



Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



29/30 APRIL 2017
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER ✦ YEAR A
The Fifty Days of Easter

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

The Encounter

The two disciples are leaving Jerusalem. They had been caught up in the experience of following Jesus, and they were devastated by his crucifixion.

Moreover, they were undoubtedly frightened by the prospect of what might happen to them as followers of the executed master.

On their way from Jerusalem to Emmaus, they have an unusual encounter.

The man they find themselves walking with seems to understand much about the scriptures, but they aren't able to make the connection between what he says and who he is.

It is only in welcoming him into their house and sharing a meal with him that they realize who it is they are facing: it is Jesus, the risen Lord. So moved are they by the encounter that they turn around and head back to Jerusalem, to join up with the other disciples but also to face risk and uncertainty.

They may very well have headed straight into martyrdom.

The Easter event can also turn around our lives. It can cause us to "rise and come forth into the light of day," but we must be prepared for the risk and uncertainty such a conversion would entail.

"For the Church, evangelizing means bringing the good news into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new. ... The purpose of evangelization is an interior change, and if it has to be expressed in one sentence the best way to stating it would be to say that the Church evangelizes when she seeks to convert, solely through the divine power of the message she proclaims, both the personal and collective consciences of people, the activities in which they engage, and the lives and concrete milieux which are theirs. — Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 1975: 18

For many centuries, Christian awareness has not been focused as it should be, on all that the Saviour's Resurrection means in the life of the Church. That the Church lives through 'the power of the Resurrection' was the central truth preached by the apostolic Church. This is clearly illustrated in today's readings. The manifesto proclaimed by Peter on the day of Pentecost hinges on this truth – the resurrection is pointed to as unassailable ✦



✚ evidence that it is intervention of the God of Israel's faith that is being announced; but more than that, established 'at God's right hand' the Risen Christ now bestows the Holy Spirit on the infant Church and sends it forth on its mission. In the Letter of Peter, probably written shortly before his martyrdom, Peter takes up the same theme – the Saviour has been 'raised from the dead and given glory' so that believers may share in his new life through their 'faith and hope in God'.

Luke's account of what took place on the road to Emmaus inspires us each time we hear it. It is told, that later generations of believers may share the experience the first disciples of Jesus, as they learned to make the Risen Lord the centre of their lives. Their finding of faith is a reversal of all that their earthly expectations had looked forward to: 'Our hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free'. The fulfilment of their hopes was not to be a political triumph, but a messiah who drew close to them at sunset on the dusty road of their disappointment. Recognising him called for a change of heart: coming to know – through the full message of the Scriptures – the ways of God, so different from the ways of worldly wisdom. It is through a renewed appreciation of the great drama recorded in the Scriptures that the Church will find the strength it needs to face today's challenges. 'Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Jesus Christ' – words as true today as they were when they were first written by St Jerome in the 4th century. Touched by the message that makes their hearts 'burn within them', they ask the stranger to stay in their company. How easily, in the bustle of our lives, we pass up the opportunity to enter more deeply into the relationships and special moments that can nourish our faith.

In the end, it is in 'the breaking of bread' that the eyes of faith are fully opened for them, and they joyfully accept the Saviour and enter upon the revolutionary way he has opened up for them. As we strive to give the Eucharist the central place it should have in our relationship with our Risen Lord, it is important to recognise that it is, before all else, in our conscious participation in the Eucharistic action ('Do this in remembrance of me') that this gift of the Saviour will be the great source of the Church's life – enabling us to bring our lives, our needs, and the needs of all God's people, to the Father, as we are caught up by the Saviour into his great self-offering. Veneration of the reserved sacrament – a venerable practice in our Western Church – should not detract from the supreme importance of the Mass; it should, we are told in today's official teaching, increase our hunger to 'take and eat'.

In the joy and wonder of their new-found faith, the two disciples 'set out that instant' to re-join 'the Eleven and their companions' in Jerusalem. It is in a vital Christian community that we will find the support and confirmation we need in our journey of faith'.

ANDREW ON TOUR

Andrew has been in the Holy Land since he started his jubilee holidays. He will now have completed a course with the Tantar Ecumenical Institute. The photo shows Andrew at the Mount of the Beatitudes – with none other than THREE bishops: Vincent Long (Bishop of Parramatta); an unnamed bishop from India; and Bishop Brian Finnegan (retired Auxiliary Bishop of Brisbane). Very inconsiderate that someone left an empty



bottle in view (bottom left-hand corner of the picture)! On 29 April Andrew travels to Poland to visit with his extended family. He returns to Thirroul on 31 May.

COUNSELLING SERVICES AT CATHOLICCARE

If you are currently going through a tough time in your life or know someone who is, the experienced counsellors at CatholicCare are waiting and ready to assist. They'll support you with a listening ear and help you focus on strategies for coping with stress and major life changes. All it takes is a phone call, contact ☎ 4254 9316.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The next meeting of the Catholic Women's League will be on **Tuesday, 9 May**, commencing at 11:00am in the McCarthy Centre. **Maureen Heydon** will be guest speaker. Light luncheon to follow. All welcome! Monthly meeting 1:30pm.

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. **Please book and pay by 7 May.** 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 7,254 rescues** have been made! *Last week it was 7,072!*

**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 in June, July and August.

GENTLEMAN OF THE PARISH: Mothers Day Morning Tea

Gentlemen of the parish, this is your chance to impress the ladies with your **culinary** skills when you provide morning tea for the ladies on Mothers Day, Sunday, 14 May. Can I have a volunteer gentleman to coordinate this? Contact Judy Bull ☎ 0407 672 417. Many thanks.

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

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.

THE WOLLONGONG CATHOLIC DINNER CLUB

The Wollongong Catholic Dinner Club with our patron Bishop Peter Ingham are delighted to announce the next speaker will be the newly appointed Bishop of Parramatta, Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen. You will hear an incredible story from the refugee Bishop. **Friday, 19 May**, venue is Centro, 28 Stewart Street, Wollongong 5:30 for a 6:00 pm start. Cost \$35. Please join us for an enjoyable and interesting evening. RSVP Michael 📧 mjcambo@gmail.com ☎ 0490 022 313 or Jim ☎ 4228 6791.

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY, SATURDAY, 3 JUNE, FAIRY MEADOW

This assembly will primarily focus upon the results of the 'Catholic Wrap-up' from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Mr Francis Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer of the Truth, Justice and Healing Council, will present an overview of the findings and outline ways in which the Catholic Church continues to offer positive and practical responses for creating safe environments for children and all vulnerable persons. At this assembly we will also be highlighting the outcomes and future directions coming out of the 2016 review into the PST and CCD teams. For catering & material preparation RSVP essential to Lisa Metcalfe ☎ 4222 2403 or rsvp@dow.org.au

SAYING FROM THE NET: Common sense is not a gift, it's a punishment. Because you have to deal with everyone who doesn't have it.

THIS Sunday's Readings <i>on our website</i>	NEXT Sunday's Readings <i>on our website</i>
3rd Sunday of Easter • YEAR A	4th Sunday of Easter • YEAR A
1st Reading Acts 2:14,22-33	1st Reading Acts 2:14,36-41
2nd Reading 1 Peter 1:17-21	2nd Reading 1 Peter 2:20-25
Gospel Luke 24:13-35	Gospel John 10:1-10
SUNDAY MASS TIMES	LITURGIES THIS WEEK
Church of St Michael • Thirroul	Wombarra [<i>Liturgy</i>] Monday 4:30pm
Saturday – 5:30pm • Sunday – 8:00am	Thirroul Tuesday 5:30pm
Bulli Sunday 8:30am and 5:30pm	Wednesday 9:00am
Corrimal Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9:30am	Thursday 9:00am
	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**

**Tuesday, 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