



# Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



**6/7 MAY 2017**  
**FORTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ✦ YEAR A**  
**Welcome to friar Allan Hartcher**

## **THIS WEEK'S READINGS**

The risen Jesus is the true shepherd, “the one who enters through the gate, who walks in front of them, and the sheep follow him because they recognize his voice.”

True Christians follow the true shepherd: they recognize his voice and they obey his commands. They hear his message about loving enemies, about seeking first the kingdom of God, about forgiving seventy times a day.

They hear him talk of concern for the poor, of selling all that one has, of being perfect as their heavenly Father is perfect. They listen to him say that they should not worry about tomorrow, that they should turn the other cheek, that they should lose their lives.

They hear and obey, following their shepherd through the gate.

There are false shepherds who speak other words, who talk of defending one's rights, of accumulating wealth, of achieving social prominence. Some Christians listen to them rather than to the true shepherd.

Both the true and the false shepherds lead one to death. The difference is that the true shepherd leads beyond death to resurrection.

In Christ and through Christ God has revealed himself fully to mankind and has definitively drawn close to it; at the same time, in Christ and through Christ man has acquired full awareness of his dignity, of the heights to which he is raised, of the surpassing worth of his own humanity, and of the meaning of his existence- Pope John Paul II, *Redemptor Hominis*, 1979:11

“The image of Jesus, as a shepherd, established itself early in the outlook of the first Christians. The letter of Peter, identifying Jesus with the Suffering Servant of the Isaian writings, calls him their ‘shepherd and guardian’. It is a pity that this great theme is associated for many people with a sentimental image of the Saviour. Today's gospel reading invites us to reflect that for Jesus himself the comparison would have suggested the rough and tumble of a world in which widespread poverty led to theft of livestock, and the disputes and violence arising from such a practice.

## *The True Shepherd*



✦ The image of the shepherd was long established in the biblical tradition. It was used by the prophets to challenge Israel's corrupt rulers; Israel's Lord, the familiar psalm tells us, will care for them 'like a shepherd'. When, in the passage following today's reading, Jesus declares, 'I AM the Good Shepherd', he is making a messianic claim. In the sequence of John's gospel, today's reading follows immediately after the healing of the blind man. The implication is that the conflict between Jesus and the opponents whose bad faith had been demonstrated on that occasion could be compared to the conflicts that arose between honest shepherds and the thieves who preyed on them.

The shepherd theme gives rise in this passage to a whole complex of comparisons. They can be confusing if they are not considered separately. As our passage begins, Jesus compares himself with his opponents. He comes to God's people with the 'messianic signs' that confirm his mission from the Father. His enemies, on the other hand, are robbing God's people of the blessings he brings – using their authority to undermine the trust and enthusiasm with which he was initially received.

As the passage continues, Jesus – having identified himself with the shepherd who enters the sheepfold with proper authorisation – speaks of the relationship that exists between such a shepherd and his sheep. They recognise his voice when he calls them as the common people did when he began his ministry. He knows them and leads them to pasture.

The obtuseness of those he is challenging leads Jesus to take up a new comparison – one that makes more clear the claim that he is making for his mission from the Father: 'I am the gate of the sheepfold'. This comparison may have been suggested by words of Psalm 118, a psalm used as a processional hymn for the Feast of Tabernacles (cited several times in a messianic sense in the New Testament): 'This is the gate of Yahweh, where the upright go in'. 'I am the gate' Jesus says, 'Enter through me; you will be safe, and be sure of finding pastures'.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord – these words were to become one of the most meaningful phrases of the Church's common life. In a sense, they sum up the whole of Christian faith: Jesus is for us, 'the Resurrection and the Life'; he is the 'mediator' of the new and everlasting covenant; he is our 'way to the Father'."

## WELCOME TO THE FIFTH MONTH!

May was originally termed Maius and was the third month of the Roman calendar before the Gregorian calendar came into being making it the fifth month. The term Maius in turn was a reference to the Greek goddess Maia. If you're born in May, Here are 5 qualities that will make you believe you're one of the lucky people:

**Luck:** After a short experiment at the Edinburgh International Science Festival involving 40,000 people, Prof Wiseman, a psychologist based at the University of Hertfordshire, concluded that there is a direct link between the time of year people are born and how lucky they feel. People born in May are more likely to think themselves lucky in life, they tend to have a more positive outlook and consider themselves lucky, which leads to greater success in life. **Brilliant:** People born in May are smart, they also possess clever minds. **Good Parents:** They can be the best parents to their children. And can establish a very strong bond between children and themselves. In any given circumstances concerning their children, they are the best planner. **Good leaders:** People born in May have good leadership qualities. **Strength:** People born in May are strong, emotionally and physically.

## 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".**



## 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.

## 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.

## THIRROUL SURF LIFESAVING CLUB

**Surf Lifesaving Patrols help keep our beaches safe. Swim between the flags.** So far in Australia **this season 7703 rescues** have been made! *Last week it was 7254!*

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

## KEN'S TRAVEL

Ken is in Suva, Fiji teaching canon law 30 April to 12 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.

## ST VINCENT PALLOTTI SCHOLARSHIP: APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust offer scholarships to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. Applications close 17 July 2017. Details and application: ☎ <http://www.pallottine.org.au/scholarships/st-vincent-pallotti-scholarship-for-lay-ministry.html>

**ON TUESDAY, 2 MAY WAS THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF ST. JOHN PAUL II**  
 Pope Saint John Paul II (JPII), born Karol Jozef Wojtyla (May 18 1920 – April 2 2005), was first non-Italian Pope. His long pontificate spanned from 1978 to 2005. JPII is called by some Catholics Saint John Paul the Great. Wojtyla was elected to the Papacy by the second Papal conclave of 1978, called after Pope John Paul I, who was elected in August of that year after the death of Pope Paul VI, and died after thirty-three days. Cardinal Wojtyla was elected on the third day of the conclave and adopted his predecessors' names name in tribute to them. John Paul II is held to have helped end Communist rule in his native Poland and subsequently all of Central-East Europe, he also significantly improved the Catholic Church's relations with Judaism, Islam, the Eastern Orthodox Church, and the Anglican Communion. He upheld the Church's teachings on issues like artificial contraception and the ordination of women, but also supported the Church's Second Vatican Council and its reforms. He was also the first Pope to have recognized the development and the importance of media, and first to introduce the custom of holding press conferences on board the plane. The second longest-serving pope in modern history after Pope Pius IX, John Paul II was the first non-Italian pope since the Dutch Pope Adrian VI (1522-1523). John Paul II was canonised by Pope Francis in 2014.



**THIS Sunday's Readings** *on our website*

**4th Sunday of Easter • YEAR A**

**1st Reading** Acts 2:14, 36-41  
**2nd Reading** 1 Peter 2:20-25  
**Gospel** John 10:1-10

**NEXT Sunday's Readings** *on our website*

**5th Sunday of Easter • YEAR A**

**1st Reading** Acts 6:1-7  
**2nd Reading** 1 Peter 2:4-9  
**Gospel** John 14:1-12

**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** Tuesday **5:30pm**  
 Wednesday **9:00am**  
 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](http://www.thirroulcatholic.org.au) Parish School of St Michael  4267 2560