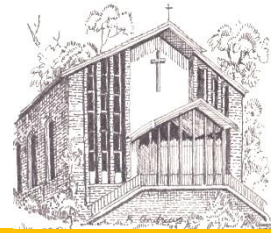




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



14 / 15 APRIL 2018

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE FIFTY DAYS OF EASTER ✦ YEAR B

Seven Baptisms this Weekend ✦ Welcome

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

A Positive Force

Isn't it interesting that, right in the middle of this season of Easter joy, the Church focuses our attention on the suffering of the Messiah? The prophets announced long ago that God's Messiah would suffer; "it is written that the messiah must suffer; Christ had to suffer."

Jesus' followers never have been able to come to terms fully with the idea of redemption through suffering. Surely suffering cannot be good, cannot be God's desire for us! Jesus, however, turned suffering into a positive force, buying redemption with the single coin that has suffering and death on one side and resurrection on the other.

The amount of suffering in our world is staggering. Apart from the suffering that comes naturally with life, there is the suffering we inflict on ourselves through injustice, violence and war. The suffering of Jesus continues in our day, and we still have difficulty seeing its victims as our redeemers.

"Jesus takes the side of those most in need, physically and spiritually. The example of Jesus poses a number of challenges to the contemporary Church. ... [M]ost radically, it calls for an emptying of self, both individually and corporately, that allows the Church to experience the power of God in the midst of poverty and powerlessness." – US Bishops, *Economic Justice for All*, 1986: #52 (pp. 13-14)

The New Testament contains many accounts describing for us the experience of the original disciples of Jesus as they found faith through their encounter with their Risen Lord. The writers of the gospels are so certain of the meetings that laid the foundations of Christian faith that they do not attempt to harmonise the details of the stories they are handing on. They pass on these stories in order to share the wonder of finding faith and new purpose through an encounter with the Lord's triumph – a wonder that can hardly be captured by a single account.

As our Easter liturgies recall these stories we are like a family group listening to one another sharing personal recollections of a past even that meant a great deal to the whole family. Given from different points of view, these recollections bring a far fuller appreciation of what took place. Last Sunday we heard the story as it was recalled in the community of John's gospel. Today, we hear Luke's account of the disciples' meeting with the Risen Saviour. From all these accounts a coherent story emerges that invites the Church of every age to share in the original moment of Resurrection faith: the disciples are confused and frightened; when Jesus comes into their midst, finding faith in him is not easy and



✚✚ immediate; his greeting, however, and his loving acceptance of them into his abiding friendship brings them a great joy, and they find full faith in him; he instructs them – all that has taken place is according to the designs of God set forth in the Scriptures; he charges them with the mission of bringing to the whole world the good news of their Resurrection faith and the ‘forgiveness of sins’ it brings; he promises the gift of the Holy Spirit.



All three readings make reference to ‘sin’ and the need for conversion. Our immediate reaction may well be to think those are themes for Lent, why stress them in the midst of our Easter celebration? But can we understand what has been achieved in the Lord’s Paschal Mystery without taking account of the reality of sin. It is the abuse of human freedom that has made the destructive world from which we need to be saved and set free. The words of Peter in the first reading suggest a line of thought which has relevance for the world in which we live. Quite rightly, our discussion of ‘sin’ usually stresses what is done with full and wilful responsibility. Peter points to another form of ‘sin’ when he acknowledges that the perpetrators of the terrible miscarriage of justice that has ‘killed the prince of life’ did not fully understand what they were doing. In today’s world of confused moral values, who is to judge the moral guilt of many things that are done? But if what is done is a turning away from the light to darkness, from what leads to life to what leads to death, it is sinful in the sense that it is an aberration that has destructive consequences from which only God can save us.

Our mission – as those who have found Resurrection faith and the hope it brings – is to bring liberation from sinfulness in all its forms, by sharing the light and life of the Risen Lord with our struggling world.

PROJECT COMPASSION TOTAL: \$3,383.10

SWIM SAFELY

So far in Australia **this season 6,512 rescues** have been made! *Last week it was 6,302!* **That’s 210 rescues performed in the last week!** The surfing season concludes on **Sunday, 29 April. SWIM BETWEEN THE FLAGS.**



PEACE

‘Peace, however, is not merely a gift to be received: it is also a task to be undertaken. In order to be true peacemakers, we must educate ourselves in compassion, solidarity, working together, fraternity ...’ – Pope Benedict XVI, Message for the World Day of Peace, 2012

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

PARISH BULLETIN BY EMAIL AND ONLINE

Our Parish Bulletin is available online at www.thirroulcatholic.org.au ... and, you can have your own **personal** copy emailed to you each week – along with other items not included in the Bulletin. Contact our Parish Office to register: thirroul@dow.org.au

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND – WELCOME!

Welcome to those baptized this weekend. Thank you to the parents, godparents and families for bringing your children to our Parish for the Sacrament of Baptism. Baptized on Saturday evening: **EDEN VAN ALTHUIS; HUDSON GREGORIO** ... and baptized on Sunday morning: **ENZO GRILLI; TORIN DEAN; MARLEY HATCH; WILLIAM BUTCHER; and ARIA GRILLI.**



Baptisms are held on the third weekend of each month, except January and Lent. The next baptisms will be held on **Saturday or Sunday, 19/20 May 2018** during the weekend Masses. If you want your infant child baptized then, please call into the Parish Office to obtain the necessary forms and information. A least one parent needs to attend a Baptism Preparation Class prior to the child's Baptism. The next Baptism Preparation Class will be held **Thursday, 26 April.**

MENALIVE WEEKEND

menALIVE Weekend for Men is on **5-6 May** at the Xavier Centre, Wollongong. Like thousands of other Catholic men who have already been on **menALIVE** weekends, you will be inspired and encouraged to renew your faith and rediscover God's purpose in your life. Experienced leaders from the **menALIVE** Team will be running the weekend. Details and registration forms are available at www.menalive.org.au 📞 Ian Boorman 0427 006 021 or Jude Hennessy jude.hennessy@dow.org.au and www.menalive.dow.org.au Cost \$50.

YOUTH: GET ALONG TO I STAND CAMP #1: 25-27 APRIL

The Wollongong YMT will be running the first iSTAND camp of the year at The Venue Conference Centre in Bellambi this school holidays! The camp is jam packed with games, music, dramas, sport, prayer, recreation time and more, and is a great way to make some new friends. If you or someone you know is a high schooler between Years 9-12 and would be interested in a couple of days away during the school holidays to learn more about yourself, others & God, we would love to have you! Call Louisa on 0433 636 359 or head to www.ymt.com.au/rego-wollongong to register and for more information.

WEEKLY RESOURCES FOR SMALL GROUPS IN PARISHES

Want to help transform your Parish into a place where people are known, loved, challenged and supported? Small Groups or 'communities of communities' hold the key. Connect is a weekly small group resource and is available for free download with a Leaders guide, weekly reflection questions for the Sunday Gospel and accompanying prayer points. It is available to download at www.faithcircles.dow.org.au or have it sent to you each month via email.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred by Bishop Brian on **Thursday, 28 June 2018** to Year 6 (or older) students. **Enrolment Forms** may be downloaded from our **Parish website**. Download and complete the Form, then return it to the Parish Office: thirroul@dow.org.au Enrolments close on **Monday, 14 May 2018.**

AUSTRALIA – THE LUCKY COUNTRY

Australia is certainly a place where we have managed to create a harmonious society out of extraordinary cultural and ethnic diversity, bringing together people from almost 200 birthplaces around the world. Remarkable.



And yet all is clearly not well. We are a society in the grip of epidemics of anxiety, obesity and depression – 20% of Australians experience some form of mental illness.

More than 700,000 children are living in poverty.

Although we pride ourselves on our low rate of unemployment, we often overlook the problem of underemployment. About 2 million Australians are either unemployed or underemployed. And 100,000 Australians are homeless.

We are further from egalitarianism than we were 50 years ago. We are showing signs of a disturbing retreat from the values of an open, tolerant society for which we were once famous. The most recent figures for OECD countries, from around 2010, show that Australia is the 11th most unequal of the 34 OECD members. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the wealthiest 20% of Australian households, with an average net worth of \$2.2 million per household in 2011-12, accounted for 61% of total household net worth. The poorest 20% of households accounted for 1% of total household net worth, and had an average net worth of \$31,000 per household. This means that the wealthiest 20% of Australian households had net worth that was 68 times as high as the least wealthy 20%. In contrast, the 20% of Australian households with the highest disposable income were about five times better off than the poorest 20%.

A disturbing piece of research from Edith Cowan University has shown that only one-third of Australians say they trust their neighbours. Clearly, that could not possibly mean that 65% of neighbours are untrustworthy – what it must mean is that most people in our society don't know their neighbours well enough to have learnt to trust them.

THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Third Sunday of Easter • Year B
1st Reading Acts 3:13-15,17-19
2nd Reading 1 John 2:1-5
Gospel Luke 24:35-48

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Fourth Sunday of Easter • Year B
1st Reading Acts 4:8-12
2nd Reading 1 John 3:1-2
Gospel John 10:11-18

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*

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 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