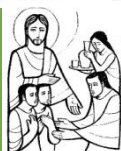




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



1 / 2 JULY 2017

13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR A

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Making Life Count

“The prophet Elisha is welcomed warmly by the couple in Shunem, and he promises them a reward for their hospitality. Jesus tells his followers that he who welcomes you welcomes me, and “he who welcomes me welcomes him who sent me” (Matthew 10:40).

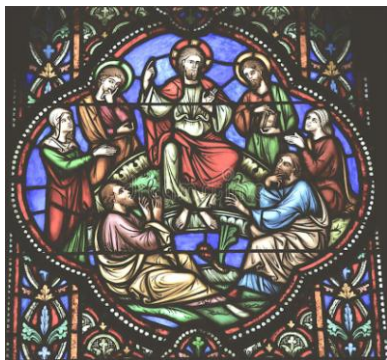
How good are we as a society at welcoming people into our company? An asylum underground operated during the 1980s to give protection to Salvadorans and Guatemalans whom we did not want to welcome. The Haitians have not been so lucky in the 1990s. The homeless are often not welcome anywhere, locked outside by a society that does not want to adequately fund public housing and pursued by the enforcers of laws that make it illegal to be homeless. Stories continue to surface of high-class institutions refusing to welcome African Americans or Jews or women.

Those of us who are baptized “must consider ourselves dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus” (Romans 6:11). We should walk in the light of Christ. We should be different from those who exclude others and drive them out. We should bring God's love to the world:

Basic justice demands the establishment of minimum levels of participation in the life of the human community for all persons ... The ultimate injustice is for a person or group to be treated actively or abandoned passively as if they were non-members of the human race. To treat people this way is effectively to say that they simply do not count as human beings- *U.S. Bishops, Economic Justice for All, 1986: 77.*

On the last two Sundays, our gospel readings have brought us the instructions of the Saviour for those he calls to share in the mission he has received from his Father. Today's reading is the conclusion of the passage we have been reading. Not surprisingly, it takes us to the heart of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Our life as disciples has its beginning in our personal call to follow Jesus. Now he speaks to us of the nature of the relationship he has called us to.

It is a unique relationship – the absolute allegiance to which only God has a right. The original words of Jesus would have used the stark contrast of Semitic expressions – the disciple who ‘loves’ the Saviour must ‘hate’ those of their families (cf. Lk 14:26). ☩



✚ In presenting these words of Jesus, Matthew removes the danger of misunderstanding. A right relationship with the Saviour will not destroy our human relationships, but deepen them and make them more wholesome. Even the greatest of these, however, must not compromise the allegiance we owe to the Lord – even if this allegiance brings a sharing in his cross, through persecution and rejection. For the community that gave us Matthew’s gospel, these words would have had practical implications. The following of Christ would have divided some families, and would have been met with hatred from those who used to be their friends in the synagogue.

But if Jesus calls for the allegiance that is owing to the Lord himself, he assures us – in words that ring with the fullness of his divine authority – that our absolute trust in him will never be misplaced; it will lead us to the fullness of life. This assurance of the Lord would have been a great source of inspiration to the Church of the beginning. (As we have seen, the Saviour’s commission was given to the apostles as representatives of the whole community of disciples. This is made very clear in Luke’s gospel, in which this call to absolute allegiance is addressed to the ‘great crowds that accompanied Jesus on his way’ [Lk 14:25].)

In the continuation of the text, Jesus promises those who generously entrust their lives to him, that - as they share in his mission – they will already begin to know the reward he promises. In the Jewish society of the time of Jesus, emissaries authorised to carry out a special commission were owed the respect owing to the one by whom they were commissioned. Applying this principle, Jesus promises those who carry out his mission will share in the ‘welcome’ owing to his coming, and the coming of his Father, through them. It is an experience that is familiar to all unselfish bearers of the gospel.

Paul’s magnificent text, from the letter to the Romans - explaining the mystery of ‘baptism in Christ Jesus’ - is a perfect complement to the gospel reading. ‘Anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it’, Jesus tells us. The life he promises is nothing less than a sharing in the everlasting life manifested to the world in his resurrection. The crucified One – who came to share in the life of a world lost in selfishness and violence – has been ‘raised from the dead’ by the Father’s glorious power, to become a sign of hope and a source of new life for the whole of creation. It is through our baptism that we are united to Jesus in the mission he received from his Father, and begin to share in all that has been realised in his resurrection – ‘dead to sin, but alive for God in Christ Jesus’.

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

FR ANDREW AT WOLLONGONG CLERGY CONFERENCE

Fr Andrew will be away from the parish from Tuesday, **11 July** to Thursday, **13 July**. He will be attending the annual Wollongong Clergy conference – held at the Catholic Club in Campbelltown. There will be no Mass in the parish on each of these days: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday. A Communion Service will be held at the usual time in place of the Mass on these days.

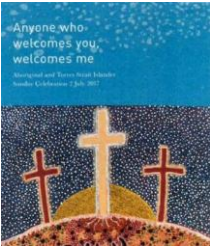
2017 INTER CHURCH BOOT CAMP FOR MEN

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.



NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY 2017

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday will be celebrated on 2 July with the theme: *Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me.* There are over 120,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait



Islander Catholics in Australia and ATSI Sunday is an opportunity for parishes and schools to celebrate the gifts and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to the Church. The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) has produced an online resource and is encouraging parishes and schools to invite an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person to provide a Welcome to Country or conduct an Acknowledgement of Country as part of local Celebrations.

📄 www.natsicc.org.au/atsi-sunday-2017.html

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

CATHOLIC CARE STRENGTHEN YOUR RELATIONS

Parenting workshops available from July now taking bookings. To build on your parenting skills and strengthen your family relationships go to the calendar at 📄 www.catholiccare.dow.org.au or give CatholicCare a call on ☎ 4227 1122.

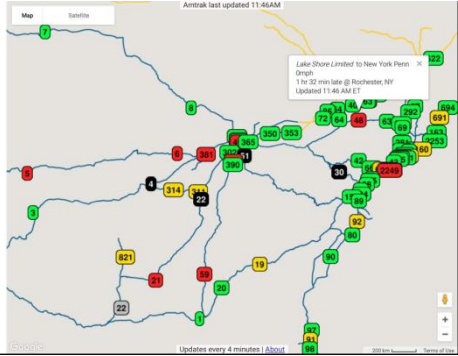
Copies of the Diocese's *Journey* magazine are available in our parish.



FATHER KEN IN USA



Amtrak 48 (23)
Lake Shore Limited
 CHN On Time
 SOB 30 min late
 DSM 1 hr 16 min late
 WT1 1 hr 51 min late
 BFN 2 hr late
 TOL 1 hr 38 min late
 SKY 1 hr 50 min late
 ELY 1 hr 44 min late
 CLK 1 hr 26 min late
 BMT 1 hr 22 min late
 BUF 1 hr 32 min late
 ROC 1 hr 32 min late
 SWP 1 hr 35 min late
 GCA 1 hr 35 min late
 SDP 1 hr 35 min late
 ALB 37 min late
 RH 27 min late
 POW 30 min late
 CRT 31 min late
 NYP 18 min late



THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time • **YEAR A**
 1st Reading 2 Kg 4:8-11, 14-16
 2nd Reading Rom 6:3-4, 8-11
 Gospel Mt 10:37-42

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time • **YEAR A**
 1st Reading Zech 9:9-10
 2nd Reading Rom 8:9, 11-13
 Gospel Mt 11:25-30

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

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