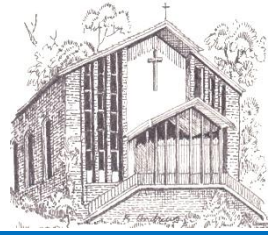


# Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



**20/21 MAY 2017**  
**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ✦ YEAR A**  
**50 Days of Easter ❖ Welcome to the Baptized**



## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

## God With Us

In today's Gospel Jesus promises us that "I will not leave you orphaned; I will come back to you and you will have life." Our faith, nurtured in this great paschal season, tells us that God-made-flesh is God-with-us, never abandoning us and always filling us with life.

It should be a great comfort to all of us, who share in the pain and suffering of ordinary life, to know that the Spirit of Jesus is with us always. It should be especially comforting to know that Jesus will not leave orphaned all those whom the world casts aside: the poor and homeless, the racial and ethnic minorities, the sick and dying, the prisoner and the refugee.

"Christ died for sins once for all, a just man for the sake of the unjust." He rescued us from our attachment to injustice, and then he sent his Spirit to remain with us and within us. Our prayer is one



of gratitude for such a gift and hope that "we feel its saving power in our daily life."

"Jesus loves us so much that, even after his death, resurrection, and ascension, he remains with us. He is, after all, Emanuel, 'God with us,' but now through his living, sanctifying Spirit. We now encounter him in new ways: in other human beings; in any place where people gather in his name; in the inspired words of Holy Scripture; in his Church, particularly her liturgical celebrations; in the person of his minister; and especially in the sacraments.

– US Bishops, *The Eucharist and the Hungers of the Human Family*, 1975

In the Risen Lord, his disciples were confronted by God's final achievement in a transformed creation. The overwhelming and mysterious nature of this experience – an encounter that involved every level of their being – is reflected in the various passages of the gospels that attempt to communicate it. On the surface, the symbolic imagery and circumstantial detail they use are difficult to reconcile. Beneath the surface, however, they have a remarkable unity: against all expectations they know the Jesus who has been so long in their company, triumphant in his humanity over death; he greets them generously, and initiates a new relationship with them that they find challenging; he entrusts them with a mission to the whole world, announcing the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Today, our Easter liturgy aims to awaken in us the recognition that we too are called to share in this mission – through the gift of Christ's own Spirit. In our gospel reading ➤

✚ from John, ‘Advocate’ translates the word, ‘paraclete’, used several times in this gospel. This term indicates far more than one who will speak for us when we are on trial. It signifies someone who will stand by us whatever our need – our ‘champion’ we could say. The work of the Spirit is clearly expressed in the words of Jesus: ‘I will not leave you orphans, he says, ‘I will come back to you’. He will be present, however, in a new way, as his own Spirit leads the faith-filled community in a fuller understanding of all that he said and did.

This union with the Saviour, through his Spirit, is to be far more than a comforting spiritual union. ‘If you love me you will keep my commandments’, he says. What are these commandments? Immediately before the passage selected for our liturgy, Jesus has spoken of the ‘works’ that will be a sign of true belief in him. In the tradition that gave us John’s gospel, we know, all is summed up in a single commandment, ‘Love one another, as I have loved you’. The Spirit will lead us into the fullness of truth and life brought by the Risen Lord, as we give ourselves to practical love and service.

In our reading from Acts we see the first Christian community taking up the mission they have received. Philip, one of its seven ‘deacons’ – remembering, no doubt, the example of Jesus – takes the Good News of reconciliation to the Samaritans, the hated enemies of old Israel. It was through the leadership of the apostles, this incident shows, that the Spirit built up the Church’s communion of love and service.

If our union with the Risen Lord must find a practical expression, it is certainly, Peter tells us in his letter, a most personal bond: ‘Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts’ he tells us, and then your lives will bring true blessings to those around you.



## **KEN IN BAULKHAM HILLS**

The Institute of Tribunal Practice prepares clerics and lay faithful to minister in Church Marriage Tribunals. Ken is the Director of the Institute and from 14-26 May is helping conduct the live-in program at Baulkham Hills. Fourteen students are commencing the two-year program. The students are from seven countries in Oceania. Ken will be in Baulkham Hills during the week and will return to Thirroul for the weekend Masses.

Andrew arrives home for the first part of his Jubilee Leave on Wednesday evening, 31 May. Ken departs on his Jubilee Leave on Monday, 5 June, and returns on Friday, 1 September.

## **SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION AT THIRROUL**

Enrolments for the Sacrament of Confirmation 2017 closed in April. Candidates are preparing for the Sacrament which will be celebrated by Bishop Peter on Thursday, 1 June. Please keep the Candidates and their families in your prayers.

## **EMERITUS ARCHBISHOP BRIAN BARNES ofm**

Brian Barnes was born in Wingham NSW in 1933 and joined the friars in 1951. He was ordained a friar-priest in 1958 and was appointed to Aitape PNG the following year. He served as PNG police chaplain 1968 to 1988 when he was appointed Bishop of Aitape. In 1997 he was appointed Archbishop of Port Moresby and served there until 2008. Brian returned to Waverley due to ill health, then he moved into full-time care at Rooty Hill. Brian died in Blacktown Hospital at 3am on 9 May. After his funeral in Waverley on 20 May, his remains will be interred at the friars’ cemetery in Aitape PNG; Brian became a PNG citizen in 1976.

# BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND – WELCOME!

Welcome to those baptized this weekend. Thank you to the parents, godparents and families for bringing your children to our Parish for Baptism. Baptized on Saturday evening: **ISABELLA FLEMING; MARLEY CRUM; EDIE CONNOR; and ALBY DUGGAN.**



Baptisms are held on the third weekend of each month, except January and Lent. If you want your infant child baptized, please call


at the Parish Office to obtain details of the Preparation Classes and baptisms.

Baptized on Sunday morning: **JAMES LYON; HAMISH MAYTOM; ARLO DIGNAM; and EDWIN ZERNER.**

Thank you to the parents and godparents, and **congratulations and welcome** to those baptized this week in our Parish.



## PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL THIS WEEKEND



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

**catholic mission**  
*Reach out. Give life.*

In Bujuni, a remote parish deep in the heart of Uganda, bringing life into the world is often fraught with danger. Many women take great risks to get to the nearest affordable maternity ward at St Luke Bujuni Health Centre. Despite the tireless work of Sister Mary Goretti and her small staff, the health centre does not have the capacity to deal with the influx of high-risk pregnancies amongst the many expectant mothers. Sadly, the potential consequences can be tragic. With your support through Catholic Mission, Sister Goretti is hoping to expand St Luke's and provide essential services for women and children. **Please give generously to support women and children's health through Jesus' life-giving mission today.**

**Free call: 1800 257 296**  
**[catholicmission.org.au/uganda](http://catholicmission.org.au/uganda)**

## TEACHERS – EDUCATORS

“Beautiful indeed and of great importance is the vocation of all those who aid parents in fulfilling their duties and who, as representatives of the human community, undertake the task of education in schools. This vocation demands special qualities of mind and heart, very careful preparation, and continuing readiness to renew and to adapt.”

– Declaration on Christian Education, Vatican II, n.5

## ALPHA WOLLONGONG, XAVIER CENTRE WOLLONGONG, 18 JUNE

Young adults 18-35, come to the Xavier Centre, 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong, for the launch on Sunday, 18 June 6:30pm–8:30pm. Live music, dinner, great content and opportunities to meet other young Catholics from the area. ✉ [youth@dow.org.au](mailto:youth@dow.org.au) by 13 June, or hit 'going' on Facebook event <http://dow.sh/alphayouth>. Alpha is a free event.

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

## WISDOM FROM FRANCIS, BISHOP OF ROME

“Those who, in faith, entrust themselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit come to realize how God is present and at work in every moment of our lives and history, patiently bringing to pass a history of salvation. Hope is the thread with which this sacred history is woven, and its weaver is none other than the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. Hope is the humblest of virtues, for it remains hidden in the recesses of life; yet it is like the yeast that leavens all the dough. *We nurture it by reading ever anew the Gospel, “reprinted” in so many editions in the lives of the saints who became icons of God’s love in this world.* Today too, the Spirit continues to sow in us a desire for the Kingdom, thanks to all those who, drawing inspiration from the Good News amid the dramatic events of our time, shine like beacons in the darkness of this world, shedding light along the way and opening ever new paths of confidence and hope.” – Pope Francis, *Message for 51<sup>st</sup> World Communications Day*, 24 Jan 17

**LADIES’ DINNER:** A great time was had last Thursday, 11 May, by those who came to the ladies’ dinner. Many thanks to those who attended and those who sent donations. We raised **\$1,000** which will be given to **Breast Cancer Research**. Thanks to John who came to take photos. Special thanks to D’Vine Skin and Body Care and to Spicy Apple Hairdressing for their donations which were raffled on the night.

### THIS Sunday’s Readings *on our website*

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

### NEXT Sunday’s Readings *on our website*

**Ascension of the Lord • YEAR A**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Acts 1:1-11  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** Ephesians 1:17-23  
**Gospel** Matthew 28:16-20

### 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** [*Liturgies*] 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](mailto: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](http://www.thirroulcatholic.org.au)

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