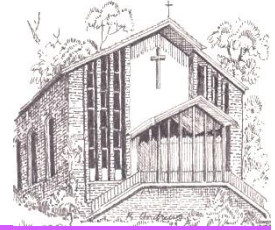




# Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



3 / 4 MARCH 2018

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT ✦ YEAR B

Prayer ✦ Fasting ✦ Almsgiving

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

## *Not Just a Set of Rules*

The law of God is our strength. It challenges us to establish a right order with God (the first three commandments) and with our fellow human beings (the last seven commandments). Our sins are signs of weakness that we must overcome.

“Christ is the power of God”; his weakness is more powerful than our strength. Our dying with Christ in Lent is an identification with the power of Christ crucified.

Our calling, then, is to be strong, not weak. The commandments represent not just a set of rules but an ideal of a social order for which we are to give our lives, as Christ did on the cross.

We cannot stand by idly as the world rides roughshod over the ideal established by God's law. We must be strong. We must overthrow injustice, just as Jesus overturned the tables of the money-changers.

The oppressors of people and their evil systems must arouse our anger. “Get them out of here!”

“(Christ's) message is an invitation to orient every act in accordance with the dictates of divine law, which demands the unflinching adherence of all, despite sacrifice. Along with such a deepened understanding must go action. It is utterly intolerable for Catholics to restrict themselves to the position of mere observers.”



– Pope John XXIII, *1959 Christmas Broadcast*

The dramatic intervention, whereby Jesus drove the merchants and money changers from the Temple, may well have triggered the events which led to his death. As the gospel of Luke puts it, Jesus – knowing that his end was drawing near – ‘resolutely looked toward Jerusalem’ (9:51). It is in the holy city that he must meet the fate that was becoming inevitable. For all faithful Israelites, the journey to Jerusalem was a journey to the Temple. How old Israel loved the Temple! It was the place of God's presence. Their faith in that presence was so vivid, that to take part in the Temple worship was ‘to see the face of God’, as the Psalms put it.

The prophets of Israel sometimes performed gestures that had a lesson for the people. What Jesus did – disrupting the normal proceedings of the Temple precincts – was more than a lesson in reverence. It pointed to the new order of things he was to inaugurate. True worship was only darkly foreshadowed in the old Temple's ceremonial. In John's gospel, we remember, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that true worship will not be tied to some particular sanctuary; it will be worship ‘in spirit and truth’ (4:24). Now he promises ✠ ✠

✠✠ a 'sign' to confirm his prophetic gesture: 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up'. When he had risen from the dead, his disciples recognised that 'he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body'.

The first reading from Exodus, proclaiming the commandments which were an essential part of the covenant God made with his people in the desert, matches the gospel in today's liturgy, because it calls us to a worship that is authentic – through the renunciation of the false securities we are tempted to put in the place of God.

With Jesus leading us, we look towards what lies at the end of our journey. The reading from the letter to the Corinthians points to the Cross, the astounding inauguration of the new order of things which will take place at the end of the Saviour's journey to the Holy City. In this new order of things, we can all worship the Father 'in spirit and in truth': through the Paschal Mystery – our sharing in the life and worship of the Risen Lord. We are able to share in his gift of himself to the Father, as he becomes for us 'the power and the wisdom of God'. In the drama of the Cross, 'God's foolishness' is to prove 'wiser than human wisdom'; and 'God's weakness' is shown to be 'stronger than human strength'.



**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**  
FOR A JUST FUTURE

## Third Sunday of Lent 3/4 March 2018



Bayan is a 12 year old Syrian girl, living with her family in Jordan, a keen student, who has her sights set on a career as an ophthalmologist. She struggled to overcome the trauma of growing up in a conflict zone, facing the prospect of missing out on schooling. Now, Bayan is an academic high-achiever, flourishing in a stable school environment.

Bayan grew up in Syria's capital, Damascus. The Syrian conflict turned their lives upside down and they were forced to flee. As their time in Jordan extended, Caritas Australia and our partners, Caritas Jordan and Catholic Relief Services stepped in to provide vital academic and psychosocial support. Bayan started attending one of Jordan's Caritas Schools which operates on Saturdays, providing tuition to disadvantaged students.

"The school brings them back to a normal life, as they start to dream again," says Abeer, Caritas Education and Protec-

tion Co-ordinator.

Caritas provides a broad range of other education services, including preparing pre-school children for school, supporting students who have missed out on schooling to return to the education system, as well as counselling and nutritious meals and snacks at school..

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help equip young people to succeed in the future, bringing stability to vulnerable youth, providing just futures for others like Bayan.**

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

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

## CONGRATULATIONS, RAYMOND!

Congratulations to one of our most generous parishioners, **Raymond Cummins**, for his 25 years of service at Flagstaff Laundry, Nolan Street, Unanderra, where Raymond works Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The milestone was celebrated as a special morning tea with Raymond's family on Wednesday, 21 February. Congratulations, Raymond, and thank you for all you do in our Parish, *especially with the AV!*



## THE GOSPEL OF MARK

During this year, Year B of the Lectionary cycle, we read mainly from the Gospel of Mark. The focus of Mark's theology is the focus of Jesus' theology – the kingdom or reign of God. What is taught about who Jesus is (Christology) and the response to Jesus (discipleship) takes its framework from the kingdom of God. What Jesus taught about the kingdom of God in parables, his life was really the parable *par excellence* of the kingdom. Mark's message is that whoever wishes to understand the kingdom must look at Jesus the healer, the teacher and the crucified-and-risen one. The large amount of space devoted to healings and exorcisms proves that Mark knew and revered Jesus as a wonder-worker. The miracles are balanced by teaching in both word and deed. But the way in which Mark has outlined the story of Jesus suggests that the passion and death constituted its climax. Without the cross, the portrayals of Jesus as wonder-worker and teacher are unbalanced and without a directing principle. The whole thrust of Mark shows that the real meaning of Jesus' messiahship became clear only with his death and resurrection.

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

## THE PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

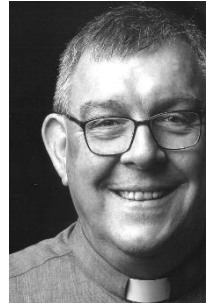
This weekend, our Catechumens, the Elect, **Samara Jirsa** and **Daniele Roque da Silva Woods**, have the first of the three **Scrutinies** in preparation for their reception of the three Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Lent is a reminder of baptism already received or the preparation for its reception, as well as a time of repentance, renewing the entire community to celebrate the Easter mysteries. For all, the baptised and the Catechumens, the Lenten season is a time for spiritual recollection in preparation for the celebration of Easter. The **Scrutinies** are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective or sinful in the hearts of the Elect (those preparing for Baptism); to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good. The Scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the Elect from the power of sin, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life. These rites should complete the conversion of the Elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all.

During the first Scrutiny – this weekend – the Elect are entrusted with the Apostles' Creed, as it recalls the wonderful deeds of God for the salvation of the human race.

## 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.

# BISHOP BRIAN GREGORY MASCORD



Brian was born in Newcastle on 30 January 1959 and is the elder son of Margaret and Ron and older brother to John. After HSC he studied for a teaching degree and taught in primary schools of his Diocese. He was ordained priest in 1992. **Welcome Brian!**

## CATHOLIC CARE RACE DAY

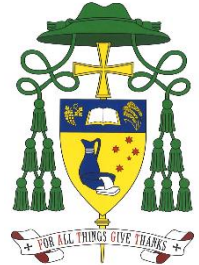
Kembla Grange, Saturday, 24 March. All proceeds to support our diocese's CatholicCare.

## SWIM SAFELY

So far in Australia this season **4,839 rescues** have been made! *Last week it was 4,353!*

## RECONCILIATION RITE II

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



**Pilgrim's hat (galero) and tassels (fiocchi)**  
Surmounting the episcopal shield is the pilgrim's hat—the heraldic emblem for all prelates and priests of the Latin Rite of the Church. The green colour represents the rank of bishop. For this rank and office there are six tassels suspended on either side of the hat in a pyramidal style.



**Cross**  
The display of a cross behind the shield is restricted to bishops as a mark of their dignity. The cross of an ordinary bishop has a single horizontal bar or traverse (ie, latin cross).



**Grapes and wheat**  
The grapes and wheat represent the Eucharistic symbols, for we are called to be the Body of Christ in our world. They also recognise the rural nature of both the Diocese of Wollongong and Bishop Mascord's home diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.



**Open book**  
The open book represents the Scriptures. We hear the Word of God and take that word with us into the world. The open book also represents Bishop Mascord's teaching background.



**Jug, bowl and towel**  
The jug, bowl and towel are reminders that Jesus has given us an example of service and calls us to mission and service in his ways—to wash the feet of others.



**Southern Cross**  
The Southern Cross is a reminder that, as Australians, we do all this under the Cross.



**Motto**  
The motto is a short phrase usually appearing below the shield as a statement of belief. Bishop Mascord has taken as his motto, "For all things give thanks" (1 Thess 5:18).

### THIS 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

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

#### Fourth Sunday of Lent • Year B

1<sup>st</sup> Reading 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ephesians 2:4-10  
Gospel John 3:14-21

### 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