



# Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



**24 / 25 FEBRUARY 2018**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT ✦ YEAR B**  
**Prayer ✦ Fasting ✦ Almsgiving**

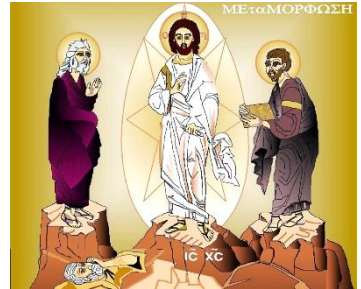
## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

## *A More Just Society*

In the midst of our suffering and hardship, we must keep sight of the “light at the end of the tunnel.” We know that Jesus is that light and that we must trust in that light the way Abraham trusted in God.

We are “suffering” voluntarily in our Lenten fast. We are also acutely aware in this season of the suffering caused by our sinfulness. Easter, however, awaits us, the hope of resurrection, because “God is for us.”

Many in our world are suffering involuntarily. They are the poor, the hungry, refugees, the homeless, the victims of oppression and war and other injustices. Is there ‘light at the end of the tunnel’ for them? When will Easter come to them? Who is for them besides God?



Christians cannot allow the magnitude of social evils to overwhelm them. They must always live by the light of Christ and the hope of resurrection. *Thoughts and prayers are not enough!*

“Christian hope is strong and resilient, for it is rooted in a faith that knows that the fullness of life comes to those who follow Christ in the way of the Cross. In pursuit of concrete solutions, all members of the Christian community are called to an ever finer discernment of the hurts and opportunities in the world around them, in order to respond to the most pressing needs and thus build up a more just society.”

– US Bishops, *Economic Justice for All*, 1986:126

The destination of our Lenten journey is clearly to be seen in today’s readings: the mystery of the Cross, in which the father ‘did not spare his own Son’, and the glory which was to be the Risen Christ’s in his final triumph, glimpsed on the mountain.

The testing of Abraham is one of the masterpieces of the Old Testament. The story echoes a brutal age in which the sacrifice of children was not uncommon – in fact, the people of the old Israel were taught to sacrifice an animal in place of their offspring, to turn them away from this horrendous temptation.

But the real point of the story, made so wonderfully, is the absolute trust that is asked of Abraham, making him the model of all true believers. To the people of Abraham’s world there was nothing more important in life than descendants who would remember and honour them. Long after the age when he could expect a child, God gave Abraham a son. If he gives up Isaac, he has nothing left but his trust in God. That trust is rewarded – those who will call him their father will be countless; all the peoples of the earth will be blessed in his name – through the salvation brought by the Cross of Christ.



✠✠ This heart-rending story of the testing of a father's love is linked in today's liturgy with the basic truth of our Christian faith, proclaimed by St Paul, in the second reading. The eternal Father, who for our sake 'did not spare his own Son', will not refuse anything to his people in their need.



The promise made to Abraham was to be fulfilled in the victory of the Saviour's resurrection. As he undertakes the journey towards the Cross and its glorious aftermath, he gives the chosen three among his followers a glimpse of the triumph in which he would fulfil the promise of the Law (Moses) and realise all the hopes of the prophets (Elijah). Again the Father's love shines through: 'This is my beloved Son – listen to him!'

It was a long journey from Abraham's testing to the final fulfilment of God's promises. We are privileged that the route our journey must take is so clearly marked out for us.

**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**  
FOR A JUST FUTURE

## Second Sunday of Lent 24/25 February 2018



Rattanak is twenty-nine and a barber in the village of Poh Krom in south-eastern Cambodia. Contracting a fever and becoming ill with polio as a child, Rattanak has some difficulty walking and is profoundly deaf. Emerging from an isolated world at home in his early twenties, he gained skills at the Caritas supported Deaf Development Program. He can now use sign language to communicate and is running a successful business, supporting himself, his wife and their baby. The program has been one of transformation for Rattanak. He can now understand and see the world in a whole new way. For Rattanak and other young people in his community, 'a just future' started with community.

Through listening to the Scriptures today and to Rattanak's story of loving transformation, this has the power to move us. We can be partners in working for a just future for everyone

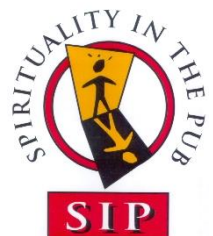
**Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help deaf youth in Cambodia to build a just future, and live in communities that uphold everyone's dignity.**

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

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or phoning **1800 024 413**.

## **SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY**

The SIP theme this year is "**WHERE WILL THE CHURCH BE IN 2050?**" Over this 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.

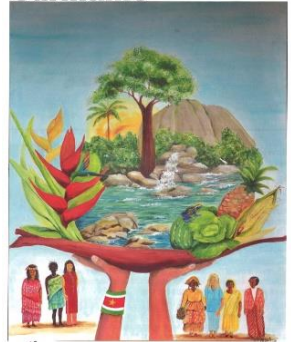
The World Day of Prayer 2018 host country is **Suriname** and the theme, prepared by the women, is "All God's Creation is Very Good!" The Bible study text is Genesis 1:1-31.

Our local World Day of Prayer service will be held at **All Saints Anglican Church, 49-51 Moore Street, Austimmer** at **10:30am** on **Friday, 2 March**. **All perishers are welcome and encouraged to attend.**

SURINAME



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 wrote his gospel to deepen the faith of his community. Most likely the Gospel was composed in the 60s AD at Rome. Then, the Christian community lived under the threat or reality of persecution. By showing his community how the traditions about Jesus related to their belief in the saving significance of the Cross and Resurrection, Mark equipped them to face persecution and resist the temptations of their world.

## THE ORIGINS OF LENT

The first people who observed Lent were **non-Christians** – actually, Catechumens who were preparing to receive baptism – which, of course, included what we call today 'Confirmation' and receiving the Eucharist. Christians soon joined this preparation as a renewal of their baptismal commitment. There was a "three week" preparation period for Easter, and by the 4<sup>th</sup> century in Rome it had developed into a fast of forty days. This fast (and the wearing of sackcloth as ashes) also developed into a penitential fast for the purposes of reconciling penitents or for spiritual health. This 40 day fast originally finished on the Friday prior to the feast of Palms [Palm Sunday]. Following the feast of Palms, there was a six day fast leading up to the Easter Vigil – notice there was no fasting on Sundays!

The custom of distributing the ashes on Ash Wednesday did not originate with the Roman tradition but came from the Mozarabic and Gallican liturgical traditions where it was connected with the entrance into the order of penitents (serious public sinners). It was not until 1091 that Pope Urban II ordered the imposition of ashes on the heads of all the faithful.



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

## ARE YOU AVAILABLE FOR THE NEXT ROSTER PERIOD?

The current ministry roster period ends on **21/22 April**. The next roster period runs from **28/29 April** until **11/12 August**. School holidays during that time are 7–23 July. If you are unavailable anytime between **28 April** and **12 August**, **PLEASE** let your roster coordinator know by **5 March**. Please contact your **Roster Coordinator**, not the Parish Office.

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Tuesday 27 Feb 7:30pm Spirituality in the Pub at Woonona-Bulli RSL  
Wednesday 28 Feb 9:00am Liturgy of the Word with Communion [*clergy conference*]  
Friday 2 Mar 9:30am Anointing of the Sick during 9:30am Mass  
10:30am World Day of Prayer Austinmer Anglican Church

**CLEANER WANTED** at the Friars' holiday house at Coledale – only once a month. General duties include vacuuming, dusting, cleaning bathroom, toilets, kitchen, laundry and washing the floors. Contact Maureen Heydon ☎ 0438 674 997 or ✉ [mheydon50@gmail.com](mailto:mheydon50@gmail.com)

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

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

Surf Lifesaving Patrols help keep our beaches safe. Swim between the flags. So far in Australia this season **4,353** rescues have been made! *Last week it was 4,151!*

## CATHOLIC CARE RACE DAY – SATURDAY, 24 MARCH

CatholicCare Race Day at Kembla Grange, Saturday, 24 March. All proceeds to support our diocese's CatholicCare. ☎ Trish Cooney 4254 9318 [trishc@catholiccare.dow.org.au](mailto:trishc@catholiccare.dow.org.au)

## RECONCILIATION RITE II FOR LENT

Tuesday, 20 March at 7:30pm at Thirroul. One great way to prepare for Easter.

**Just remember: once you are over the hill ... you begin to pick up speed!**

*Congratulations to our new Bishop, Brian Mascord, and thank you to Emeritus Bishop, Peter Ingham, for his sixteen years of faithful service in our Diocese.*

### THIS 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

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

Third Sunday of Lent • Year B

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Exodus 20:1-17

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel John 2:13-25

### 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

**Anointing of the Sick** 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

10:00am to 3:00pm

Magda Pires

Maureen Franciskovic

🌐 [www.thirroulcatholic.org.au](http://www.thirroulcatholic.org.au)

Parish School of St Michael ☎ 4267 2560