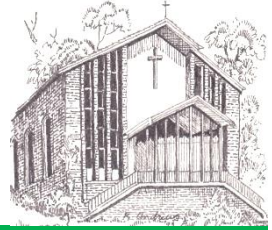




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



9 / 10 JUNE 2018
10TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR B
Confirmation Candidates

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Kinfolk

The Gospel for this 10th Sunday of Ordinary Time can be puzzling.

For instance: it raises the question whether Jesus actually had brothers and sisters, and whether they and Mary, the blessed mother, think that he is crazy?

First, did Jesus actually have brothers and sisters in our present-day sense? There are many theories, and this is one:

In Semitic usage, the terms “brother,” “sister” are applied not only to children of the same parents, but to nephews, nieces, cousins, half-brothers, and half-sisters.

So, Jesus had cousins and other kin, in this alternative. Do you remember his pregnant mother’s trip to see her cousin, Elizabeth? Today children of “first cousins” are called “second cousins,” and would qualify as brothers and sisters in ancient Semitic usage. Jesus would not be different from other Nazarenes in this regard. Nor would there be a contradiction to anything central to the faith.



Second: could it be that his “mother and his brothers” were among those who thought of him as “out of his mind”? The Gospel of Mark asserts only the following: “His mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him.”

The overall purpose of life itself: letting in the love of God and passing it along to everyone we know.

Perhaps this was just familial interest on their part instead of a desire to “seize him” and carry him away. Conclusion: we do not have to think that his mother was being critical of Jesus when she arrived with other relatives.

Third: but now, Jesus seems to totally ignore his family. Hearing that they are calling out to him, Jesus says, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking at those seated around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!”

Some have taken this speech as Jesus rejecting Mary and his other relatives. Actually it is a statement of Jesus’ mission. He is showing that the most important reason for life is the love of God and one’s neighbours, as opposed to the easy and presumably self-enclosed way of staying home where relatives will take care of you.

Growth in this kind of love must come from God. As Jesus says: “whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.” He is widening our life-search to include others, not instead of the family but including them in the overall purpose of life itself: letting in the love of God and passing it along to everyone we know.

Fourth: we have now discovered the meaning of Jesus’ words, “whoever blasphemes ✨ ✨

⚔️⚔️ against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin.”



Sounds severe, but it is just repeating the message of love. If a person or a society turns against (blasphemes against) the Holy Spirit of God, they will have shut off the very source of love. As we have seen repeatedly, Christians discovered the Trinity of God by seeing it played out in this world: the love of the Father for the Son, together with the loving inclusion of everything in existence, which is the work of the Holy Spirit.

Situating today’s gospel reading in Mark’s ongoing narrative can help us understand how Mark puts incidents together to convey the drama of the public life of Jesus. Its beginning in Galilee leaves us in no doubt that Jesus caused quite a stir: he taught with authority; crowds gathered where he was staying; he healed the sick and pronounced the forgiveness of sins; and he began to meet opposition. We are reminded of Mark’s sub-text: Who is this man? In today’s reading, that question confronts Jesus in two very different forms.

The reaction of the family of Jesus gives us a moving glimpse of his situation after leaving home and becoming a vagabond preacher. Following a very traditional way of life, his family were understandably concerned at what they heard, fearing that Jesus may have become unbalanced. But the mission Jesus is initiating aims to open up a world far beyond human loyalties and expectations. As the months that are following will show, his teaching, his miracles, and the final witness of his death, are all undertaken to inaugurate nothing less than the new family of God, which he called ‘the Kingdom’. This incident also helps us to know Mary, the courageous woman who is our model as she makes the journey of life in the darkness of faith. Several times the Gospels remember Mary ‘pondering’, ‘wondering at what has been said’, trusting in ‘whatever he says to do’. Jesus’ departure from the family home would not have been without pain and anxiety for her. Here we see her seeking to understand her son’s mysterious mission along with the troubled family. Though it is not something that Mark adverts to as he recalls this moment, Mary is surely the greatest of all those who ‘do the will of God’.

The scribes brought a very different challenge. Their vicious attack seems to be an expression of frustration, such as would be expected later in Jesus’ ministry – perhaps it is introduced here to underline the sub-text, that we should take with us as we set out to follow Mark’s gospel story, Who is this man? Jesus found it easy to point out the inconsistency of his frustrated adversaries’ accusation that he is an agent of ‘the Prince of demons’. However, what are we to make of the declaration that ‘a blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven?’ Christian faith tells us that there is no possible sin that is beyond the forgiveness of God. The meaning of Jesus teaching is simple enough: Those who, like these scribes, choose to be blind to the working of the Holy Spirit can never find forgiveness so long as they choose not to be open to God’s truth.

PEACE ... WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS

“True and lasting justice and peace cannot be achieved unless the dignity of all people is protected. Authentic justice and lasting peace can only be achieved when they are guaranteed for all. In every age, humanity experiences injustices, moments of conflict and inequality among peoples. In our own day these difficulties seem to be especially pronounced. Even though we’ve made great technological advancements, and people around the world are more and more aware of their common humanity and destiny, still the wounds of conflict, poverty and oppression persist, and create new divisions. In the face of these challenges, we must never grow resigned, because our respective spiritual traditions show us the way forward, a way that leads to healing, mutual understanding and respect – a way based on compassion and loving kindness.”

ERA SURF LIFESAVING CLUB – 80 YEARS ... LOCAL MEMBERS

Last weekend members of the Era SLSC celebrated 80 years of protecting locals and visitors to the Royal National Park at Era: this little touch of paradise is a bay 800m wide, broken into two beaches. The surf lifesaving club is located on South Era beach where a thriving shack community is located. A visit to the area is like going through a time warp, with some of the old shacks existing from the earlier part of the 20th century. Era is only accessible by walking, either from the Garawarra car park near the rangers station, or via the coastal walk from Garie Beach.



Three of our parishioners, **Riley, Koen** and their father, **Phil Plat** are members of Era SLSC and last weekend, during the 80 year celebrations, they received the following awards: **Riley** is **Club Beach Sprint Champion**; **Keon** is – for the second time – **Junior Surf Lifesaver of the Year**, as well as being awarded his **Bronze Medallion**; father **Phil** caught up with his two sons and was also awarded his **Bronze Medallion**. Congratulations and thanks to **Riley, Koen** and **Phil!**

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

This weekend the Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation 2018 are presented to the Parish community and they, along with their parents, commit to preparing for the Sacrament which will be celebrated by Bishop Brian on Thursday, 28 June. Please remember the Candidates and their families before the Lord over the next few weeks.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT CHURCH

The usual procedure when you arrive at church: the first thing you might notice, after greeting people, are the holy water containers near each door. People bless themselves with the holy water, the same water that is used for baptisms: we are reminded of our own baptisms and of God's commitment to us and of our call to respond to such love. Then, especially when you come in the main doors, you reverence the Blessed Sacrament – turning towards the tabernacle you bow or genuflect as a sign of respect for the presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament, reserved in the tabernacle so Communion can be taken at any time to the sick, and for people who wish to pray. It is then that people move to the seats. The area at the eastern end of the church, near the entrance to the sacristy, is especially suitable for children under school age, not as a play area, but so they can sit quietly on the floor or with their parents. Children who have reached school age should be encouraged to sit near the front/altar so they can see what is going on – they do this when our Parish School students attend Mass. All are welcome in this house of the Church.

SCARF HIGH TEA – THANK YOU!

Thank you for supporting last Sunday's "high tea" in support of SCARF, giving strategic community assistance to refugee families in the Illawarra. SCARF is one way that social justice is brought to our local area, especially as treatment of refugees by the Australian government leaves many women, men and especially children traumatised by their being incarcerated so long in refugee detention centres. Thank you for your support! *Australia has "clear and undeniable" responsibility for the physical and psychological damage its illegal offshore detention regime has caused to asylum seekers and refugees, a senior UN official has said.*

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

- Monday 11 June** **St Barnabas, apostle**
 Public Holiday Queen's Birthday
- Tuesday 12 June** **11am Catholic Women's League**
3:45pm Confirmation Class #1
- Wednesday 13 June** **St Anthony of Padua, friar priest, doctor**



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The next meeting of the Catholic Women's League will be on next **Tuesday, 12 June**, commencing **11:00am** in the McCarthy Centre – our guest will be a lady demonstrating lacemaking. Light luncheon to follow. **All welcome!** Monthly meeting 1:30pm.

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

AVAILABILITY ON OUR MINISTRY ROSTERS

Thank you to all who volunteer to be on one or more of our ministry rosters: **AV Operators; Leaders of Children's Liturgy; Church Cleaning; Communion to Coledale Hospital; Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion; Counters; Flowers; Laundry; Morning Tea; Readers; Safety Officers.** The parishioners on these rosters and our **Adult Servers and Musicians** help keep our parish functioning and providing the best service to parishioners and visitors. The current roster period ends on 12 August and the next roster period goes from **18 August to 2 December 2018**. If you are unavailable anytime between 18 August and 2 December, **please let your roster coordinator know as soon as possible.** *If you would like to join any of the rosters, especially Safety Officers and Musicians, please contact the Parish Office – your parish needs you!*

THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

10th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B
1st Reading Genesis 3:9-15
2nd Reading 2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1
Gospel Mark 3:20-35

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B
1st Reading Ezekiel 17:22-24
2nd Reading 2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Gospel Mark 4:26-34

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