



**Welcome to  
the Parish of  
Saint Michael  
Thirroul**



**PARISH BULLETIN**  
**26 / 27 OCTOBER 2024**  
**30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + YEAR B**  
**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**

**THIS WEEK'S READINGS**

*Keep On Asking*

One summer night, a thicket of ducks quacked its way across the lake and into a tree or two near the house. Their loud, non-stop, ever-increasing racket was a shock. Each and every duck citizen, it seemed, felt a duty to yell in full voice and all at once! They seemed to be having a rollicking good time, but what did they achieve with their babble? Had they come for an evening's rest? But how could anyone rest with this ear-splitting quack-talk?

When they were safely ensconced there began a subtle change in the clatter, very gradual, as when applause reaches a peak at a concert and then, almost unnoticeably, crests and trails off. Each bird gave a bit of quiet to the next until everyone was comfortable and calm.

Except one.

This individual went on and on cawing, absurdly, all by itself.

Then at last a duck-mate nudged it and said, "Hey, mate, we're all surrounding you and we're all safe. Zip up your beak." And it did. There ensued the sleepy silence that the ducks probably wanted all along.

And I understood this as teamwork.

Have you always loved to be included in a team? Nobody perfect, yet everyone having a special place, keeping the rules, moving along together, and someone comforting the one who can't take a hint. Today we would call it community. Or family.

God confirms this in the first reading: "I will gather all who are blind and those who are lame, those with child and those in labour, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble."

The ducks might seem to be symbols for this reading. Their alarms—and finally their trusting slumber—maybe weren't so different from what we ourselves do. Our loud-longing is heard by God, who is saying, "hush, child, the whole flock is here. Settle down."

In Sunday's Gospel Blind Bartimeus, like the last duck, couldn't stop calling out to Jesus. "Son of David have mercy on me!" The rest of the flock tried to shush him, but he kept right on. Over and over, "Son of David have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped walking and said, "call him here." The man waded through the crowd to Jesus, who asked him the same question the squawking ducks had heard: "What do you want me to do for you?" In this case it was obvious. A blind man would want his sight back. Surely Jesus would not have missed this.

"My teacher, let me see again."


But just getting his sight back would not have done it, any more than just landing in the trees did the ducks. Bartimeus already had the incarnate God standing before him, and maybe this was the fullness of what he "wanted to see." "Your faith has made you well," Jesus said. And the man saw. And followed.

If Jesus asks you or me, "what do you want," how will we answer? Is the faith that saves us hiding deep within us? Are we able to call for help? Such a call can be fulfilled this very day, you know, if you let it.

Try listening.

"What do you want me to do for you?"

Mark invites us to join him as he describes Jesus' progress to Jerusalem: situating ourselves among the group that – though they are truly attached to the Saviour – still have so much to learn. At Jerico, with the journey to Jerusalem almost completed, Mark includes the story of Bartimeus the blind beggar. Typical of Mark's style, the brief story has a vivid ring of immediacy. But it also has a telling lesson. Making the blind see is the first of the messianic signs (see Isaiah 42:7) appealed to by Jesus, when – from his prison – John the Baptist sent his friends to ask of Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come?' (Luke 7:22). Jesus is surrounded by blindness – the bewildered confusion of the twelve; the cruel reaction of the crowd, who 'scolded Bartimeus and told him to keep quiet'; the blindness of those in Jerusalem determined to destroy him. Through his miracle, Jesus makes Bartimeus a living sign of what he is doing in the name of his Father – healing the world's blindness, leading the human family to see in him the truth of God's ways.

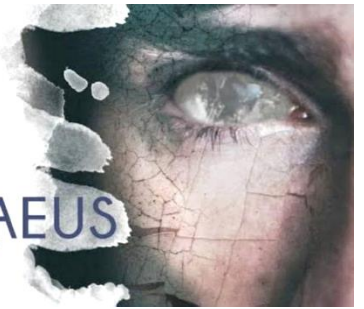
God's grace has prepared the blind beggar. As he works the miracle for him, Jesus commends his 'faith'. Unfortunately, many people have a very abstract understand of 'faith' – as an acceptance of revealed truths. 



✠✠ ‘Faith’ has a very concrete meaning when it is referred to by Jesus. For old Israel, God was known through the ‘great things’ God had done for Israel. God had a plan that was unfolding through the history of the chosen people. The reading from the Book of the prophet Jeremiah gives us a glimpse of the startling confidence of old Israel’s faith. Though the people have lived through the horrors of defeat and exile, they must look forward, the prophet assures them, to a future filled with blessings – ‘Shout with joy... Proclaim! Praise! Shout! The Lord has saved his people’. If they ‘left in tears’ for the trials of life in a foreign land, their return will be like a new Exodus, the whole company – the strong and the weak – will be led back, as God shows himself to be their loving ‘Father’.

## JESUS HEALED BARTIMAEUS

MARK 10:46-52



The ‘faith’ Jesus frequently speaks of as he works a miracle is a blessed openness that recognises in his coming that the Father’s generous plan is beginning to be realised. In contrast to those around Jesus, Bartimeus has this openness. He is the first person in the gospel accounts to address Jesus publicly with the messianic title, ‘Son of David’ – a title Jesus avoided because of the political overtones it had assumed in his time. He throws off his cloak and hurries forward to ask for the miracle that had been promised as a sign of the messiah of Israel’s hopes. His readiness is instantly rewarded, and he joins the company of Jesus’ disciples. It is unusual for a person miraculously healed to be named in the gospels. Perhaps Bartimeus was a character who became well known in the apostolic community – soon to be dramatically enlightened by the blessings of the Saviour’s Paschal Mystery.

The reading from Hebrews develops the theme of Christ, ‘given the glory of becoming high priest of the order of Melchizedek’ by the Father. Through his resurrection, in the Paschal Mystery, he is revealed as a messiah far greater than Israel’s expectations – the eternal Son who comes forth from the Father.

The mood of today’s readings is summed up well in the Psalm. The people have seen their country ravaged by war, their city Jerusalem (called Zion in this psalm) has been destroyed along with its temple, and they have been living as exiles in Babylon. Then, to their utter amazement, they have been given permission by king Cyrus, the Persian conqueror of Babylon, to return home, to rebuild their country and their lives. It was all too good to be true. In the words of the psalm ‘The Lord brings us back to Zion, we are like dreamers’. (Psalm 126:1) They had left Jerusalem in tears, now they are returning ‘full of song’. Their exile is over, there is still much that needs healing and so, in the midst of their overwhelming joy, they continue to pray: ‘Lord, bring us back as water to thirsty land.’ (Psalm 126:4) The blind beggar asks to see again. And it is his ‘faith’ that makes it possible for him to be healed and so to see.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

### First Reading Jeremiah 31:7-9

- ↳ Who are the people today who are “weeping” due to hunger, discrimination, political wars, and environmental problem?
- ↳ Is there anyone in your life who just needs the road “levelled out” a bit, anyone you can ask “what do you want me to do for you,” as Jesus did in Sunday’s Gospel? If you help, how is this good for both of you?

### Second Reading Hebrews 5:1-6

- ↳ “He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness.” How would experiencing weakness help someone in ministering to others? Do you think Jesus’ human experience and suffering draws people to him?
- ↳ Baptism makes all of us ministers in the reign of God. Think about Moses, St Francis, St Clare, St Oscar Romero, St Mary MacKillop and others. Pick one or two and say how their weakness helped make them good ministers.?

### Gospel Mark 10:46-52

- ↳ The disciples were trying to shut him up. But Bartimeus kept calling out to Jesus anyway. When others tell you to keep quiet, what do you do? In the history of the Church can you think of great scientists and theologians who were silenced?
- ↳ Does Pope Francis say we should not be asking God for “spare change,” but instead to ask, with heartfelt insistence, for everything?

“Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me.” Let us, too, recite this prayer today. Let us repeat it and ask ourselves: “What is my prayer like”? Let each of us ask ourselves: “What is my prayer like”? Is it courageous, does it contain the good insistence of Bartimeus, does it know how to “take hold” of the Lord as he passes, or is it rather content with making a formal greeting every now and then, when I remember? ...

Furthermore, is my prayer “substantial,” does it bare my heart before the Lord? Do I take my story and life experience to him? Or is it anaemic, superficial, made up of rituals, without feeling and without heart? When faith is alive, prayer is heartfelt: it does not beg for spare change, it is not reduced to the needs of the moment. We must ask everything of Jesus, who can do everything. Do not forget this. We must ask everything of Jesus, with my insistence before him. He cannot wait to pour out his grace and joy into our hearts; but unfortunately, it is we who keep our distance, through timidity, laziness or unbelief.

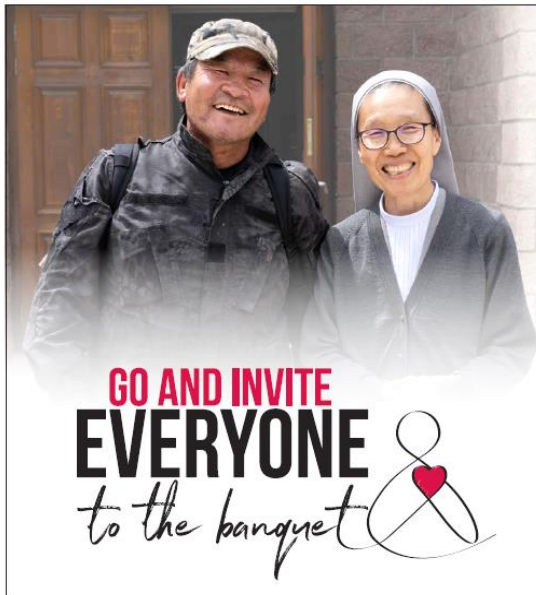
– Pope Francis, *Angelus* for the 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, 24 October 2021

## WORLD MISSION DAY 2024

Catholic Mission works on behalf of Pope Francis to support Church-run mission programs around the world, and each year the Holy Father proclaims a message to inspire the focus on missionary activity for the coming World Mission Day. The theme is *“Go and invite everyone to the banquet.”* A copy of the Message of Pope Francis is printed as an insert to this week’s Bulletin.

*“Let us not forget that every Christian is called to take part in this universal mission by offering his or her own witness to the Gospel in every context.”* (Pope Francis)

**Interfaith dialogue is key to shaping a harmonious future. It enables people from different religions and backgrounds to express themselves freely and work together towards building a sustainable society. This is especially the case in Mongolia, where interfaith dialogue between religious leaders is foundational to future cohesion.**



This week, you’re invited to partner with the Church in Mongolia to help deliver essential services to people who need it most. Lack of access and social stigma mean that some of the most vulnerable people are not getting the support they require.

**The House of Mercy will provide a haven for many people, including those affected by homelessness and domestic violence. Without your partnership, people in need will go without the assistance they require.**

During World Mission Sunday, we are called to “Invite others to the banquet”, and we invite you to share the warmth of God’s love with our brothers and sisters who need it most in Mongolia. You can support this work by using the appeal envelope, going online at [catholicmission.org.au/mongolia](https://catholicmission.org.au/mongolia), or scanning the QR code. Your gift will also assist many other Church programs around the world.



Freecall: 1800 257 296  
[catholicmission.org.au/mongolia](https://catholicmission.org.au/mongolia)

SCAN ME



**Thank you for your generosity in supporting the World Mission Day Appeal.**

## CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE – SIXTY YEARS YOUNG!

The Thirroul Catholic Women’s League **turns sixty (60) this year!** There will be a special Mass and light luncheon – **10:30am on Wednesday, 20 November 2024.** The Mass is in our Parish church and the luncheon in our Parish hall, the McCarthy Centre, in the grounds of our Parish school. All ladies of the parish are most welcome to attend. Please contact the President of Thirroul CWL, Maureen Heydon ☎ 0438 674 997 or [mheydon50@gmail.com](mailto:mheydon50@gmail.com)

## FAMILY MASS – 17:30, SATURDAY, 9 NOVEMBER

**All parishioners and school families** are invited to a special **Family Mass** at **17:30 on Saturday, 9 November.** This Mass, an initiative by the Pastoral Parish Council and St. Michael’s School Leadership Team, is a wonderful opportunity to deepen the connection between our beautiful parish and school. Our parish and school are deeply linked, with each enriching the life and growth of the other. While many families are connected to our school, we’re excited to foster a stronger bond with our parish as well. The parish is a spiritual home for everyone, and through efforts like the Family Mass, we hope to nurture this connection, creating a lasting sense of belonging that extends beyond school years. Together, we can grow as one united spiritual family in Jesus. This Family Mass is the start of an ongoing program of initiatives to nurture this lifelong relationship, so that every family feels at home in our parish well into the future. Our children will play an active role in the Mass, ensuring an uplifting celebration. Afterward, we gather for a BBQ in the school grounds, offering a chance to connect, share, and strengthen our community ties.

**Next weekend, 2/3 November,** we will ask for a show of hands to count the numbers who is coming to the BBQ – so as to make sure there’s enough for everyone! **Parishioners who are going to the BBQ are asked to bring a sweet/cake to share after the BBQ.** Join us as we continue to grow together in faith and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!

– Jo Pye, Chair, Parish Pastoral Council

## NEW DONATION TAP DEVICE

A new “Donation Tap Device” has been installed by the Catholic Develop Fund. You may now choose to donate \$5, \$10, \$20 or \$50, or you may use the Custom Donation Amount button to enter any whole dollar amount from \$1 to \$99. Thank you for your generosity to our Parish. Money donated on the “Tap Device” goes to support the running of our Parish.



## SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Sundays Year B • Weekdays Year II

<b>Monday</b>	<b>28 Oct</b>	<b>Sts Simon and Jude, apostles</b>	Ephesians 2:19-22	Luke 6:12-19
<b>Tuesday</b> 📖	<b>29 Oct</b>	<b>Tuesday, Ordinary Time Week 30</b>	Ephesians 5:21-33	Luke 13:18-21
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>30 Oct</b>	<b>Wednesday, Ordinary Time Week 30</b>	Ephesians 6:1-9	Luke 13:22-30
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>31 Oct</b>	<b>Thursday, Ordinary Time Week 30</b>	Ephesians 6:10-20	Luke 13:31-35
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1 Nov</b>	<b>All Saints</b>	Revelation 7:2-4,9-14	1 John 3:1-3
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>2 Nov</b>	<b>All Souls' Day</b>	Isaiah 25:6-9	Revelation 14:13
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3 Nov</b>	<b>31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR B – Scripture Readings are listed below.</b>		

## FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- ✦ Wednesday, 30 October 19:00 Sacrament of First Penance
- ✦ **THURSDAY, 31 OCTOBER HALLOWEEN – THE EVE OF ALL SAINTS DAY**
- ✦ **Friday, 1 November 09:30 All Saints – Mass – with Anointing of the Sick**
- ✦ **Saturday, 2 November 09:30 All Souls' Day – SPECIAL MASS**
- ✦ **Weekend, 2/3 November Blessing of Cars after Masses**
- ✦ **Tuesday, 5 November 15:00 Melbourne Cup**
- ✦ **Wednesday, 6 November 19:30 Spirituality on the Sofa – The Synod on Synodality**
- ✦ **Saturday, 9 November 17:30 Family Mass followed by BBQ in the school grounds**
- ✦ **Wednesday, 20 November 10:30 CWL 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass followed by Lunch**

## RECIPE: MONTE CARLOS BISCUITS – FROM CHEF RAYMOND

150g unsalted butter at room temperature; ½ cup firmly packed brown sugar; 1 tsp vanilla essence; 1 egg at room temperature; ¾ cup self-raising flour; ¾ cup plain flour; ¼ tsp bicarbonate of soda; ½ cup desiccated coconut; ½ cup raspberry jam. VANILLA BUTTERCREAM: 50g unsalted butter at room temperature; ⅔ cup icing sugar mixture; ½ tsp vanilla essence; 2 tsp milk.

Preheat oven to 180°C or 160°C fan-forced. Line 2 oven trays with baking powder. Using an electric mixer, beat butter, sugar and essence until light and fluffy. Add egg; beat until combined. Sift flours and bicarbonate of soda over mixture; stir until combined. Stir in coconut. BUTTERCREAM: Using an electric mixer, beat butter, sugar and essence until light and fluffy. Stir in milk. Roll heaped teaspoons of mixture into balls. Place on prepared trays, about 3cm apart. Using a floured fork, lightly flatten each biscuit, making a criss-cross pattern. Bake for 12 mins or until golden. Cool completely on trays (biscuits will firm)/ Sandwich biscuits with jam and vanilla buttercream. Makes 23 biscuits. Preparation time 30 minutes. Cooking time 15 minutes.

**PLEASE BRING IN ... ONE NON-PERISHABLE ITEM PER FAMILY EACH WEEK  
TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE LOCAL ILLAWARRA AREA  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

### THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

The Synod Assembly enters its fourth and final week, focusing on drafting and approving the Final Document, scheduled for Saturday, 26 October. 📞 visit the Synod website <https://catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS SHOP has a wide range of gifts for Baptism, Communion, Confirmation, Missals, books, rosaries, medals, statues, cards for various occasions, holy cards etc. Open: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00 to 14:00.

### THIS Sunday's Readings – on website

<b>30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR B</b>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	Jeremiah 31:7-9
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	Hebrews 5:1-6
<b>Gospel</b>	Mark 10:46-52

### NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website

<b>31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR B</b>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	Deuteronomy 6:2-6
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	Hebrews 7:23-28
<b>Gospel</b>	Mark 12:28-34

### SUNDAY

#### MASS TIMES

<b>Saturday</b> 📖	<b>17:30</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>08:00</b>
📖 Saturday Mass is recorded.	

### 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**

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

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Parish School of St Michael

☎ 4267 2560

### THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

<b>Monday</b>	_____
<b>Tuesday</b> 📖	<b>17:30</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>09:00</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>09:00</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>09:30</b>
<i>Anointing of the Sick 1<sup>st</sup> Friday</i>	