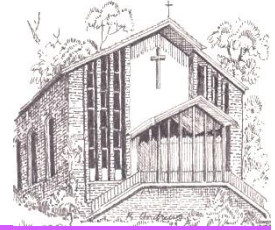




# Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



17 / 18 FEBRUARY 2018  
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT ✦ YEAR B  
Prayer ✦ Fasting ✦ Almsgiving

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

## *Open To New Life*

The story of Noah is the story of a society gone wrong. The flood was a collective event, a response to the collective evil of the time. Collective also was the covenant made by God with the survivors of the flood, and collective was the redemption by Christ, a just man for the sake of the unjust.

The challenge to reform your lives and change our lives expresses a call to change ourselves individually and to change ourselves as a society. The good news spoken of in the Gospel is the announcement of the kingdom, a world where God rules.



Jesus' victory over Satan represents a victory over the powers of evil, those forces that cause us to sin. The evil we struggle against in Lent is personal as well as social.

“Profound and rapid changes make it particularly urgent that no one, ignoring the trend of events or drugged by laziness, content themselves with a merely individualistic morality. It grows increasingly true that the obligations of justice and love are fulfilled only if each person, contributing to the common good, according to their own abilities and the needs of others, also promotes and assists the public and private institutions dedicated to bettering the conditions of human life.”

– Vatican II, *Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* (1965) 1

“The call to penance and reconciliation must include both the social and individual dimensions of sin.”

– US Bishops, *A Century of Social Teaching: A Common Heritage, a Continuing Challenge* (1990)

Undertaking an important journey we must be well prepared. As we set out on our journey to Easter, we must be clear about the destination that gives meaning to this journey.

Today's gospel reading invites us to prepare ourselves in the company of Jesus. As he set out on the journey that was to lead to Easter, he prepared himself by withdrawing to some desert place, and confronting the temptation to avoid the great task that lay ahead of him. This is an astounding moment in the life of Jesus. Have we taken seriously the fact that, in sharing our human experience, Jesus knew the weight of human decisions and the temptations involved – though, of course, he was without sin in the response he made? This testing brought Jesus new strength, and he began to proclaim the Good News of the coming reign of God. In his company, during the coming days, let us recognise the nature of our temptations, and the bonds of selfishness from which we want to be freed as we make our journey to Easter.

Jesus found strength in the certainty with which he looked to the end of his journey. ✨ ✨

☞☞ Though what lay ahead would not be easy, he knew that God's goodness and mercy would be victorious in the end – through his generous response to the call of his Father.

The first reading from the Book of Genesis invites us to share in this hope and expectation as we set out on our journey. It is the conclusion of the story of Noah and the ark which saved him from The Flood – one of the old stories in the introductory pages of the Bible, describing a wayward humanity, in need of the salvation God was to give. The story ends on a note of hope and promise – the rainbow will be a sign of the covenant God makes with humanity, promising that he will always be merciful.

What a magnificent symbol – reminding us of the trust we can place in God, whatever our difficulties and failings! Whenever we see the rainbow and know its promise of fine, clear weather after a storm, we should remember God's promise, and renew our trust in God's mercy, and the final triumph of God's goodness.

The second reading interprets the story of the flood and Noah's being saved as a kind of foretelling of the wonder of baptism – the destination of our journey to Easter, because it is through our baptism that we share in the risen life of Christ.

The beginning of our journey is a time for personal reflection for each of us. Perhaps, however, we need to ponder more deeply the astonishing fact that Jesus knew temptation, though he was without sin in his response to its challenge.



## First Sunday of Lent 17/18 February 2018



Janaki is a young entrepreneur from Nepal, who has turned her life around. Growing up in a world of poverty and disadvantage, coupled with a forced marriage at the age of twelve, she was in a very vulnerable position. Even more so when her husband died just two years into their marriage. With the help of a Caritas Australia supported program she is now running her own successful sewing business and has become an inspirational community leader.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and empower vulnerable young people like Janaki in Nepal to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities.**

**A Just Future starts with your support!**

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or phoning **1800 024 413**, or by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion)

## PROJECT COMPASSION ENVELOPES

Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed “**Love your neighbour**”. As Pope Francis said, “Love of God and love of our neighbour is one and the same thing.” You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by phoning

☎ **1800 024 413** or by visiting 📧 [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion)



## SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY

The SIP theme this year is “**WHERE WILL THE CHURCH BE IN 2050?**” Over the year there will be four speakers from different Christian denominations/traditions. The first of the four SIP evenings will be on **Tuesday, 27 February** at the **Woonona-Bulli RSL Club, 7:30pm to 9:00pm**. The presenter that night will be Ken Cafe ofm. **All are welcome**. Meals are available at the Club beforehand.



### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

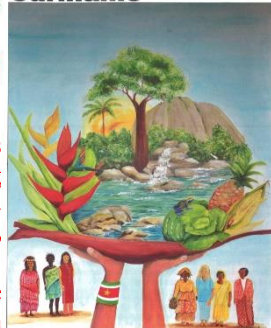
The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto “Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action”, and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fraternity, understanding and action throughout the year.

The World Day of Prayer 2018 host country will be **Suriname** and the theme, prepared by the women, is “**All God's Creation is Very Good!**” The Bible study text is Genesis 1:1-31.

Our local World Day of Prayer service will be held at **All Saints Anglican Church, 49-51 Moore Street, Austinmer** at **10:30am** on **Friday, March**. **All parishioners are welcome and encouraged to attend**.



### Suriname



All God's Creation is Very Good!  
World Day of Prayer 2018

## THE GOSPEL OF MARK

During this year, Year B of the Lectionary cycle, we read mainly from the Gospel of Mark. Mark is the shortest and most action-packed gospel. The story starts with gusto as John the Baptist preaches in the wilderness. Jesus comes to be baptized and the heavens are ripped open at the sound of the Father's voice. Mark takes us from scene to scene, healing to healing, miracle to miracle. He lauds Jesus as the great Teacher, but provides us with very few examples of his teaching – there are no long speeches in Mark. The first half of the gospel (chapters 1-8) depicts the Galilean ministry of Jesus. He gathers disciples, works many miracles and shows himself to be the Messiah. Yet his messianic identity is to remain a secret until his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The second half of the gospel depicts only a week's worth of time, but what a week it is! Jesus enters the Temple to the people's acclamation; he teaches and heals. Then he institutes the Eucharist during the Passover meal, is arrested, tried, tortured and crucified. He rises on the third day as he had predicted and astonishes the disciples.

The Early Church Fathers regarded Mark as an abbreviated version of the earlier gospel of Matthew. Yet Mark has been at the center of scholars' interest over the past 150 years. Many scholars now regard Mark as the earliest gospel and as a source for Matthew and Luke, especially since over 90 percent of its verses are present in the gospel of Matthew. Mark was mostly likely authored by John Mark, who makes several appearances in the New Testament. Especially to be noted are his travels with Paul and Barnabas (Acts 12:25, 15:37-39; 2 Timothy 4:11) and his discipleship under Peter (1 Peter 5:13). Papias, an early second century Church Father, tells us that Mark was a disciple of Peter in Rome and wrote his gospel based on Peter's eyewitness testimony. Enjoy this year's **action packed gospel!**

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

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Thursday 22 Feb



7:00pm

Feast of the Chair of St Peter, apostle

**No Morning Mass**

Ordination of Bishop-elect Brian Mascord  
WIN Stadium

Watch live streaming on the internet:  
[www.livestream.dow.org.au](http://www.livestream.dow.org.au)

Friday 23 Feb 9:30am

Parish Mass – Opening of School Year  
Our Parish School will be in attendance  
Morning Tea in the McCarthy Centre

CATECHUMENS preparing for Baptism: Samara Jirsa & Daniele Roque da Silva Woods

## 2017-2018 SURF SEASON ... SWIM SAFELY

Swim between the flags. No flags – no swim. Rescues so far since 1 July **4,151**.

## ORDINATION OF OUR NEW BISHOP, BRIAN MASCORD

Our new bishop, **Brian Mascord**, will be ordained and installed as the fifth bishop of Wollongong on **Thursday, 22 February**, the feast of the **Chair of Saint Peter**, the apostle. The ordination will be streamed live on the internet, so you can watch the ceremony if you cannot be there in person. On 22 February, go to ... [www.livestream.dow.org.au](http://www.livestream.dow.org.au)

Because of the Ordination, **there will be no morning Mass on Thursday, 22 February.**

### THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

First Sunday of Lent • Year B

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Genesis 9:8-15

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel Mark 1:12-15

### NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Second Sunday of Lent • Year B

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Romans 8:31-34

Gospel Mark 9:2-10

### 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

**No morning Mass Thursday 22 Feb**

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](mailto: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](http://www.thirroulcatholic.org.au)

Parish School of St Michael 4267 2560