

Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



17/18 JUNE 2017
BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST ✦ YEAR A

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

The Most Cherished Gift

We celebrate the body and blood of Christ not as isolated objects of adoration but as food and drink, like the manna in the desert and the water brought forth from a rock.

Jesus makes it very clear how we are to approach his body and blood: "if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood you have no life in you. He who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has life eternal."

The food that we eat every day, and the liquids we drink, become part of our bodies, sustaining them and allowing them to grow, function, and heal. The food that is the body and blood of Christ does something far greater; it makes us one with God. "The man who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him."

This is why the body and blood of Christ signify unity and peace: there is one Christ, and all who eat and drink the body and blood of Christ become one in the one Christ.

"We, many though we are, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf." There is no room for disunity among those who eat and drink the body and blood of Christ. The mysterious reality of the Eucharist—"My flesh is real food and my blood real drink"—is a puzzle to some, a scandal to others. It has always been so. But for those who believe in Jesus' teaching because they believe in Jesus Christ himself, the Eucharist is, among all his gifts to us, the most cherished and the cause of our deepest gratitude.

US Bishops, The Eucharist and the Hungers of the Human Family (1975) 18-19

'Do this in memory of me'. Many of the great things of life are kept alive through the 'remembering' of cherished traditions. Moses says to the people, 'Remember ... do not forget, the Lord fed you with manna'. In the words of John's gospel before the passage we read today, Jesus has recalled this story of the Exodus, and likened himself to the manna given to the people in the midst of their complaining. Now he announces the inauguration of a new tradition - and, as John tells us, it too will be met with complaining. To this point, Jesus has been telling the people that he was foreshadowed in the manna. He came to nourish their old faith. Now, however, he makes a dramatic announcement. In all that he does, he is giving expression to the ways of his Father - taking up the initiative himself. He will become the nourishment of God's people in a way that could never have been anticipated: 'The bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world'.


John uses the word 'flesh (sarx)' in this reference to the Eucharist. We are accustomed to using another term, speaking of the 'body (soma)' of Christ. In the early Church, both terms were in use. When we recall the Prologue of John's gospel - 'The Word became flesh' - we can recognise the implications of this term. 'All flesh is grass', Isaiah declares,



‘The grass withers; but the word of God remains forever’ (Is 40:6-8). When the Prologue of John’s gospel echoes these words - ‘The Word was made flesh’ - it is underlining the full implications of the Incarnation: the Son of God ‘emptied himself’, as Paul says, coming to share our humanity in all its frailty. John is presenting the Eucharist as the sacrament of this Incarnation and all that it was to give to the world. He is also affirming the ‘healthy materialism’ of the biblical tradition. For all its frailty, the human body is God’s creation; and in the Incarnate Christ it has become our salvation and the source of eternal life for us. ‘This is my body, given, broken, for you. This is my blood poured out for the whole world’. All this is clearly, but subtly, implied in the words of John’s gospel. ‘Sent by the Father’, Jesus is still carrying out - in the eucharistic mystery - the great task he had been given. In John’s account of the last days of the Saviour, Jesus declares, ‘And when I am lifted up from the earth I shall draw all people to myself’ (Jn 12:32). In the Mass, we are given to share in the Saviour’s return to the Father, making intercession for the whole human family. ‘As I draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me’ – our sharing in ‘this one loaf’ is nothing less than a sharing the life of the Father. It is unfortunate that discussion of this passage often does not get beyond a defence of the ‘real presence’. The Eucharist is the sacrament of the whole drama of salvation - ‘Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day’. ‘Communion’, the term we have long associated with this sacrament, has implications that have been neglected. Our ‘communion’ in the Saviour’s return to the Father – his Paschal Mystery - is what unites us as members of his Church.



This gospel, in its emphatic rejection of the murmuring of those who do not accept the teaching of Jesus, certainly upholds the challenging truth of the Eucharist in what has been the Church’s faith since the beginning. The repeated reference to ‘eating and drinking’ clearly echoes the eucharistic practice of the apostolic Church.



St Mary Star of the Sea College
Invites ex-students & staff to our

Decades Reunion Morning Tea

Save the Date!

Alumnae celebrating 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 years and beyond are especially invited to attend

Saturday 19 August 2017

10:30am to 12:30pm in the College’s SGN Hall
Harbour Street, Wollongong

RSVP Maree McCarthy by Friday, 11 August 2017

☎ 02 4228 6011 or ✉ maree.mccarthy@stmarys.nsw.edu.au

☺ We look forward to welcoming you back.

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

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.*

YOUTH MISSION TEAM AUSTRALIA

This weekend we will have a speaker from Youth Mission Team Australia. Youth Mission Team Australia is an organisation that aims to bring hope to young Australians. They work in Catholic High schools running retreats and follow up ministries in the Wollongong Diocese. **YMT events: iSTAND Nights**


iSTAND is a regional youth group for the Illawarra area for High school age students in year 9-12. It is run every Friday night of the School Term. 7pm- 9:30pm Xavier Centre, Wollongong Cathedral

iSTAND Camp- Meet your Maker

Our iSTAND camps are run once a term. Where young people from across Sydney and the Illawarra come together to have an incredible weekend of fun and adventure and getting to know one another and God. **23-25 June** at 'The Venue' 18 Cawley Street, Bellambi, cost: \$120, registration:  www.ymt.com.au/istandevents




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 Tuesday, **20 & 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.



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.

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.

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

The annual Vinnies Winter Appeal will be held in our Parish over the weekends of 24-25 June and 1-2 July. Thank you for your generosity in previous years.



**THE POWER TO CHANGE A LIFE
IS IN YOUR HANDS.**

DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

Please donate to the Vinnies Winter Appeal.



CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL- THANK YOU!!!

A couple of weeks ago we had the Catholic Mission Propagation of the Faith Appeal. Our parish generously gave **\$1,705.05**.

THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Body and Blood of Christ • Year A

1st Reading Deuteronomy 8:2-3,14-16

2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Gospel John 6:51-58

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A

1st Reading Jer 20:10-13

2nd Reading Rom 5:12-15

Gospel Mt 10:26-33

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 ❖ 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



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