

Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



13/14 MAY 2017
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ✦ YEAR A
Happy Mother's Day

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Mission to Proclaim

The risen Jesus is “the way, and the truth, and the life.”

Jesus is the way, the path to eternal life with the Father: “no one comes to the Father but through me.” To try another way is to ensure failure.

Jesus is the truth, the word of God. To seek the truth elsewhere is to “stumble and fall,” to deal in falsehood and lie.

Jesus is the life, the God who has “filled all ages with the words of a new song.” To live outside of Christ is to die.

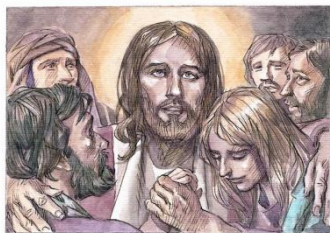
Those who follow Jesus faithfully are a chosen race, “a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation.” They are chosen to “proclaim the glorious works” of God. They are priestly mediators “offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God.”

They are consecrated to “the One who called you from darkness.” Built on the cornerstone of Jesus Christ, they are a powerful community, descending from that early church where “the word of God continued to spread and the number of disciples ... enormously increased.”

When Jesus, who had suffered the death of the cross for mankind, had risen, He appeared as the one constituted as Lord, Christ and eternal Priest, and He poured out on His disciples the Spirit promised by the Father. From this source the Church, equipped with the gifts of its Founder and faithfully guarding His precepts of charity, humility and self-sacrifice, receives the mission to proclaim and to spread among all peoples the Kingdom of Christ and of God.-Vatican II, *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, 1965:5.

During the Easter Season, the Church seeks a greater appreciation of all that the Saviour's Resurrection means for the human family. Christ's Resurrection is far more than his coming back to life. It is nothing less than the final achievement of God's work of creation. It is God's intention that, ultimately, the whole human family, together with creation itself, shall be caught up in this great event. To help us find a fuller understanding of this truth, the gospel reading of the Easter liturgies have been taken from the treasures of John's gospel. Today's reading takes us to the heart of this gospel's understanding of the Saviour and what he came to give the world.

The second reading, from the letter of Peter, serves as a splendid complement to our gospel reading. Peter describes the achievement of the Saviour in biblical terms - his words echo, no doubt, the first Christian preaching, as it presented the Risen Lord as the fulfilment of Old Testament hopes. Peter refers to a verse of the processional psalm ☩



☞ we met last week (Ps 118:22): ‘The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men, but chosen by God’, to become the ‘keystone’ of God’s work. This stone is proving a ‘stumbling block’ to unbelievers; but it is precious to God; and those who are believers recognise in him the realisation of Israel’s hopes. Peter sums up these hopes in a series of biblical allusions.

The Lord’s promise to Moses on Sinai - ‘Out of all peoples, you shall be my personal possession. For me you shall be a kingdom of priests, a holy nation’ (Exod 19) - has now been fulfilled. United in the Risen Lord, believers are ‘a chosen race, a royal priesthood’ offering ‘the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God’.

It is good to nourish our faith and hope in this way, from the long biblical tradition of God’s dealings with his people. The gospel of John, however, brings us a presentation of what the Saviour can mean for us in a different key. The great disciple of Jesus who inspired the deep meditations of this gospel appeals to themes that speak to the common experience of humanity. In today’s gospel we meet several of such themes. As we ponder them, we should recall that the Saviour is portrayed in the fourth gospel, bathed, as it were, in a subtle light that is the expression of his risen glory.

What ‘way’ should our personal journey take us, if we are to avoid life’s frustrations and disappointments? - Jesus assures us that ‘in him’ our journey will lead to authentic life - ‘I am the Way’. In a world filled with the voices of false hope and self-indulgence, where are we to find ‘truth’, a truth that we can ‘see for ourselves’? - ‘I am the Truth. To have seen me is to have seen the Father’. Where shall we find the ‘place’ where a truly loving welcome brings an end to our seemingly endless wandering? - ‘I shall take you to my Father’s house’. And, in the end, what manner of ‘life’ may we look forward to? - Something that is beyond the imagining of the human heart, nothing less than sharing all things with God - ‘I am in the Father and the Father is in me’.

13th MAY- FATIMA 100th ANNIVERSARY OF APPARITION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

May 13 is the anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady to three shepherd children in the small village of Fatima in Portugal in 1917. She appeared six times to Lucia, 9, and her cousins Francisco, 8, and his sister Jacinta, 6, between May 13, 1917 and October 13, 1917.

We know what happened at Fatima thanks to Lucia dos Santos. Later in life, Lucia wrote an eyewitness account of what happened at Fatima. She became a Carmelite nun and she wrote in obedience to her religious superiors. Her vivid

eyewitness account is published as Fatima in Lucia’s Own Words. A message of apocalyptic proportions was entrusted to these little children. The message was directed not only to the people of Fatima, not only to Portugal, but to all mankind!





Mother's day is celebrated with great zeal and fanfare all across the world, including Australia. Australians celebrate the day on the second Sunday of May, every year. The day marks an excellent opportunity to thank and express the deep felt gratitude to one's mother. It is dedicated entirely to the leading lady of the family. Whilst the Super Moms sit back and relax on this particular day, children take up all their responsibilities. People of all the ages, from preschoolers to adults, contribute to make the day a special one for their mother. Presenting gifts to mothers on the occasion of mother's day is a customary practice that is enrooted in the history of Australia. The tradition of presenting gifts to mothers on mother's day can be traced back to 1924 when Mrs. Janet Heyden, a resident of Leichhardt Sydney, started to visit patients at the Newton State Home for Women. The hospital was home to a number of abandoned mothers with nobody in the world to give care. To bring happiness in the lives of these forlorn mothers, Mrs. Heyden decided to present gifts to them with the help of community. Another unique thing that sets apart the Australian mother's day is the Chrysanthemum flower. This autumn flower is specially presented to mothers. In Australia not only mothers but step mothers, mother figures, relatives, and close family friends are also honoured on the occasion. The event also encompasses social activities, where some organizations with specially employed mother's day patrons collaborate with the media and general community to raise awareness on mother's day. Together they collect donations for altruistic cause.



"Until I became a mother, I didn't know the true meaning of '24/7'."

Mom great job, I'm Awesome.
-Happy Mother's Day!

ALPHA WOLLONGONG, XAVIER CENTRE WOLLONGONG, 18TH JUNE

Young adults 18-35! Alpha has come to Wollongong! Join us at the Xavier Centre, 38 Harbour St Wollongong, for the launch on Sunday 18 June 6:30 pm- 8:30 pm. Live music, dinner, great content and opportunities to meet other young Catholics from the area. To register email youth@dow.org.au by 13th June, or hit 'going' on our Facebook event <http://dow.sh/alphayouth>. Alpha Wollongong is a free event.

PLAYGROUP RAFFLE- THANK YOU


We have raised \$350 and the winner was John Stuart. Our playgroup is held every Thursday during term time from 9:30am in the McCarthy Centre. For more information call Rebecca ☎0424 171 184.



THIRROUL SURF LIFESAVING CLUB

Surf Lifesaving Patrols help keep our beaches safe. Swim between the flags. So far in Australia this season **7887** rescues have been made! *Last week it was 7703!*

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



I have COME so, that they may have life and have it to the FULL
John 10:10

Next weekend our parish will be holding the annual Catholic Mission Church Appeal. This year we are invited to participate in Jesus' life-giving mission, supporting women and children's health in Uganda. In Uganda bringing life into the world is often fraught with danger, with many women taking great risks to reach health facilities. Despite the tireless work of Sister Mary Goretta and her small staff at St Luke Bujuni Health Centre, they do not have the capacity to deal with the influx of high-risk pregnancies amongst the many expectant mothers who come through the doors. Please come prepared next weekend and give generously.

Free call: 1800 257 295
catholicmission.org.au/uganda

catholic mission
Reach out. Give life.

im still me does god still remember me?

Exploring Faith & Dementia

A time to discuss how we appreciate and support the spiritual lives of those who are suffering with dementia. With video presentations from Christine Bryden, who was diagnosed with dementia over 20 years ago, and from John Swinton, professor of theology and formerly registered nurse for people with disabilities. Free seminar but please register for catering purposes. Contact Ausimner Parish Office on #2683444

Saturday 20th May 10-4pm
St David's Anglican Church
Roxburgh Ave, Thirroul

disconnected forgotten

10th May Father Andrew was celebrating his birthday
Happy Birthday



THIS 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

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

6th Sunday of Easter • YEAR A
1st Reading Acts 8:5-8, 14-17;
2nd Reading 1 Peter 3:15-18;
Gospel John 14:15-21

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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 thirroul@dow.org.au

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