



Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



30 SEPTEMBER / 1 OCTOBER 2017
26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR A
Blessing of Animals 9:30am, Monday, 2 October

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

God's Justice

Two sons were asked to work in the vineyard of their father. One said he would do so, but he didn't. The other said he wouldn't, but he did. It was this second son who did what the father wanted.

God, our Father, invites us all to work in the vineyard, preparing the world for the coming of the kingdom. Some of us talk about the work that needs to be done, calling attention to the social ills that divide us: the poverty and hunger; the discrimination and oppression; the militarism and war; the bigotry; the vilification of others because of their beliefs.

Others of us do something about these problems: challenging the systems that produce poverty and hunger; struggling to overcome discrimination and oppression; agitating for peace and an end to militarism; being people of love, acceptance and compassion.

The challenge of Jesus Christ is to look to others' interests rather than to one's own. It is to look beyond one's small world, which may be filled with satisfaction and fulfilment, to look out into that world where people suffer and die. And it is to go beyond talk and become involved in action for the transformation of the world.

Two sons were asked to work in the vineyard of their father. One of them did what the father wanted.

"It is not enough to recall principles, state intentions, point to crying injustices and utter prophetic denunciations; these words will lack real weight unless they are accompanied for each individual by a livelier awareness of personal responsibility and by effective action."

– Pope Paul VI, *Octagesimo Adveniens*, 1971:48

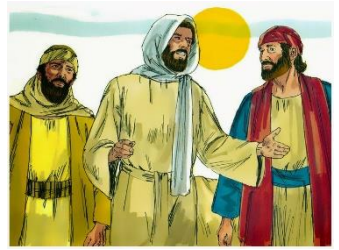
In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus has already warned his disciples three times that he is to suffer; and he has indicated that the chief priests and leaders of the people will be responsible for his death. The brief parable in today's reading, addressed 'to the chief priests and the elders', reflects the growing confrontation with these authorities that will lead, in the end, to his death. He knows that, in their opposition to him, they see themselves as upholding the traditions of Israel – giving expression to their faithfulness to the Lord. His parable gently confronts them with their tragic miscalculation. In Matthew's narrative, immediately before Jesus tells this parable, he was challenged by these leaders: what authority did he have for teaching in the Temple precincts? He showed up their hypocrisy, ✠ ✠



☞☞ putting them in a dilemma – asking them what authority John the Baptist had when he preached to the people.

The simple story of the parable he now addresses to them ends with a question. His parables, we recall, were designed to leave the hearers pondering an unsettling question. Because the answer to the question he put to them is straight forward – the son who initially refused, and ‘afterwards thought better of it and went’, was the one who did the father’s will – the opponents of Jesus answered accordingly.

But as they do so, they begin to realise what Jesus’ parable is driving at. As the defenders of the nation’s faith traditions, they see themselves as always saying ‘Yes’ to God. But now Jesus is inviting them to reflect that their actions may not match their professions of faithfulness. John the Baptist called the people to a conversion whereby they would be open to what was about to take place in the great plan of God. The very ones these leaders despised, as ‘outside the law’ – tax collectors, sinners, those whose busy lives and slender means made it impossible for them to observe all the rituals and customs they emphasised – were listening to the teaching of the one announced by the Baptist, while they themselves were intent on destroying him, not recognising that he came from God. The ironic lesson of the parable would have been very real to the Jewish converts of Matthew’s community.



The old proverb, ‘Actions speak louder than words’, reminds us of the inconsistencies that can be present in the lives of all of us. The parable of Jesus reminds us that these inconsistencies can be present in our Christian lives – when we see ourselves as fervent believers, always faithful to our devotions and religious observances, but with little practical expression to show of our following of Christ. St Paul’s exhortations to the Philippians in today’s reading provide simple but telling examples of the practical attitudes that true followers of Jesus should have: no competition or petty rivalry; putting

the wellbeing of others before our own; being genuinely concerned to assist those around us. And, as always, Paul leads us back to the ultimate pattern of our life as disciples of the Lord – the Son who said ‘Yes’ to the Father, came to work in the God’s vineyard, setting aside his divine glory and making himself the Servant of us all. ‘In your attitudes you must be the same as Christ’.

Jesus may well have told the same parable in different forms. As we hear today’s brief parable we may well ask whether it is related to the great parable, in Luke’s gospel, of the wayward son who found his way back to his father’s love and welcome.

KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS NEWMAN LECTURE

The Knights of the Southern Cross branch is hosting a **Newman Lecture Dinner** on **Saturday, 14 October 2017** at **6:30pm** for **7pm** in the Thirroul Railway Institute Hall, Railway Parade, Thirroul. Ken Cafe ofm will speak on the topic ***The Bible – It Ain’t Necessarily So***. Cost is \$30 each and includes a two course dinner. BYO. Bookings are essential: Contact Paul Tuckerman ☎ 4267 2535. All are welcome!





SAMARITAN'S PURSE – OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

*There are only **12 Mondays left until Christmas Day!*** Operation Christmas Child hand delivers gift-filled shoe boxes to children who have nothing. Shoeboxes from Australia are sent to Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Samoa, Vanuatu, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. While bringing great joy to a child in need the shoeboxes are also a tool for building relationships with communities where clean water, education and health improvement programs are needed.

The Catholic Women's League, Thirroul Branch, is combining with Austinmer Uniting Fellowship to fill shoeboxes to help build a future for needy children. We are asking please, for the support of parishioners for gifts and donations to fill boxes for boys and girls – ages 2 years to 14 years. **All items must be NEW and able to fit into shoe boxes.**

Required are: toothbrushes, face washers, cakes of soap, combs, hair clips and hair bands, coloured pencils, chalk, erasers, sharpeners, highlighters, small size colouring books and note pads, tennis balls (that bounce), skipping ropes (not heavy), marbles, soft toys, Match Box and Hot Wheels cars and trucks. **No toothpaste or liquids.**

LAST CHANCE THIS WEEKEND: there will be a tub for the collection in the porch of St Michael Church. Thank you in anticipation of your generosity.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Thank you to all who contribute to our Parish, especially through the Planned Giving Scheme. **Please collect TODAY** the 2017-2018 Planned Giving Envelopes from near the door from the church into the sacristy. *If you would like to join, please contact the Parish Office.*

BLESSING OF ANIMALS: 9:30AM, MONDAY, 2 OCTOBER

As spring arrives, people in various places may notice a procession of animals – from dogs and cats to hamsters and even horses – being led to churches for a special ceremony called the Blessing of Pets. This custom is conducted in remembrance of St Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. Francis, whose feast day is 4 October, loved the larks flying about his hilltop town. He and his early brothers, staying in a small hovel, allowed themselves to be displaced by a donkey. Francis wrote an ode to God's living things. "All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures." And there was testimony in the cause for St Clare of Assisi's canonization that referred to her cat!



The bond between person and pet is like no other relationship, because the communication between fellow creatures is at its most basic. Eye to eye are two creatures of love. No wonder people enjoy taking their animal companions to church for a blessing. Church is the place where the bond of creation is celebrated. At Franciscan churches, a friar with brown robe and white cord often welcomes each animal with a special prayer. As the prayer is offered, the pet is gently sprinkled with holy water. Believe it or not, most pets receive this sacramental spritz with dignity, though I must admit I have seen some cats flatten their ears a bit. Usually the Blessing of Pets is held outdoors. But I remember it rained one year, and all were invited inside St Stephen's Church in Manhattan. It was quite a sight to see pairs of creatures – one human, one animal – sitting in the pews. The parish priest joined right in with his beagle. Noah's Ark was never like this! Some people criticize the amount and cost of care given to pets. And certainly our needy fellow humans should not be neglected. However, I believe every creature is important. The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life, into the wonder of our common relationship to our Creator.

– Kevin Mackin *ofm*

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK



1 hour

Saturday to Monday Model Railway Exhibition all weekend

Liverpool www.amransw.asn.au/exhibition

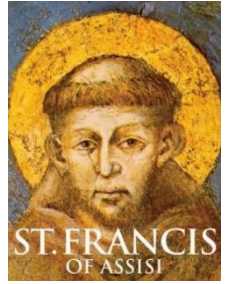
Monday 2 Oct 9:30am Blessing of Animals

Wednesday 4 Oct St Francis of Assisi

Thursday 5 Oct Andrew leaves on jubilee leave part 2

Friday 6 Oct 9:30am Anointing of the Sick

Saturday 7 Oct Our Lady of the Rosary



2017-2018 SURF SEASON GETS UNDER WAY

The surfing season is now underway. Please be safe on our beaches and swim between the flags. **No flags – no swim.** Already this 2017–2018 season [since 1 July] there have been **204** rescues across Australia! **291** people drowned in Australia last season, between 1 July 16 and 30 June 17.



SCRIPTURE: FIRST LETTER OF JOHN 4:16

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL – THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generosity with the Bishop's Annual Appeal on 16/17 September. Your donations totalled **\$1,882.58**. Thank you!

Success is when you look back at your life and the memories make you smile.

Silence is the best reply to a fool.

<p>THIS Sunday's Readings <i>on our website</i></p> <p>26th Sunday in Ordinary Time • YEAR A</p> <p>1st Reading Ezekiel 18:25-28</p> <p>2nd Reading Philippians 2:1-11</p> <p>Gospel Matthew 21:28-32</p>	<p>NEXT Sunday's Readings <i>on our website</i></p> <p>27th Sunday in Ordinary Time • YEAR A</p> <p>1st Reading Isaiah 5:1-7</p> <p>2nd Reading Philippians 4:6-9</p> <p>Gospel Matthew 21:33-43</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 Tuesday 5:30pm</p> <p>Wednesday 9:00am</p> <p>Thursday 9:00am</p> <p>Anointing of the Sick 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* ❖ Andrew Granc ofm, Geoff Allen, Ken Cafe ofm • *Assisting*

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 4268 1910 4268 1976

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<p>Parish Office Hours</p>	<p>Tuesday, Wednesday Friday</p>	<p>9:00am to 3:30pm 10:00am to 3:00pm</p>	<p>Magda Pires Maureen Franciskovic</p>
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www.thirroulcatholic.org.au

Parish School of St Michael 4267 2560