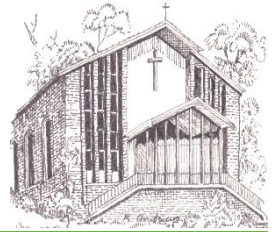


# Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



24/25 JUNE 2017  
12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR A

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

## *One in Christ*

“God is the strength of his people,” the guide and protector of your people, the one who keeps us secure from this world’s uncertainty (Ps 28:8). We should not be afraid of anything because “the Lord is with me, like a mighty champion” (Jer 20:11).

The poor and lowly are special objects of protection. “See, you lowly ones, and be glad ... for the Lord hears the poor, for he has rescued the life of the poor” (Responsorial Psalm). The special care of the poor is a sign to all of us that God is our strength, for it means that God is not influenced by the judgments of the world.

The world might abuse and ignore the poor and lowly, but God hears their cry and rescues their lives. The riches of this world might be for a select few, the rich and powerful, but the gracious gift of Jesus Christ abounds for all.

So do not let men intimidate you. Our God is God of the poor and lowly, and in him, we his children live in safety.

In the Old Testament God reveals himself to us as the liberator of the oppressed and the defender of the poor, demanding from man faith in him and justice towards man’s neighbor. It is only in the observance of the duties of justice that God is truly recognized as the liberator of the oppressed.

As we saw last week, the commission of the Twelve is addressed to all baptised Christians. Continuing his instruction, Jesus tells the apostles that all the ‘hidden’ truths that they have come to know, as his companions during his earthly life, must be ‘proclaimed from the house tops’. The term ‘proclaim’ echoes the word ‘kerygma’ (proclamation) that came in the New Testament to stand for the message preached by the apostolic Church.

Jesus knows what the future holds for him, and he warns the apostles that they must be ready for the same fate. The word, ‘martyr’ means ‘witness’. In the early centuries, the fact that so many men and women, young and old, were ready to face a terrible death, rather than renounce their faith, so impressed their pagan neighbours that it led many of them to embrace the Christian faith. Martyrdom has been a continuing fact of the Church’s life during the past century. Most of us, however, will not have to face this ultimate test. All of us, in the other hand, will know times when it is not easy to stand up for the things of God.

The courageous example of Jeremiah can still inspire us as we face these difficulties. The messages of the prophets were not miraculous communications, but the reflections of believers who – because they had a living faith in the God of the covenant – recognized God’s desires for the people in their changing circumstances. Prompted by the Spirit, ✨



⇒ they shared their convictions with God's people. Jeremiah lived in a nation in crisis - because of the invasion of a powerful enemy. His prophetic reflections were unwelcome in influential circles. Later developments showed that his fears for his life were justified. Turning to the Lord in his isolation - to the God who comes to the aid of the 'needy' - he echoes one of the great themes of Old Testament faith, 'the Lord hears the cry of the poor (those who have no one else to turn to).'

Now it is the Saviour himself who encourages those who must overcome their 'fear', as they give witness to all that he stands for. He translates the theme that gave courage to Jeremiah into terms that bring to mind the whole message of the Sermon on the Mount. Why should they fear? Even the cheapest life in the market 'two sparrows for a penny', is in the watchful care of their heavenly Father. 'Why every hair of your head is numbered', he tells them. In the end, when he comes to judge the world, he will 'declare himself for them in the presence of his Father'. Do not be afraid before the threats of the present world; make sure not to be found wanting, in the end.

Our essential Christian witness will not be given in the market place, but in the informal exchanges that are a constant part of life. - in the discussions that lead to family decisions, in our work place conversations, and in the attitudes that people know are the expression of Catholic conviction. It will not be so much what we say, as the respect and friendliness with which we express ourselves that matters. 'Always have your answer ready for the people who ask you the reason for the hope that you have', St Peter says, 'But give it with courtesy and respect, and with a clear conscience' (1 Pet 3:15)- John Thornhill sm

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

## 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.

 **Vinnies**  
good works

## 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](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au) by Monday, 10 July and an invitation will be sent to you.

## 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.



## BROTHER VICTOR BELL

a Christian Brother who taught at Edmund Rice College from **1963 until 1988**, is turning **100** on **11 July 2017**. The Brothers are having a morning tea for Br Bell at their home in Sydney on Tuesday, 11 July. Numbers are very limited. If you would like to attend please contact Trish O'Neill at Edmund Rice College on ☎ 4228 4344. Birthday cards and messages can be sent to Edmund Rice College and they will ensure that these messages are given to Brother Bell.

## ALPHA- BEGIN THE JOURNEY HERE

Wednesday, **5 July**, 1pm-2:30pm Office of the Bishop, McCabe Room, Xavier Conference Centre, Harbour St Wollongong, Heard about Alpha and wondering what all the fuss is about? Go to Church but want to get to know God better? Struggling with life's big questions? You're invited to come along and try Alpha, a fun and friendly series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. We share a meal, watch a talk and have a chat in a relaxed and open environment. Over 27 million people around the world have explored the big questions of life on Alpha. Just so that we can make sure there's plenty of food for you please RSVP by Monday **3 July** to ☎ Darren 42 222 463 or ✉ [darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au](mailto:darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au)

## POPE FRANCIS TO YOUNG PEOPLE: TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

In the lead up to the 2018 Year of Youth, Pope Francis has reminded young people that the 'wishes to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith; even your doubts and your criticism. Make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities and let it be heard by your shepherds of souls, (Your Bishops) as they prepare for the upcoming Synod. With that in mind, young people in Wollongong, are invited by the Australian Bishops to complete a survey which can be found at <https://www.catholic.org.au/youthsurvey>

## ST MARY STAR OF THE SEA COLLAGE

invites ex-students and staff to our Decades Reunion Morning Tea. Alumnae celebrating 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 years and beyond are especially invited to attend Saturday, 19 August at 10:30am to 12:30pm in the College's SGN Hall in Harbour Street, RSVP Maree McCarthy on ☎ 4228 6011 or ✉ [maree.mccarthy@stmarys.nsw.edu.au](mailto:maree.mccarthy@stmarys.nsw.edu.au)

## 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.*

## PLAYGROUP

A playgroup in our parish is held every Thursday during term time from 9:30am in the McCarthy Centre. For more information call Rebecca on ☎ 0424 171 184.

## TAKE A RISK AND GIVE THE GIFT OF FAITH

In our parish there is a team of volunteers that take a risk and step out in faith. State Government schools do not provide lessons that teach the basic message about Jesus, our faith and the great adventure that life can be with God. We were all given our gift of faith by someone, someone stepped-up for us so that we would know Jesus. Each week of the school year Catechists present 30-minute lessons using a step-by-step lesson plan that helps Catholic children understand their faith, grow in love and maturity and learn what it means to be Catholic. Take a risk and give the gift of faith. Become a Catechist teacher or helper today! For more information, please call 4222 2416 or ask our parish priest.

<b>THIS Sunday's Readings</b> <i>on our website</i>	<b>NEXT Sunday's Readings</b> <i>on our website</i>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time • YEAR A</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b> Jer 20:10-13	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b> 2 Kg 4:8-11, 14-16
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b> Rom 5:12-15	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b> Rom 6:3-4, 8-11
<b>Gospel</b> Mt 10:26-33	<b>Gospel</b> Mt 10:37-42

### 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** 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*

 325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive  
 4268 1910  4268 1976

 PO Box 44 • Thirroul 2515  
 [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) Parish School of St Michael  4267 2560