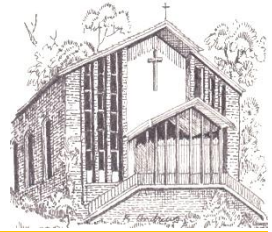


Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



10/11 JUNE 2017

TRINITY SUNDAY ✦ YEAR A

The Communion of Father, Son and Spirit

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

The God of Revelation

“One of the foundational truths of our faith is the “one God in three Persons: Father all-powerful, Christ Lord and Saviour, Spirit of love.” We can reason our way into knowledge of the existence of God, but we would never know of God as Trinity if it were not revealed to us.

There is much else about God that has been revealed: about God as giver of life, land, and food; about God as liberator and protector; about the God of peace and the God of covenant love; about the suffering God, the God of the poor; about the God made flesh, the God with us.

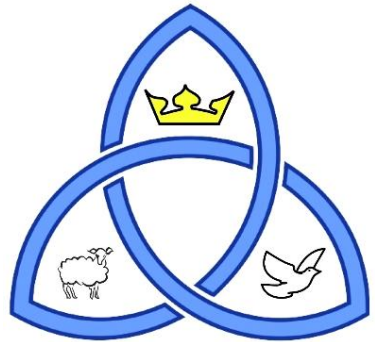
None of this comes from reason, although it does not contradict reason. Most of what we know about God we know because God has revealed it to us.

On this Trinity Sunday, it would be good to reflect on the God of our faith and worship. Do we honour the God of revelation, or do we honour a god of our own making? Do we honour the vengeful god of a merciless world, or do we honour “the Lord, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity?”

“It has pleased God, in his goodness and wisdom, to reveal himself and to make known the secret purpose of his will. This brings it about that through Christ, God’s Word made flesh, and in his Holy Spirit, human beings can draw near to the Father and become sharers in the divine nature. By thus revealing himself God, who is invisible, in his great love speaks to humankind as friends and enters into their life, so as to invite and receive them into relationship with himself.”
– Vatican II, *Constitution on Divine Revelation* (1965) 2

In each of us there are personal depths, mysterious depths that others can know only if we choose to make them our friends. We should not be surprised, that in the boundless life of our God there is a mystery of overflowing life that is far beyond our complete comprehension. Yet – and here we are touching the very heart of our Christian faith, and its greatness – this mystery of personal life reaches out to us, and invites us into its friendship.

We humans share the mystery of our personhood with others by expressing who we are in our interaction with them. And so it has been with the divine self-disclosure, or revelation. From the first, the God of our faith tradition has reached out to humanity ↪ ↪

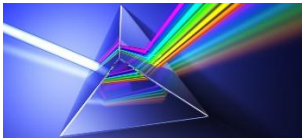


☞☞ with an astounding generosity that was very different from what was expected from the remote and fearful gods the peoples of the world had set up for themselves: Israel's God was the champion of the oppressed, a God whose self-giving was expressed in a covenant relationship. Our reading from the Book of Exodus gives a moving expression to the deep lessons this covenant relationship brought to those who were open to a meeting with the God who had made them his own: 'a God of tenderness, and compassion, slow to anger, and rich in kindness and faithfulness'.

Great as these lessons were, however, they were only a prelude and foreshadowing of the interaction that would give an ultimate expression to the personal life of God – when 'the Word became flesh, and we saw the glory that he has as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth' (John 1:14). Today's reading from John's gospel reiterates this truth: 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son'. Now the mystery of God's generous



love has its full expression. The love of the Son, as he gives himself 'that the world might be saved', is the expression of the love of the Father himself – expressed in this text in an echo of Abraham's anguish, when he was told, 'Take your son, your only son; you are to offer him as a burnt offering' (Genesis 22:2). In this expression of divine compassion, the astounding superabundance of life in a Trinity of Persons finds expression, and gives us a sharing in its friendship, as 'the love of God is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us' (Romans 5:5). Today's gospel reading is noteworthy for its reference to 'the world'. Usually, in John's gospel, 'the world' refers to humanity's project when it is alienated from God [cf. John 15:19]; and God's love towards the disciples of Jesus is what is stressed. In this text, however, 'the world' too is the object of God's saving love.



Paul's benediction at the end of his second letter to the Corinthians is a remarkable summary of this sharing in the Trinitarian life. It is God's 'Grace' – the absolutely unmerited generosity that has shaped all God's dealings from the beginning – that now finds an ultimate expression in all that 'the

Lord Jesus Christ' has done. And what the Saviour has done is the revelation of 'the love of God (the Father)', a love that gathers us into a 'communion', a 'fraternity' that is united in the gifts of 'the Holy Spirit'. These words of the text and its reference to 'a holy kiss' probably echo the liturgies of Paul's communities. It is especially in a faith-filled liturgy that believers experience their sharing in the fellowship of the Trinitarian life.

FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY

From the ninth century on, various bishops of the Frankish kingdoms promoted in their own dioceses a special feast of the Holy Trinity, usually on the Sunday after Pentecost. It was kept on different Sundays in different places, until in 1334 Pope John XXII accepted the festival into the official calendar of the Western Church and ordered that henceforth it should be held everywhere on the Sunday after Pentecost.

The origins of the celebration of Trinity Sunday go all the way back to the Arian heresy of the fourth century. Arius, a Catholic priest, believed that Jesus Christ was a created being rather than God. In denying the divinity of Christ, Arius denied that there are three Persons in God. Arius' chief opponent, Athanasius, upheld the orthodox doctrine that there are three Persons in one God, and the orthodox view prevailed at the Council of Nicaea, from which we get the Nicene Creed, adopted in 325.

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

PENTECOST SEQUENCE

You might like to use this for prayer or reflection, last weekend's **Pentecost Sequence**.

Come, Spirit who is our Light. Shine among the shadows within.
Warm and transform our hearts.

Come, Spirit who makes a home in us. Draw us to the treasures
of your dwelling. Reveal to us the inner journey of love.

Come, Spirit, Comforter and Consoler. Be consolation for all
who grieve and ache. Heal the wounded. Soothe the anxious.

Come, Spirit who energizes our being. Keep us from the tangles
of toil and troubles. Lead us to moments of prayer and play.

Come, Spirit, consuming Fire of Love. Fill us with enthusiasm
for your vision. May the desire for truth be vibrant within us.

Come, Spirit, joy of our souls. Dance amid life's hills and valleys,
encircle us with the delights of your dance.

Come, Spirit of wisdom and insight. Draw us into your goodness
and light. Direct our growth and guide our ways.

Come, Spirit, strength of wounded ones. Be warmth in hearts of those grown cold.
Empower the powerless. Rekindle the weary.

Come, Spirit, source of our Peace. Deepen in us the action of peacemakers. Heal the
divisions that ravage the earth. Amen! Alleluia!



THANK YOU FROM KEN

Thank you to all for the wishes for the holiday ... for safe and relaxed travel. Please remember before the Lord those who have been killed or injured because of the terrorist attacks – may there be peace in our world, and absence of bigotry and prejudice.

ALPHA WOLLONGONG, XAVIER CENTRE WOLLONGONG

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.

2017 INTER CHURCH BOOT CAMP FOR MEN

No Man Left Behind is a series of fantastic evenings for men from 18-99 dealing with topics of relationships, work life balance, health and sexuality. It is being run as a Northern Illawarra inter church event and will run on Wednesdays, **21 & 28 June** and **19 & 16 July** from 7:30-9:30pm at Bulli Anglican Church Hall. Cost is \$5 per night, which includes the talk, finger food, coffee and a top night with other men of faith committed to being the best they can be. For more information contact Jude Hennessy ☎ 4222 2407.

SIGNIFICANT MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS

If you are celebrating **25, 40, 50 or 60** years of marriage this year and would like an invitation to the Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Peter Ingham at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow on Sunday, **13 August** at 2.00pm, please contact Helen Bennett ☎ 4222 2403 or ✉ helen.bennett@dow.org.au by Monday, **10 July** and an invitation will be sent to you.

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.



CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE

The next meeting of the Catholic Women’s League will be on **Tuesday, 13 June**, commencing at 11:00am in the McCarthy Centre. **John Hoyle from NSW Trains will be guest speaker.** Light luncheon to follow. All welcome! Monthly meeting at 1:30pm.

<p>THIS Sunday’s Readings <i>on our website</i></p> <p>Holy Trinity • YEAR A</p> <p>1st Reading Exodus 34:4-6,8-9</p> <p>2nd Reading 2 Corinthians 13:11-13</p> <p>Gospel John 3:16-18</p>	<p>NEXT Sunday’s Readings <i>on our website</i></p> <p>Body and Blood of Christ • YEAR A</p> <p>1st Reading Deuteronomy 8:2-3,14-16</p> <p>2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 10:16-17</p> <p>Gospel John 6:51-58</p>
<p>SUNDAY MASS TIMES</p> <p>Church of St Michael • Thirroul</p> <p>Saturday – 5:30pm • Sunday – 8:00am</p> <p>Bulli Sunday 8:30am and 5:30pm</p> <p>Corrimal Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9:30am</p>	<p>LITURGIES THIS WEEK</p> <p>Wombarra [<i>Liturgy</i>] Monday 4:30pm</p> <p>Thirroul [<i>Liturgies</i>] Tuesday 5:30pm</p> <p>Wednesday 9:00am</p> <p>Thursday 9:00am</p> <p>Friday 9:30am</p>

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