jul	The Thomas, apostle	Ephesians 2:19-22	John 20:24-29
Thursday	4 Jul	Thursday, Ordinary Time Week 13	Amos 7:10-17	Matthew 9:1-8
Friday	5 Jul	Friday, Ordinary Time Week 13	Amos 8:4-6, 9-12	Matthew 9:9-13
Saturday	6 Jul	Saturday, Ordinary Time Week 13	2Amos 9:11-15	Matthew 9:14-17
Sunday	7 Jul	14 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR B – <i>Scripture Readings are listed below.</i>		

FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- ✦ **Weekend, 29/30 June** **Confirmation Candidates welcomed and congratulated at Masses**
VINNIES WINTER APPEAL WEEK 1 – SPECIAL COLLECTION
- ✦ **Monday, 1 July** until Friday, 12 July, Ken teaching at the Seminary in Suva, Fiji
Andrew will care for the Parish; **no “televised” Masses**
- ✦ **Wednesday, 3 July** **19:30 Spirituality on the Sofa**
- ✦ **Friday, 5 July** **09:30 Anointing of the Sick during Mass**
Last day of School for Term
- ✦ **Weekend, 6/7 July** **VINNIES WINTER APPEAL WEEK 2 – SPECIAL COLLECTION**
- ✦ **Weekend, 13/14 July** **Blessing of those celebrating July Wedding Anniversaries, Birthdays**
- ✦ **Saturday, 13 July** **18:30 Dinner at Club Thirroul after 17:30 Mass**
- ✦ **Tuesday, 16 July ...** **to Thursday, 18 July – Wollongong Clergy Conference, Campbelltown**

RECIPE: CHINESE CHICKEN WINGS

Coke; 600g chicken wings; 2 tablespoons ketchup; 2 tablespoons mustard; 2 tablespoons of soy sauce; 1 teaspoon salt; black pepper to taste; 1 tablespoon of honey; 1 tablespoon butter; 1 drizzle of oil; 2 cloves of garlic.

Add Cola to the chicken wings (in a jar), and leave to marinate for at least 15 minutes. In a bowl mix thoroughly the ketchup, mustard [*not Hot English*], soy sauce, salt, pepper and honey. In a frying pan add a tablespoon of butter. Let the butter melt and add a drizzle of oil. Put the chicken wings in the pan and let them fry until they are golden brown, turning them over till they brown on the other side. Add 2 cloves of garlic and the rest of the Coke (150ml). Then pour over the chicken the sauce you prepared. Spread the sauce well, cover it and let it cook for about 10 minutes, ensuring the chicken wings don't burn. Garnish with parsley.

2024 SIGNIFICANT MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS

If you are celebrating 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 or over 60 years of marriage this year, you are invited to the celebration of Significant Marriage Anniversaries, to be celebrated with Bishop Brian Mascord on **Sunday, 25 August 2024** at 2pm at the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong. Mass will be followed by light refreshments in the Xavier Centre Conference Room. Please register online at <https://dow.sh/MA2024> or contact Helen Bennett, at the Office of the Bishop ☎ 4222 2403, or via email helen.bennett@dow.org.au by no later than **Monday, 29 July 2024**.

PLEASE BRING IN ... ONE NON-PERISHABLE ITEM PER FAMILY EACH WEEK TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE LOCAL ILLAWARRA AREA

THIS Sunday's Readings – on website

13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ♦ YEAR B
1st Reading Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24
2nd Reading 2 Corinthians 8:7,9,13-15
Gospel Mark 5:21-43

Parish of St Michael – Thirroul

*One of the four Northern Illawarra Parishes
 Moving forward as a Parish Family*

Patrick Vaughan • *Parish Priest*

Andrew Granc ofm, Ken Cafe ofm • *Assisting*

Kerry Fabon • Parish Secretary

Tues, Wed 09:00-15:00; Fri 08:30-15:00

NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ♦ YEAR B
1st Reading Ezekiel 2:2-5
2nd Reading 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
Gospel Mark 6:1-6

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SUNDAY

MASS TIMES

Saturday  17:30

Sunday 08:00

 Saturday Mass is recorded.

THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

Monday _____

Tuesday  17:30

Wednesday 09:00

Thursday 09:00

Friday 09:30

Anointing of the Sick 1st Friday