



Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



22/23 APRIL 2017
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER ✦ YEAR A
The Fifty Days of Easter

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Jesus had been abandoned by his disciples at the time of his death. One of them had turned him over to the authorities. Another had denied he even knew Jesus. The others ran away, apparently in fear and horror.

That same fear still gripped the disciples as they stayed behind locked doors. The risen Jesus suddenly appears among them, and there is not a word about their betrayal, denial, and abandonment.

“Peace be with you,” he says, as though nothing had ever happened. They look at his wounds, and he repeats his remarkable greeting: “Peace be with you.”

If only we could follow in the footsteps of Christ and wish peace to everyone! If only we could forgive as he forgave! Where would be the wars? the discrimination? the hatred? the demonizing and making a political football of refugees? the death penalty? They would go the way of death itself, conquered by the resurrection.

Jesus assures us that we have received the Holy Spirit. We have the power to release others of their wrongs against us, just as we have the power to keep them and our-selves bound. Our Easter faith that we have “become a new creation” should strengthen our resolve to forgive as Christ forgave.

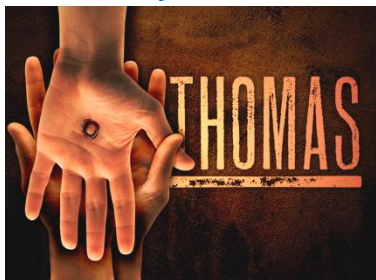
“We urge our brothers and sisters in Christ to remember the teaching of Jesus, who called us to be reconciled with those who have injured us and to pray for forgiveness for our sins ‘as we forgive those who have sinned against us.’ We call on you to contemplate the crucified Christ, who set us the supreme example of forgiveness and of the triumph of compassionate love.

– US Bishops, *Statement on Capital Punishment* (1980) 23

Our faith is grounded in the witness of the apostles. This witness had its origins in an overwhelming experience: a meeting, against all their expectations, with the final achievement in God’s work of creation, the greatness of the Risen Lord. The gospel accounts echo this experience. Meditating on them gives us a greater appreciation of this foundation of our faith – the ‘teaching of the apostles’ that has gathered the Church in faith, since its beginnings in Jerusalem.

John’s gospel, as we know, is the product of profound reflection on this gospel tradition. The more we come to know it, the more we recognise how much is implied in its apparently simple narrative (even, it seems, reference to the fact that the celebration of the

Overcoming Fear



✚ Lord's Resurrection on 'the first day of the week' had its origin in the generation of the apostles).

It has often been pointed out that our understanding of the Easter Mystery has been shaped by Luke's schema of three distinct events: Resurrection, Ascension (40 days later), Pentecost (10 days later). In John's gospel, the Easter Mystery, is already experienced in all its aspects on Easter Day itself. Meeting Mary of Magdala, Jesus speaks of his imminent 'ascent' to the Father; and when he comes to the apostles place of refuge, on the evening of that same day, the Saviour who had 'emptied himself' becoming as we all are, shows himself already one with the Father in divine greatness and authority, as he bestows 'the Holy Spirit' and commissions the apostles to undertake their great mission – 'As the Father has sent me, so am I sending you'. John's narrative tells of the apostles' experience as a passing from apprehension and uncertainty – 'the doors were closed for fear of the Jews' – to the reassurance and joy brought by faith in the Risen Lord. Three times in this narrative he repeats his greeting, 'Peace be with you'. Given the fact that this is their first encounter with the one they had abandoned to his fate, even denied, these words three times repeated are far more than a conventional greeting. They echo down through the ages as words of divine forgiveness and reconciliation for a world whose burdens he has taken upon himself in the terrible drama of the cross. The gospels all speak of the hesitations experienced by the group as they came to terms with their experience, and passed from fear and uncertainty to the joy of believing. In John's narrative, this is all dramatised in the story of Thomas, the outspoken enthusiast, who tells Jesus, 'We do not know where you are going, how we can know the way?' and urges the group, 'Let us go up and die with him!' As in other gospel accounts, Jesus makes it clear that what they have encountered is not a ghostly apparition, but his Incarnate Self: 'Put your finger here, your hand in my side. Doubt no longer but believe'. And so, as John's narrative comes to its climax in Thomas' confession – 'My Lord and my God' – we hear echoes of the gospel's opening, 'The Word became flesh' (1:18), and an echo of its meditation on the Eucharist, 'The bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world' (6:51).

Even for the apostolic group, 'seeing' was not 'believing'. The 'seeing' of their extraordinary and mysterious encounter was an invitation to accept the Saviour's gift of faith. Each Easter brings the same invitation to us all: 'Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe'. Peter has this same message: 'You did not see him yet you love him, filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described'.

**"Put your finger here; see my hands.
Reach out your hand and put it into
my side. Stop doubting and believe."**



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FIFTY YEAR OF MARRIED LOVE – CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to **Sue and Bob Beevors** who celebrate their **Golden Wedding Anniversary** on 29 April. Sue and Bob were married at **Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Wombarra** on **Saturday, 29 April 1967**. Thank you for your witness to married love and for your service in our Parish. Please congratulate Sue and Bob this weekend as they receive a special message from *Francis* in Rome, and keep Sue especially in your prayers as she faces further health issues. Congratulations!



CARITAS AUSTRALIA – PROJECT COMPASSION

Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia!

Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit www.caritas.org.au to make your donation online.



Through your generosity you are helping to empower our most vulnerable neighbours worldwide to build a better future for their families and communities.

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2017 Lenten appeal. www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion ☎ 1800 024 413

ANZAC DAY

On Tuesday, 25 April there will be the dawn service at 6am at Thirroul Cenotaph, as well as at Austinmer and Coledale. Our **Parish**



Mass will be at 8:30am on Tuesday, which will include the special ANZAC Day prayers. A special **Aussie Morning Tea** will follow. All welcome. Please bring rosemary.

There will be a special school service at 10:30am on Wednesday, 26 April at the cenotaph.

LADIES DINNER

Ladies, it is that time again. The annual **WORLD FAMOUS parish ladies' dinner** will be held on **Thursday, 11 May** at the McCarthy Centre (in the school grounds), 6:30 for 7pm. Cost \$30.00. Tea and coffee provided. BYO any other drinks, including glasses. Names and money to Judy Bull, 0407 672 417, Maureen Heydon 0438 674 997 or drop them into the Parish Office in office hours. The cost includes a donation to **breast cancer research** which has special significance for a number of families in the parish.



The theme of the evening is "Think Pink".

THIRROUL SURF LIFESAVING CLUB

Surf Lifesaving Patrols help keep our beaches safe. Swim between the flags. So far in Australia **this season 7,072 rescues** have been made! *Last week it was 6,769!*

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

KEN'S TRAVEL

Ken will be in Suva, Fiji teaching canon law 30 April to 12 May. **Friar Allan Harcher** will celebrate the weekend Masses 6-7 May. Ken will be teaching canon law at Baulkham Hills 14-26 May, but will be here for the weekend Masses. During this time, instead of the weekday Masses, there will be Liturgy of the Word with Communion. Andrew arrives home on 31 May and Ken leaves for his jubilee holiday on Monday, 5 June, returning 1 September! Andrew will be in the Parish while Ken is away, June, July and August.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

As Ken will be away for the first Friday of May, the Sacrament of **Anointing of the Sick** will be celebrated on **Friday, 28 April** during the usual **9:30am Mass**.

KSC ANNUAL CHARITIES DINNER

The annual Knights of the Southern Cross Charities Dinner will be held on Saturday, 27 May 2017 from 7pm at the Thirroul Railway Institute, Railway Parade, Thirroul. The speaker will be Fr Chris Riley AM, Founder and CEO of Youth Off The Streets. Tickets are \$35 each, BYO. Bookings are essential: contact Paul Tuckerman ☎ 4267 2535.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION – THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generosity for the collection for the Holy Places to support the ministry of the church of the Holy Land and nearby countries. This year's collection was **\$1,551.15**. **Thank you!** Last year's collection was \$1,718.50.

EASTER LITURGIES

Thank you for the many parishioners who gave so generously of their time and talents to make the Easter Liturgies so meaningful. On behalf of all parishioners, **thank you!**

CARE FOR THE DYING AND CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHING

Thursday, 4 May, 7:30pm–9:30pm, Xavier Conference Centre, 38 Harbour St Wollongong. The time when someone is dying is difficult for everyone and we want to ensure the best care and compassionate support. Dr Annmarie Hosie will explore, in light of Catholic teaching, the process of palliative care and the current debate around euthanasia. Please RSVP your attendance to Lisa Metcalfe on 4222 2403 or lisa.metcalfe@dow.org.au

THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

2nd Sunday of Easter • YEAR A
1st Reading Acts 2:42-47
2nd Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9
Gospel John 20:19-31

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

3rd Sunday of Easter • YEAR A
1st Reading Acts 2:14,22-33
2nd Reading 1 Peter 1:17-21
Gospel Luke 24:13-35

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Church of St Michael • Thirroul
Saturday – **5:30pm** • Sunday – **8:00am**
Bulli Sunday **8:30am** and **5:30pm**
Corrimal Saturday **6pm**, Sunday **9:30am**

LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Wombarra [*Liturgy*] Monday **4:30pm**
Thirroul ANZAC DAY Tuesday **8:30am**
Wednesday **9:00am**
Thursday **9:00am**
Anointing of the Sick Friday **9:30am**

Parish of St Michael – Thirroul and Wombarra

Moving forward as a Parish Family + one of the Northern Illawarra Parishes

Patrick Vaughan • *Parish Priest* ❖ Geoff Allen, Ken Cafe ofm • *Assistant Priests*



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**Parish Office
Hours**

**Tues day, Wednesday
Friday**

9:00am to 3:30pm Magda Pires
10:00am to 3:00pm Maureen Franciskovic



www.thirroulcatholic.org.au

Parish School of St Michael ☎ 4267 2560