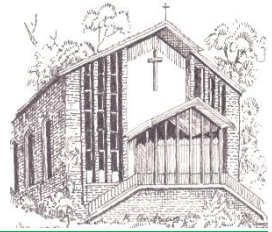




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



14/15 OCTOBER 2017
28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR A
World Mission Sunday Appeal: Helping the needy

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

The Wedding Banquet

“The Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear ... he will destroy the shroud that is cast over all peoples ... he will swallow up death forever.”

The kingdom has been prepared, and it is coming. Jesus likened it to a wedding banquet to which the invited guests are summoned.

Of course, there are some who refuse to come. They prefer to remain mired in their oppressive attitudes, their discriminatory relationships with others, their violent approach to solving social problems. They prefer revenge to forgiveness. They prefer the superiority of some to the equality of all. They see victimization and blame the victims. They are the invited guests who are unfit to come.

There are those others, however, whose love for God expresses itself in eagerness to do good for others. They are the ones who “live in the house of the Lord,” preferring love, forgiveness and equality. They will welcome the coming of the kingdom with the cry: “let us rejoice and be glad that God has saved us!”

“Christians can have nothing more at heart than to be of ever more generous and effective service to humanity in the modern world. That is why, in fidelity to the gospel and drawing on its power, and in union with all who love and pursue justice, they have accepted a vast undertaking on this earth, for which they will have to render an account to the God who will judge everyone on the last day.”

– Vatican II, *Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*, 1965:93

The parable, about the king who welcomed to his son’s wedding all who could be found, when those who had been invited refused to come, has a message similar to that of the parable we heard last week (which it immediately follows in Matthew’s gospel). Old Israel has not responded to God’s call, and now a New Israel will include all peoples, giving expression to God’s inclusive ways as it carries forward the designs of God. Again, we can recognise that the original parable of Jesus has been modified, as it was retold by the Church’s early preachers. Comparing Matthew’s presentation with Luke’s account of the same parable (Luke 14:15-24) makes it possible to recognise the additions Matthew ✨ ✨



What Are You Wearing?

Matthew 22:1-14

has made. Luke’s much simpler presentation is no doubt closer to the parable as Jesus told it. Matthew’s presentation is embroidered with additions that give us a valuable insight into the themes that gave expression to the faith life of that early Christian community – themes that can help enrich our faith.

In Luke’s account, Jesus responds to the remark of someone at table with him (‘Happy those who will share the meal in the kingdom of God’) beginning his parable, ‘There was a man who gave a great banquet’. Matthew takes up and develops the theme of joy and celebration essential to Christian faith implied in this beginning, and opens the parable, ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son’s wedding’. The espousal theme was fundamental to the biblical tradition. The prophets compared God’s relationship with the chosen people with that of a loving and faithful husband. For the first Christians, the Saviour was ‘the Bridegroom’ (Mark 2:20), and the life they shared in the Church was described as joining in ‘the wedding feast of the Lamb’ (Revelation 19:9). A banquet – especially that which celebrates a wedding – is an outstanding moment of fellowship, of communion. In the traditions of Israel, familiar to Matthew’s community, the blessings promised by God to those who have been faithful were likened to sharing in a banquet at the Lord’s table – as we hear in the reading from Isaiah in today’s liturgy. As they heard this reading, and rejoiced in its fulfilment in Christ, this community would have given thanks for the universality of God’s generous designs: ‘all peoples and nations’ will share in God’s blessings ‘everywhere on earth’, the prophet declares. Already, they knew, the faith was beginning to spread. Long familiar with the biblical themes, they would have seen the prophet’s associating of the messianic blessings with, ‘this mountain’ as a reference to the old temple. But if, as is likely, the old temple had already been destroyed by the Romans (AD70) when Matthew’s gospel was written, they would have been reminded that the shared life of Old Testament faith was only a foreshadowing of the eternal realities brought by Christ.

Matthew’s account includes the note of urgency characteristic of the outlook of the first Christians – three times, the king declares that all is ‘ready’. The final age has come, all must be ready to respond to the Lord’s call. And so, along the same lines, Matthew concludes his presentation by adding the short parable about ‘the man without a wedding garment’ – that would originally have been quite independent of the original story. Again the lesson is clear: although, in the present age, Matthew’s Church receives ‘the good and bad alike’ to rejoice at the wedding feast of the Lamb, let them know that their presence must be more than nominal adherence – they must be converted and live a life worthy of their calling.



SAMARITAN’S PURSE: OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Recently members of Thirroul Catholic Women’s League joined Austinmer Uniting Fellowship to pack boxes of items that you donated for Samaritan’s Purse – Operation Christmas Child. **Thank you** to everyone who contributed to the collection for this great cause – your generosity is much appreciated and enabled the packing of **70 shoe boxes** for distribution to needy children in countries in South East Asia – including Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam. The cost of sending each shoe box is **\$10** – if you would like to assist with the cost, please put some cash or a cheque in an envelope and hand it in to the sacristy.



BAPTISMS

There are no baptisms this month! Baptism, the **first sacrament of initiation**, prepares us to celebrate the Eucharist. Baptisms in our Parish are **usually** celebrated on the **third week-end** of each month [except January and Lent], during either of the Sunday Masses (*Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 8am*). If you want your child [under seven] baptized in November [**25/26 November**], collect the registration form from the Parish Office, and at least one parent needs to attend the Baptism Preparation Class at 7:15pm on **Thursday, 26 October**. Thank you to parents and families who have their children baptized in our Parish. Further baptisms in 2017 will be held on the third weekend in December: 16/17 December.

USA STATISTICS ON DEATHS BY HOUSEHOLD GUNS

1.4 million USA people died in all wars since 1776. **1.4 million** USA people have died via household guns since 1968. **3,400** USA people died by terrorism since 2001. **3,400** USA people have died by household firearms since five weeks ago. 1 October was the 274th day of the year, and the Las Vegas massacre was the 273rd mass shooting of 2017 in USA.

TWILIGHT CHRISTMAS MARKETS: 1 DECEMBER

SAVE THE DATE!! This year our Parish and School are joining together to hold a Twilight Christmas Market. This will be in place of the school fete and parish Christmas party held in previous years. **Friday, 1 December, 4:00pm to 8:00pm** in the school grounds. More details later. **All are welcome, so please save this date.**

WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS

“I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security. ... A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just. ... We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace. ...



Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God. ... Here is the great novelty of Christianity: a God who, though disappointed by our sins and our errors, does not go back on his word, he does not stop and above all does not take revenge! God loves, he doesn't take revenge! He loves, and waits to forgive us. ... We cannot grow accustomed to the number of unemployed people in our communities as if they are a mere number or a statistic, but instead, we must help the poor and needy around us to find work, thus restoring their dignity. we must also dethrone the profit-mentality that often governs our intentions, instead placing the human person and the common good at the heart of what we do. ... When you experience bitterness, put your faith in all those who still work for good: in their humility lies the seed of a new world.”

FIRST PENANCE AND FIRST COMMUNION

Please remember before the Lord the more than **40 young parishioners** who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Penance and Communion for the first time. They will celebrate the Sacrament of Penance on Tuesday, 31 October. They will receive First Communion during the weekend Masses from 25/26 November onwards.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Tuesday 17 Oct St Ignatius of Antioch, bishop, martyr

Wednesday 18 Oct St Luke, evangelist

Friday 1 Dec 4pm–8pm Twilight Christmas Markets



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 **336** rescues across Australia! 291 people drowned in Australia last season, between 1 July 16 and 30 June 17.



MISSION SUNDAY: 14/15 OCTOBER

**WHOEVER DRINKS OF THE WATER THAT I SHALL GIVE.
WILL NEVER THIRST AGAIN**

John 4:14

Catholic Mission supports missionaries like Sister Mary Hoaian in Nha Trang, Vietnam to provide critical community resources such as clean drinking water and medical care to the country's 12 million forgotten farming families, living in the coastal mountain regions. By supporting the Catholic Mission World Mission Appeal today, or by partnering with us through your monthly gift, to support isolated families in coastal Vietnam, and all around the world, to receive the vital resources they require such as clean drinking water and medical care. Please give generously to support impoverished families in Vietnam, and around the world today.



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/Vietnam



THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR A

1st Reading Isaiah 25:6-10

2nd Reading Philippians 4:12-14,19-20

Gospel Matthew 22:1-14

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR A

1st Reading Isaiah 45:1,4-6

2nd Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Gospel Matthew 22:15-21

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* ❖ Andrew Granc ofm, Geoff Allen, Ken Cafe ofm • *Assisting*

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