



Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



15/16 JULY 2017
15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR A

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

The parable of the sower is a story about the fruitfulness of the earth. It assures us that the harvest will come in spite of the many obstacles that stand in the way. In the end, the rocks and birds and trampling feet cannot nullify the fact that “the seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.”

Paul talks about the salvation of the world, pointing out that “the world itself will be freed from its slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.”

Meanwhile, “all creation groans and is in agony”: we pollute the clear air and the fresh water; we drive plants and animals to extinction; we clear-cut forests and we strip-mine, leaving ugly scars in the land.

The opening prayer calls on us “to reject what is contrary to the gospel.” Isn't it contrary to the “good news” to waste and destroy God's creation? The Creator has “greatly enriched the land.” How dare we impoverish it!

The commitment of believers to a healthy environment for everyone stems directly from their belief in God the Creator, from their recognition of the effects of original and personal sin, and from the certainty of having been redeemed by Christ. Respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation, which is called to join man in praising God.

As we have already indicated, Matthew's gospel alternates narrative passages with passages presenting the teaching of Jesus. Last week's reading was from a narrative sequence describing the difficulties Jesus encountered in his Galilean ministry. Today's reading is from the section that follows; it contains seven parables of ‘the Kingdom’ – a central theme of this gospel. It begins dramatically with the parable of the sower. People have come to hear Jesus crowd the shore of the lake, and he speaks to them from a boat. His parable – to an audience of rural Galileans – is about farming. But this farming is very different from the farming we are familiar with. The single spike ploughs used were not very effective; they would hardly make an impression on the hard ground of paths through the field; they left patches of brambles behind them; the Palestinian soil they ploughed was in many places a shallow covering of the underlying rock; much of the seed, broadcast by hand, would therefore come to nothing, while some that fell in soil made ready by the ploughing would produce the miracle of a fresh harvest. Parables are common in the Scriptures, and their appeal to the imagination, to convey a challenging message, was ↗

Respecting Creation



☞ often used by the Jewish rabbis. The parables of Jesus were distinctive, however. He had already announced the essential message of his preaching in clear words – ‘Make yourselves ready, the reign of God you have looked forward to is upon you!’ His parables describing the coming of this reign were intended to puzzle his hearers – ‘Listen anyone who has ears’. He wanted them to discover a meaning that brought home to them how different the Kingdom he proclaimed was from popular expectations - expectations that looked forward to a political vindication of the nation. (The reply Jesus gave, when asked why he taught through parables, does not mean – as we might expect – that he wanted to withhold the truth from his hearers.; it means that he recognised – as the prophet Isaiah recognised before him, in the text he quoted – that many of his hearers would not have the dispositions necessary to find the meaning he wishes to convey.)

If we disregard the detailed explanation of the parable at the end of today’s reading – probably an addition made by preachers in the early Church tradition, as they adapted this parable of Jesus to a very different audience – the meaning of Jesus’ parable on the shore of the lake is not difficult to grasp. His preaching – and that of the evangelisers who will carry on his mission - will encounter difficulties of many kinds (like the seed of the sower). He has already encountered reversals in Galilee; and as he looked at the crowds curious to hear him he must have realised that his teaching would have little effect on many of them. Nevertheless, the meaning to be found in his parable is forthright: the harvest is certain, and it will be abundant; and there is a note of urgency: God’s time has come; there is no second chance – there is only one sowing for each harvest.

Early Christian preachers, as we have said, developed an explanation of the parable for an audience in a very different situation from the crowd on the shore of the lake. That this addition is included in the gospel has an important lesson for later times. The message of Jesus must be applied to the changing circumstances of the Church’s life. If the original parable urged the disciples of Jesus to sow the word with confidence, now those who have heard the word must show its fruits in their lives. In today’s Church, the biblical revival opens the way for us.

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

Thank you for your donations over the last few weekends: a total of **\$6741.80**



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

DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
Please donate to the Vinnies Winter Appeal.



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

Each family is asked to bring in each week one non-perishable item, which will be given to the St Vincent de Paul Society for the needy of our district. *What’s needed?*

Canned food; pasta; rice; sauces for pasta and rice; packet cake mixes; baked beans; spaghetti; canned tuna/salmon; baby food; baby formula; breakfast cereals; tea bags; long-life milk; coffee; small pkts white sugar; nappies; jams; spreads [Vegemite, Nuttella].

Be assured your donations go directly to the most needy in our area.

NEED HELP AT HOME OR KNOW SOMEBODY WHO DOES?

CatholicCare offers practical aged care services and support so you can continue living a happy, healthy life in the comfort of your own home.

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CONGRATULATIONS



CONGRATULATIONS TO BOB ASCOLI

local Thirroul Lion's Club member honoured with the highest award for a club member, the Melvin Jones Fellowship.



CONGRATULATION TO HENRIETTA HATTON ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Wendy's Milazzo mother, Florence passed away on Monday, 3 July and she was cremated on Monday, 10 July. Please remember Florence in your prayers.

2016 NATIONAL CHURCH LIFE SURVEY RESULTS

Every week a highlight from the survey will be published in the bulletin. Copies of our parish summary profile are available after the mass.

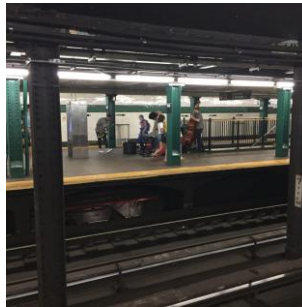
Our People

- Average age 61 years
- Female 62% Male 39%
- Tertiary education 40%
- Non-English speaking background 12%

FATHER KEN'S TRAVEL



On Monday, 11 July Father Ken started his trip from Portland Maine to Boston to NYC - all by train, it will make a total of 6,335km by train, not including subways!!!



THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time • **YEAR A**
1st Reading Is 55:10-11
2nd Reading Rom 8:18-23
Gospel Mt 13:1-23

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time • **YEAR A**
1st Reading Wis 12:13, 16-19
2nd Reading Rom 8:26-27
Gospel Mt 13:24-43

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



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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