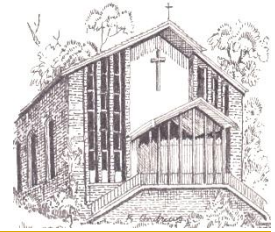


Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



27/28 MAY 2017
ASCENSION OF THE LORD ✦ YEAR A
50 Days of Easter ❖ New Rosters Begin

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

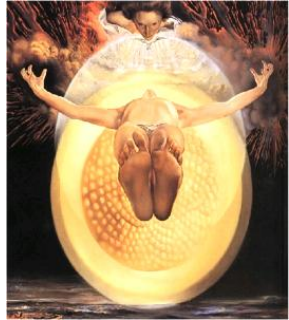
The Mission in the World

Having ascended into heaven, Jesus can now say that "I am in the world no more, but these are in the world." He is not physically present in the world the way he was in the first third of the first century. It is now up to us to deal with the world.

During the period dominated by Trent and Vatican I, the Catholic Church was defensive in its approach to the world, which was regarded as an occasion of sin. Vatican II heralded a new approach based on dialogue rather than confrontation.

The world is viewed not as the enemy but rather as the object of service. This positive approach is much closer to our biblical roots: "I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living."

"Time is the unfolding of truth that already is." The world and its history are where we encounter the eternal God, "reaching from end to end of the universe." We are not called to abandon the world but to remain in it and to take responsibility for its well ordering. The paschal mystery is a challenge to us to lift the world to the heavens.



"In remaining faithful to the gospel and discharging its mission in the world, the Church, whose role it is to encourage and enhance whatever truth or goodness or beauty is to be found in the human community, strengthens peace with the human race to the glory of God."
– Vatican II, *Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* (1965) 76

What does the Church celebrate on Ascension Day? We are being invited to have faith in an important aspect of the Risen Lord's Paschal Mystery. The Saviour was present to his chosen disciples after the Resurrection, laying the foundations of the Church's faith. That extraordinary presence was of limited duration, and soon gave way to another manner of presence – as the Saviour guides the Church through the blessings of his own Spirit. Today's liturgy gathers three passages of the New Testament that give expression to the faith of the first Christians in this phase of the Paschal Mystery.

The concluding passage of Matthew's gospel is deceptive in its brevity. It is in fact a masterly summary of the teaching of the whole gospel – as the Risen Lord himself sends his disciples on mission with words of encouragement. He gives expression to the fullness of the divine authority that 'has been given to him' by the Father. He sends them on a mission that is universal: 'Make disciples of all the nations'. They are to teach them to 'observe all his commandments' – the New Law of his Sermon the Mount. They are to carry out their mission by preaching the Good News and by baptising in the name of the ✚

✚ Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'. And, as he echoes the words of the covenant that was the foundation of Israel's faith – 'I am with you' – he assures them that he is truly Emmanuel.

Luke's account, in the opening passage of the Acts of the Apostles, is the work of a skilful teacher – concerned to help his readers understand the mystery of the Lord's new manner of presence. Luke alone in the New Testament speaks of the Lord's dealing with his disciples as lasting 'forty days' – a round number frequently used in the Scriptures; though it may be linked with the fifty days between Passover and the Pentecost celebration of old Israel. It is made clear that this period is a time of preparation and anticipation – the disciples can look forward to 'what the Father promised'; not many days hence they 'will be baptised with the Holy Spirit'. Luke's account is centred in Jerusalem. (In fact he has omitted any reference to the disciples' withdrawal in discouragement to Galilee.) Though the divine plan that shaped the Old Testament is being fulfilled, a new era is beginning – shaped, not by false messianic hopes of 'the restoration of the kingdom of Israel', but by the Father's mysterious authority. It is the era of the Church's earthly pilgrimage. The Acts of the Apostles (like a second volume of Luke's gospel) will present the Church as carrying out its mission through the blessings of the Holy Spirit – 'You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth'. Luke, the careful teacher, sketches a graphic word picture for his readers: the Lord is 'lifted up', and a 'cloud' (Old Testament sign of God's presence) takes him from their sight. Perhaps the mystery of the Saviour's heavenly exaltation (see the early hymn of Philippians 2) has given rise to this kind of description in some circles. But Luke subtly modifies the crudeness of such a presentation. The two heavenly messengers make it clear that what is taking place is not an event of this world. Their advice to the disciples is not to stare into the sky, but to give themselves to the Church's earthly mission until the Lord returns.

The reading from Ephesians is an eloquent testimony to the way in which the Church understood this mission, carried out under the authority of the Risen Christ, who has made himself 'the head of the Church which is his body'.



ANDREW RETURNS ...

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. Andrew will be looking after our Parish while Ken is away.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

As usual, the Sacrament of **Anointing of the Sick** will be celebrated during the **9:30am Mass on Friday, 2 June**.



Some people call this a "healing Mass" – that is a misnomer. **All Masses are healing Masses**, for God wants to heal us through the powerful sacrament of the Eucharist. All the Sacraments find their source and power in the person of Jesus Christ. The apostle James wrote, "Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven." (James 5:14-15) The name *Jesus* means "God saves." The name emphasizes that Jesus is the one who has come to save all. *Christ* means "anointed." Jesus' whole life was aimed at saving people. His words and actions are the foundation of the saving grace we now received in the Sacraments. In all Sacraments we encounter Christ, but especially in the Eucharist when we received Holy Communion, Christ himself.

CONFIRMATION THURSDAY, 1 JUNE

Congratulations to the following candidates who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday evening, 1 June. Bishop Peter will be celebrating the Eucharist, during which he will confirm the Candidates. Please remember them before the Lord.

Congratulations to ELANORE CEPENIUK; JUAN KUHN; CURTIS O'CARROLL; JAMISEN ROACH; SOPHIE ALLAN; TALIESIN BARR ; SELINA ROSSIGNOL; KEEGAN GOULDER; ALYSSE WILSON; RACHEL KORS; KADE PEACE; HUGO TRASLER; LUC DO; AIDAN CALVERT; MARLEY MCNAMARA; BRENDAN SPIERS; GRACE BYROM; LEO DALLA POZZA; NATALIE CAVANOUGH; JAI ELLEVSEN; ALEXANDER BARRANQUERO; AMELIA OCH; DEACAN SCOTT; ZANE TEMPLE; OWEN TURNER; CHARLES FISHER; PATRICK FAULKNER; ALISON CRITCHER; CLAUDIA VATOVEC; XAVIER FABIAN- CARTER; TILLY GALE; JOSEPH GVERIC; ZOE MCEVOY; TAMARA MARSHALL; KIERAN WALKER; DOMINIC HOOK-DORSETT; ALEXIS BALDING; SHAYE SHIPTON.

Next weekend, the feast of **Pentecost**, the Candidates will attend the weekend Masses, and there will be a special morning tea on Sunday, 4 June.

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL LAST 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.

Thank you for supporting this year's Catholic Mission Church Appeal through your kind gifts and prayers— for joining in Jesus' life-giving mission and supporting women and children's health in Uganda and around the world.

Your generosity makes it possible for local missionaries like Sister Mary Goretti to provide essential services for women and children in their time of need. We invite you to consider partnering with us through a regular monthly gift and continuing your support of this life-giving work of mission.

SAYING OF THE WEEK

“As ever, the best defence Australia has against terrorism is not security measures. It is us getting along with each other, and not marginalising certain sectors and so risking radicalising them.”
— Peter Fitzsimons

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 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**

SUPPORT SCARF

SCARF supports refugee families after arrival in their new home, for as long as they need. SCARF believe that by welcoming refugees settling into the Illawarra region, and by assisting them to build community relationships and networks, SCARF can provide the foundations on which a new life of hope and dignity can be built. Through assisted community connections and practical, targeted activities SCARF empower refugees to make their own way successfully, as our newest Australians. SCARF stands by their side on their journey. SCARF provides personal and family mentoring, homework help and educational mentoring, community activities, activities for young people and learner-driver supervision. SCARF is an independent, not-for-profit, community based incorporated association relying on the work of a dedicated team of volunteers, including the SCARF founders, Sharyn and Kel Mackenzie. SCARF has been supporting refugees for ten year.



THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

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

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Pentecost • YEAR A
1st Reading Acts 2:1-11
2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13
Gospel John 20:19-23

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**
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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 4268 1910  4268 1976

 PO Box 44 • Thirroul 2515
 thirroul@dow.org.au

**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