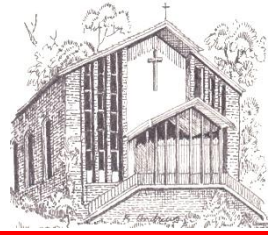


Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



3/4 JUNE 2017
PENTECOST SUNDAY ✦ YEAR A
50th Day of Easter ❖ Land of the Holy Spirit

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Dreams and Visions

“In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.” (Acts 2:17)

The coming of the Spirit should fill us with dreams and visions of a better world. Let us dream, in the Spirit, of a classless society in which all people are regarded and treated as equals.

Let us dream, in the Spirit, of a nonviolent world in which there is no war, no terrorist attacks on any people, no murder, no repulsed refugees, no immigration detention centres, no demonizing asylum seekers, no bigotry and no death penalty.

Let us dream, in the Spirit, of a world of economic justice in which all people have their basic needs met, and no one lives in poverty, hunger or homelessness. Let us dream, in the Spirit, of a world of love, forgiveness, and service.

“Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.” May the Spirit of God guide us to end the suffering we have brought on ourselves and “unite the faces and nations on earth to proclaim your glory.”

“Impelled by its belief that it is being led by the Spirit of the Lord who fills the whole earth, God’s people works to discern the true signs of God’s presence and purpose in the events, need and desires which it shares with the rest of modern humanity. It is faith which shows everything in a new light and clarifies God’s purpose in his complete calling of the human race, thus pointing the mind towards solutions which are fully human.”

– Vatican II, *Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* (1965) 11

The liturgies of the Easter season bring home to us the work of the Holy Spirit in the Saviour’s Paschal Mystery. Our New Testament readings have made frequent mention of the Holy Spirit, looking forward to the coming of the Spirit as its final culmination.

Luke’s account of the coming of the Spirit upon the apostles associates this coming with the ‘day of Pentecost’, a Jewish festival celebrated fifty days after Passover – a harvest festival that later became a celebration of the giving of the Law to Moses. The basis of Luke’s vivid dramatisation may well have been the fact that, on this popular festival, the apostles – still uncertain how to undertake the enormous mission they had been given – joined the pilgrims crowding Jerusalem, and for the first time found the courage to proclaim their faith in the Risen Lord. In the joy and success they found on this



✠✠ occasion, they recognised the ‘baptism with the Holy Spirit’ they had been promised. In the Acts of the Apostles Luke tells the story of the Church of the beginnings using a device in use at the time by writers of popular history – taking important events in the history they are presenting, and dramatising them in a way that brings out their far-reaching significance. Thus, in Luke’s account, what begins as an event in one room of the city – ‘a noise that filled the whole house’, ‘something that seemed like tongues of fire’, the apostles ‘speaking in foreign languages’ – suddenly involves the whole crowded city, as faith in the Risen Lord is preached ‘to devout Jews from every nation under heaven’. As Luke’s dramatisation continues in the passage that follows our reading, Peter’s preaching leads to the baptising of three thousand people – a number designed to bring out the momentous nature of what is taking place, and the universal mission that will flow from it, rather than giving a precise historical detail. As we know, Luke is writing a sequel to his gospel: the story of the Holy Spirit’s life-giving guidance of the early Church. In later ages, our instinct has been sound, in celebrating Pentecost as the birthday of the Church.



The other readings point to other dimensions of the workings of the Spirit in our lives. Our life in Christ is filled, from beginning to end, with God’s generous gifts. And all of these gifts come from ‘one and the same Spirit’ – from our faith in Christ as our ‘Lord and God’, to the individual contributions we are able to make to the life of our community.

In John’s gospel, as we are reminded in today’s reading, the Spirit was given on the evening of Resurrection Day itself. ‘Peace be with you’, Jesus repeats, and ‘breathing on them’ he says, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’. John’s gospel reminds us that if the Spirit is responsible for the great things in which God is present in the life of the Church, the Spirit is also evident in our personal lives, in the true ‘peace’ and contentment that comes to those who give themselves generously to the Lord. In John’s gospel, Jesus, at the Last Supper, associates the gift of the Spirit he promises with a peace that is his special gift: ‘My own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give this is my gift to you’ (Jn 14:27). How varied are the gifts of the Spirit. In this era of change and renewal, let us become more aware of our dependence upon them.’



ANDREW RETURNS ...

Welcome back to Andrew from his Jubilee Leave in the Holy Land and Poland. 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.

PENTECOST – THE FIFTIETH DAY OF EASTER

Pentecost is the Greek name for the Feast of Weeks, a prominent feast in the calendar of ancient Israel celebrating the giving of the Law on Sinai. Pentecost Sunday is one of the most ancient feasts of the Church, 49 days or 7 weeks after Easter Sunday. Pentecost is the 50th day of the Easter Season. In the Christian liturgical year it became a feast commemorating what is described by some Christians as the ‘Birthday of the Church’.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Congratulations to the candidates who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last Thursday evening from Bishop Peter. Their names were printed in last weekend's Bulletin. We welcome them back this weekend. Please remember them before the Lord.

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**

THE GREAT SOUTH LAND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT??

Pedro Fernandes de Queirós (Spanish: *Pedro Fernández de Quirós*) (1565–1614) was a Portuguese navigator in the service of Spain best known for his involvement with Spanish voyages of discovery in the Pacific Ocean, in particular the 1595-1596 voyage of Alvaro de Mendaña de Neira, and for leading a 1605-1606 expedition which crossed the Pacific in search of *Terra Australis*.

On 14 May 1606 (Pentecost Sunday) the expedition reached the islands later called the New Hebrides and now the independent nation of Vanuatu. Queirós landed on a large island which he took to be part of the southern continent, and named it *Australia del Espíritu Santo*. In his printed memorials, notably the Eighth (which was published in Italy, Holland, France, Germany and England), this was altered to *Austrialia del Espíritu Santo* (The Australian Land of the Holy Spirit), a pun on "Austria", to flatter King Philip III, who was of the House of Austria. The island is still called *Espíritu Santo*. Here he stated his intention to establish a colony, to be called Nova Jerusalem. He seems to have identified *Australia/Austrialia del Espíritu Santo* with the huge northward extension of the Austral continent joining it to New Guinea, as depicted in maps like those of Gerard de Jode and Petrus Plancius. For, as he said in his Tenth Memorial

(page 5): "It should be noted that New Guinea is the top end of the Austral Land of which I treat". Vanuatu is a long way from Australia (3.5 hours flying time from Sydney), but Pedro didn't have *Google Maps* ... so he was a long way off. The German name of Austria, *Österreich*, derives from the Old High German word *Ostarrîchi* "eastern realm" ... and Australia is decidedly "east" ... Which country is the furthest "east"?



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 years.



NEW ROSTERS HAVE BEGUN ... *preparations for next rosters*

The new rosters for all ministries began last weekend and last until **10 September**. The following rosters run from **16 September to 31 December** ... *if you will be unavailable any-time between those dates, **NOW** is the time to let your Roster Coordinator know.*

THIS 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

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Holy Trinity • **YEAR A**

1st Reading Exodus 34:4-6,8-9
2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 13:11-13
Gospel John 3:16-18

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* ❖ Ken Cafe ofm, Andrew Granc ofm



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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