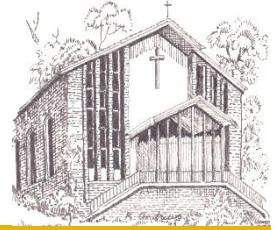




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



26 / 27 MAY 2018

TRINITY SUNDAY ✦ YEAR B

The Communion of Father, Son and Spirit

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

We believe in one God: Father, Son and Spirit.

There is absolute individuality within the Trinity, for we believe that the Father is neither the Son nor the Spirit, nor is the Son the Father or the Spirit, nor is the Spirit the Father or the Son. Each person is distinct from the other two; none loses their personhood within the Trinity.

There is absolute equality within the Trinity. No person has something that the others lack, for each is God and each is all being. None is more God; all are absolutely equal.

There is absolute unity within the Trinity. God is one; the three persons are one. Father, Son and Spirit are three distinct persons, but they are persons in one God.

Ours is a Trinitarian religion. The Trinity is the source of our faith as well as the goal of our lives. We long to live for all eternity the life of the Trinity. Meanwhile, the Trinity is for us the model towards which we strive as a community: free individuals with total equality in complete unity, in utter total love.

“Christians look forward in hope to a true communion among all persons with each other and with God. The Spirit of Christ labors in history to build up the bonds of solidarity among all persons until that day on which their union is brought to perfection in the Kingdom of God. Indeed Christian theological reflection on the very reality of God as a trinitarian unity of persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—shows that being a person means being united to other persons in mutual love.”

– US Bishops, *Economic Justice for All*, 1986: #64 (p. 16)

‘One God in three Persons’. The Blessed Trinity should be more than a baffling mystery that we accept on faith. Today’s liturgy invites us to listen again to familiar texts, and to recognise – perhaps for the first time – how they invite us to share in the life which unites Father, Son and Holy Spirit. To appreciate what these texts have to tell us we must recall the foreshadowing that took place in the Old Testament. The mystery of God’s life is revealed in what God has done for God’s people. In the ongoing story of God’s action in the life of the old Israel, ‘the Word of God’ and ‘the Spirit of God’ were themes that described God’s self-expression. For people of that culture, the spoken word – the ruler’s decree, a commitment by oath – had power. God’s Word was a creative Word, shaping the course of history, confronting injustice – as our first reading asks, ‘Was there ever a Word so majestic’ as God’s Word establishing the destiny of Israel by freeing them from slavery? God’s Spirit was the energising presence of God, giving the breath of life, raising

Being A Person



up heroes, looked forward to as giving final expression to the designs of God's heart in the full realisation of all of Israel's hopes.

The coming of the eternal Son among us brought a dramatic revelation of the ultimate identity of the Word of God and the Spirit of God, in the overflowing superabundance that is the divine life. The Son shows himself to be the Word so perfectly expressing all that the Father is as God, that they share the one divine life and glory; the Father and the Son give full expression to all the love and joy that they share, in the Spirit.



Because we have heard the reading from Matthew's gospel many times, we could easily overlook how many themes it expresses so simply and profoundly. The mission of the Apostles is grounded in their resurrection faith. 'Some hesitated' still, Matthew reports, reminding us and reassuring us as we know the challenge faith brings. The Lord, the Word of God, who commissions the Apostles, shares in the divine glory and authority of the God of Israel's faith, which have been 'given' to him by his Father: 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore, make disciples of all the nations, and know that I am with you to the end of time'.

This text is so familiar because of its reference to baptism in the name of the Trinity. In the Scriptures, names are seen to embody, make present, the person named. Baptism 'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' is being plunged into, immersed in the intimate life of the three divine lovers who give themselves to us – something that has been described so magnificently for us in the Easter meditations of John's gospel.

And – as our reading from Paul to the Romans reminds us – long before the writing of the gospels Paul described the wonder of our sharing in the generous life of Father, Son and Spirit. The energising Spirit transforms the lives of those who share in the Saviour's Paschal Mystery – 'sharing his sufferings, so as to share his glory' – making us 'cry out, Abba, Father!' because we are truly 'coheirs with Christ'.

The early Christians struggled to understand the belief that God is both one and three. Many great Councils of the Church were held to clarify what this meant and to find the language with which to describe the Trinitarian relationship between Father, Son and Spirit. It was not until the Council of Constantinople in 381AD that the doctrine of the Trinity was defined. Many of the prayers of the Church express our belief in a Triune God (three persons in one). One of the greatest and most simple of these prayers in the Sign of the Cross in which we dedicate ourselves 'in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.' St Augustine described the Trinity in terms of the Lover, the Beloved and the Love which exists between them. St Patrick reportedly used the shamrock to try to explain the three persons in one God to the pagans of Ireland. In the end, an unfathomable mystery.

PEACE ... WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS

"Peace is not something which can be bought; it is a gift to be sought patiently and to be 'crafted' through the actions, great and small, of our everyday lives. The way of peace is strengthened if we realize that we are all of the same stock and members of the one human family; if we never forget that we have the same heavenly Father and are all God's children, made in God's image and likeness. ... Peace remains an urgent task in today's world, where so many peoples are scarred by war and conflict. Peace is both a divine gift and a human achievement. This is why believers of all religions are called to implore peace and to intercede for it. ... All men and women of good will, particularly those in positions of responsibility, are summoned to work for peace with their hearts, minds and hands. For peace has to be 'crafted.' In this effort, peacemaking and the pursuit of justice go together."

CATHOLIC MISSION CHURCH APPEAL

In Hakha, a remote town in the mountainous north of Myanmar, St John's School is educating local children with a child-centred methodology. Three of the teachers at St John's have been trained through the Pyinya Sanyae Institute of Education (PSIE) in Yangon, and have been posted to this school to help local children learn in a modern way that maximises their potential. Your support through Catholic Mission can enable PSIE to continue training teachers and help improved education across the country. You can also help St John's School add more classes to ensure continuity of education, and become economically sustainable. You will have the opportunity to become an integral part of this inspiring work by joining as a monthly giving partner. This regular contribution will directly support education in Myanmar. **1800 275 296**



SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 29 MAY

Wollongong Spirituality in the Pub invites you to a conversation on **Tuesday, 29 May** at the Woonona Bulli RSL Club, from **7:30pm** to 9:00pm. The guest speaker is Rev Dr **Patrick McInerney**, who will speak on "*Where Inter-Faith Practice might be in 2050*". Patrick is a Columban missionary priest. He was assigned to Pakistan for over twenty years and has worked in interfaith circles—especially Christian-Muslim relations—in Sydney since 2002. He graduated from the Pontifical Institute for the Study of Arabic and Islamics in Rome (1986), the Melbourne College of Divinity (2003) and the Australian Catholic University (2009). **All are welcome.** Enquiries: Ann ☎ 0427 235 955 or wollsip@gmail.com



THIRROUL PARISH LADIES' DINNER

The annual Ladies' dinner will be held on **Wednesday, 30 May, 6:00pm** for **6:30pm**, in the McCarthy Centre.

Cost is \$40.00 which includes a donation to Breast Cancer Research. Please give names and money by **Monday, 28 May** to Maureen Heydon ☎ 0438 674 997, or Judy Bull ☎ 0407 672 417. P.S. No need to bring wine glasses, the parish has now acquired sufficient.

HIGH TEA: SUNDAY, 3 JUNE

Join us for a fundraising **High Tea Party** on **Sunday, 3 June** at **3pm** at the Thirroul Railway Institute Hall, 14 Railway Parade – just off Platform 1 at Thirroul Station! **\$25** per person and the funds are for **SCARF** – Wollongong's Refugee Support Organization. RSVP ☎ 0405 027 250



ORDINARY TIME

This week we return to the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. This Sunday and next, however, are designated as solemnities—special days that call our attention to central mysteries of our faith. Ordinary Time is called “ordinary” not because it is common but simply because the weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. The Latin word *ordinalis*, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word *ordo*, from which we get “order”.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

This week 28 May to 1 June – Ken teaching at Baulkham Hills
Tuesday 29 May 7:30pm Spirituality in the Pub
Wednesday 30 May 6:00pm Thirroul Parish Ladies' Dinner
Thursday 31 May Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday 1 Jun St Justin, martyr
Tuesday 5 Jun 7:30pm Parent Information Evening for Confirmation



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

MULLED WINE FOR THE COLD EVENINGS

A proven and tried recipe, guaranteed to please. Ingredients: 700ml red wine [*your choice!*]; 150g castor sugar; ½ cup fresh orange juice; peel of one lemon; peel of one orange; 1 star anise; 1 cinnamon stick; 5 cloves; 1 teaspoon fresh nutmeg; pinch of fresh ginger.

Place all the ingredients, except the wine, into a large saucepan and place on medium heat. Add just a small glug of red wine to the saucepan to ensure the sugar is covered. Let it cook for 4-5 minutes until it becomes thick and sticky. This should let all the spices infuse well.

Once the mixture has become sticky enough, add the rest of the wine and turn down the heat. You don't want the wine to boil otherwise all the alcohol will evaporate! Let cook for 5 minutes and serve hot with slices of fresh orange.

It is best strained for serving to obtain a clear liquid – but always to be served hot to keep away the winter cold.



THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Trinity Sunday • Year B

1st Reading Deuteronomy 4:32-34,39-40

2nd Reading Romans 8:14-17

Gospel Matthew 28:16-20

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Body and Blood of Christ • Year B

1st Reading Exodus 24:3-8

2nd Reading Hebrews 9:11-15

Gospel Mark 14:12-16,22-26

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 Tuesday, Wednesday
Hours 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