



Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
23 / 24 NOVEMBER 2024
JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
END OF THE CHURCH YEAR

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

What Kind of King?

Once there was a king named Arthur. You remember him, the one who thought up the Round Table and had Lancelot as his knight and Guinevere as his wife.

Long before he became king, in fact when he was just an infant in the cradle, a strange thing happened. The nurse stepped out for a moment and, quick as a wink, Merlin the magician stepped in and then stepped out again ... taking the boy with him.

This was not a kidnapping. Merlin was a kindly old magician, and his commission was to let the boy grow up as a normal—not a spoiled, pampered or “royal”—person. He was not to be miles above the animals and the people and the tiny, precious specks of beauty in the most surprising places in our lives.

He was to live with us.

So, Merlin transported Arthur to a bedraggled castle ruled by a third-rate Lord named Sir Ector. The people were nice enough, and ordinary, and the crannies and nooks of the castle were perfect for a little kid to hide in and the halls for him to run around in.

All the servants and even the lords and ladies were his friends.

How could they not be? He was an ordinary lad, though he would be king one day. They called him Wart (which in those days rhymed with Art, which was short for Arthur).

Merlin, funny old character, decided to educate Wart in a special way. Magically, he changed the boy into various and sundry animals, each for a time. He turned him into a hawk, for instance—to witness first-hand the world as it appeared in a hawk's eyes. Or a fish. In fact, especially a fish because Wart could then attend a formal “school of fishes” and learn from their schoolteacher.

It seems that Jesus had a few things in common with the Wart. Jesus was not called “King” or “your highness” as a boy, any more than Wart was referred to as “your majesty.” This one was called “Jesus,” a common name in those days. He played outside, helped his dad, rolled in the mud, cut his finger, even helped birds to fly. And his mother was his very most favourite person.

He had a teacher who was even better at teaching than Merlin: the Spirit of God. It helped him through the creeks and cubbyholes of the earth and made him friends with the funny, sweet people who lived all around.

Both Wart and Jesus did grow up to be the kind of king they were meant to be. But they brought new images of a king. Their love was not just for the noble and the mighty but love for everyone. They were lowly. Jesus was “king” because he understood every minutest texture of everyone's life and world.

Later, Pilate would ask Jesus if he were a king. He was, yes, but not in any way that Pilate could have imagined. Smallness was his power. Persuasion was his sceptre, along with an amazing ability to teach.

He was Christ the King.

This is who we will find waiting for us on Sunday.

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.

When we think of leadership, we are inclined to think first of those who are in charge – who have power to make decisions and to enforce them. In the Church, for example, we tend to think of the leaders as the Pope and the Bishops. Organisational leadership is, of course, very important. We are right to acknowledge the power and authority that goes with such positions, and we are right to try to ensure that those exercising such power are gifted to do it well. We are also right to be concerned when certain classes of people are excluded from such positions for reasons that are to do with custom rather than with the living of the gospel.

Today's readings warn us against putting organizational leadership at the centre of our concern. This is because the leadership portrayed by the crucified Jesus is of a different kind. We are taught to look at Jesus on the cross. It is he who is lord and king. Those who exercised the kind of organisational leadership of which we have been speaking were people like the high priest, Pilate and Herod. The real leadership which we see when we look at the crucifixion is not organisational decision-making leadership. The most important area for leadership lies in the area of love. Christ the king shows us that ultimate power is the power of love.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading Daniel 7:13-14

- ✠ Compare and contrast Jesus' "kingdom" with countries that have powerful political organizations. Are the objectives somewhat different in God's kingdom and, for instance, Australia?
- ✠ What things hold power over you in your life? Are they good things or would you like to see them lose some of their hold?

Second Reading Revelation 1:5-8

- ✠ This reading holds that Christ "has made us into a kingdom, priests for his God and Father." The Jerusalem Bible says that in union with Jesus, the messianic priest, we will consecrate the universe to God in a sacrifice of praise. How can you cooperate in this consecration ("making holy") of the universe to God? Is working on the care for creation a way of consecrating the universe?
- ✠ Does the universe that you consecrate to God include areas of your life or the world that previously you might have considered outside the realm of "holy"?

Gospel John 18:33b-37

- ✠ Can we understand truth differently at different times? Was there a time when we accepted slavery? Do we now question the death penalty? Should the Church mature in judgment as we grow in understanding of truth?
- ✠ Jesus says, "everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." What does Pope Francis say it can look like when we awaken courage born of truth?

With the courage born of truth, he answered: "I am a king." He took responsibility for his own life: "I have a mission and I will carry it to fulfilment in order to bear witness to my Father's Kingdom. For this", he says, "I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth" (John 18:37). ... Jesus' freedom draws us in. ... Let us allow it to resonate within us, to challenge us, to awaken in us the courage born of truth. ... Be free and authentic, be the critical conscience of society. Don't be afraid to criticize! We need your criticism. Many of you, for example, are critical of environmental pollution. We need this! Be free in criticism. Be passionate about truth, so that, with your dreams, you can say: "my life is not captive to the mindset of the world: I am free, because I reign with Jesus for justice, love and peace!"

Dear young people, it is my hope and prayer that each of you can joyfully say: "With Jesus, I too am a king." I too reign: as a living sign of the love of God, of his compassion and his tenderness. ... And whenever I fall, I discover anew in Jesus the courage to continue fighting and hoping, the courage to keep dreaming. At every stage in life.

– Pope Francis, *Homily for Feast of Christ the King, Year B, 21 Nov 2021*

ELECTION OF THE 2025 HOUSE CAPTAINS AT OUR PARISH SCHOOL

On Monday, the results of the election of the Year 5 students who will be the eight **House Captains** for 2025. The **TENISON [RED] CAPTAINS** are **ELIZA BRAIN** and **ETHAN ZONDAG**. The **FITZROY CAPTAINS** are **MAIA VILLANTI** and **ALISTAIR FORTE**. The **PENOLA [GREEN] CAPTAINS** are **TYE FITZGERALD** and **SOFIA GVERIC** (inset). The **MACKILLOP [GOLD] CAPTAINS** are **ABBY SHARRATT** and **HUNTER O'CONNOR**.

Congratulations to these students, and to the students in Years 3, 4 and 5 and the teachers who voted using the



Preferential System – over the three weeks of extensive voting, only **one informal vote!**

← Thank you to the six Year 6 students who were the electoral officers for the conduct of all the elections.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE 60 YEARS YOUNG!

On Wednesday, 20 November, the Thirroul Catholic Women's League celebrated **sixty (60) of service in our Parish and local community! Congratulations!**

One of the **Founding Members** was present, **Margaret Attewell** (pictured) who cut the Anniversary Cake. So many members have died over the years: Nola Gardner (2013); Mary Waddingham (2013); Maureen Clifford (2015); Chris Bates (2015); Jean Mortimer (2016); Veronica Algie (2017); Mary Dickson (2019); Cecily Arnold (2020); Ollie Anderson (2020); Cecilia Kurtz (2021); Henri Hatton (2021); Ivy Dignam (2022); Mary McGrath (2022); Pam Atkins (2022); Jeanette Quilty (2023); Alice Batey (2023). **Currently**, there are **sixteen full members** and one prayer member – Maureen Heydon, *President*.



VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2024

The Annual Vinnies Christmas Appeal will be held **over the next two weekends: 30 November/1 December and 7/8 December**. **Thank you for your generosity in previous years!** There are **four ways** you can contribute: (1) take a hamper notice from those displayed in the church and make up a hamper; (2) take a toy tag from the Giving Tree (for children 0-11); (3) make a money contribution using the envelopes on the church pews; (4) use the link in next week's Bulletin to make an online donation. **Thank you!**



NOVEMBER – PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

During November especially, we pray for our relatives and friends who have died. The **BOOK OF LIFE** is placed next to the altar: if you wish to have a relative's or friend's name placed in that Book, complete the form on the front seat.

DISABLED SURFERS ASSOCIATION – THIRROUL, 30 NOVEMBER

The annual Disabled Surfers Association event will take place a **Thirroul Beach on next Saturday, 30 November**, commencing at **08:30 and continuing until 13:00**. The Disabled Surfers Association provides an environment for individuals with a disability, the opportunity to experience the freedom of surfing with friends, using up to date equipment to get individuals over the sand and into the water with dignity. The organisation on the South Coast and Illawarra has been established for **over 30 years** and prides itself on their achievements and advancements in the area of disability.

The organisation operates on a volunteer basis and requires volunteers to provide the necessary numbers to establish the safety requirements, that we as an organisation hold. The event is designed to ensure the safety of all individuals, be they participants or volunteers. The core role is to ensure that the participants have an exciting day on the beach. The organisation does not have any restrictions in relation to the individuals who attend and participate. We strive to ensure that all participants get the opportunity to experience the day at the beach. **Age is no barrier to volunteer** and there is no requirement to know how to swim but it does help at times. No surfing experience required as there is supervision on the beach for all activities. **All participants and volunteers will receive a sausage sandwich on the day of the event.**

Just turn up on Saturday, 30 November at Thirroul or to register as a participant or as a volunteer, go to <https://events.humanitix.com/disabled-surfers-association-hands-on-surf-day-thirroul-2024/tickets?hxchl=hex-pfl>



SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Monday	25 Nov	Monday, Ordinary Time Week 34
Tuesday	26 Nov	Tuesday, Ordinary Time Week 34
Wednesday	27 Nov	Wednesday, Ordinary Time Week 34
Thursday	28 Nov	Thursday, Ordinary Time Week 34
Friday	29 Nov	Friday, Ordinary Time Week 34
Saturday	30 Nov	St Andrew, apostle
Sunday	1 Dec	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT • YEAR C – <i>Scripture Readings are listed below.</i>

Sundays Year B • Weekdays Year II

Revelation 14:1-5	Luke 21:1-4
Revelation 14:14-19	Luke 21:5-11
Revelation 15:1-4	Luke 21:12-19
Revelation 18:1-2,21-23	Luke 21:20-28
Revelation 20:1-4,11	Luke 21:29-33
Romans 10:9-18	Matthew 4:18-22

FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- ✦ Saturday, 30 November 08:30 Disabled Surfers Association, Thirroul – volunteers needed
- ✦ Weekend 30 Nov / 1 Dec **Launch of the Vinnies Christmas Appeal at both Masses**
First Communion begins
Blessing of the Christmas Tree
- ✦ Friday, 6 December 09:30 Anointing of the Sick during Mass
14:00 **Year 6 Graduation Liturgy**
- ✦ Weekend, 7/8 December **Vinnies Christmas Appeal continues at both Masses**
Blessing of December Wedding Anniversaries and Birthdays
- ✦ Thursday, 12 December 16:45 **School and Parish Christmas Concert and Dinner**
- ✦ Friday, 13 December 09:30 **End of Year School Mass**

CHEF ELLIOT'S CARAMEL PECAN SQUARES – DELICIOUS!

250g plain chocolate biscuits; 1 tablespoon drinking chocolate; 1½ cups pecans; 185g butter, melted. Topping: ½ cup lightly packed soft brown sugar; 60g butter; 400g can sweetened condensed milk; icing sugar, for dusting; drinking chocolate, for dusting.

Preheat the oven to moderate 180°C. Line a lightly greased, 18 x 28cm shallow tin with non-stick baking paper, overhanging two opposite sides. Finely crush the biscuits, drinking chocolate and a third of the pecans in the food processor. Transfer to a bowl and add the melted butter. Mix well and press into the tin. Press the rest of the pecans gently over the top. To make the caramel topping, stir the brown sugar and butter in a pan over low heat, until the butter melts and the sugar dissolves. Remove from heat, stir in the condensed milk, then pour over the biscuit base. Bake for 25-30mins, or until the caramel is firm and golden – the edges will bubble and darken. Cool, then refrigerate for at least 3 hours. Trim off the crusty edges and cut the slice into squares. Before serving, hold a piece of paper over one half of each piece and sprinkle the other half with icing sugar. Sprinkle other side with drinking chocolate.

**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**

WHAT IS GOING 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. Stay informed by subscribing at <https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/staying-connected/> or visit <https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/weekly-bulletin-notice/>

THIS Sunday's Readings – on website

CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE ♦ YEAR B	
1 st Reading	Daniel 7:13-14
2 nd Reading	Revelation 1:5-8
Gospel	John 18:33-37

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT ♦ YEAR C	
1 st Reading	Jeremiah 33:14-16
2 nd Reading	1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
Gospel	Luke 21:25-28,34-36

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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