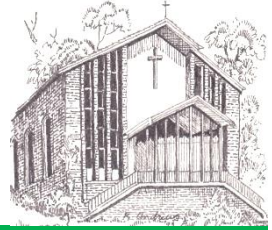




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



16 / 17 JUNE 2018
11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR B
Welcome to those Celebrating Baptism

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Confidence

It is difficult at times for Christians to maintain their hope in the coming of the Kingdom. The power of evil seems overwhelming, and the world presents itself as a formidable foe. The weapons of prayer and good works seem insignificant in a world of multinationals and intercontinental missiles.

Paul assures us, however, that “we continue to be confident,” and “we are full of confidence.” What is the source of this confidence? It comes from having a God “who is our hope and our strength, who brings low the high tree and lifts high the low tree.” Having a God who makes the withered tree bloom gives us the courage to continue in the face of overwhelming odds.



It also helps to know that the Kingdom is not like the world, which prides itself on its longest bridges and tallest buildings and biggest cities, its most powerful armies and its best at stopping refugees. The image of the Kingdom is the mustard seed, “the smallest of all the earth’s seeds.” In the Kingdom, one does not have to be president or king to make a difference; the smallest person is great and powerful. In the Kingdom, you don’t have to lead successful military campaigns to change the course of history; the smallest action has unlimited potential.

“There is no justification for despair or pessimism or inertia. Though it be with sorrow, it must be said that just as one may sin through selfishness and the desire for excessive profit and power, one may also be found wanting with regard to the urgent needs of multitudes of human beings submerged in conditions of underdevelopment, through fear, indecision and, basically, through cowardice.” – Pope John Paul II, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, 1987:47

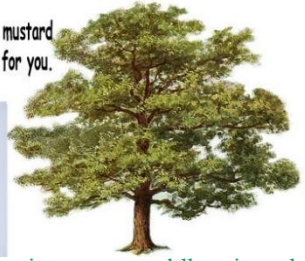
Today’s gospel passage comes from a sequence called Mark’s ‘day of parables’. In the parables we can meet Jesus as an imaginative friend who is explaining his concerns and hopes to us. He tells us of ‘the Kingdom’, in which Israel’s great hopes and all our human longings will be fulfilled. In Jesus’ time, expectations were high and false human hopes were widespread. Jesus used figurative language, as more effective than plain language, to engage the people and awaken in them a sense of the mysterious message he brought. As our understanding of the mystery is awakened, so too is our understanding of the Saviour himself, for it is to the realisation of the ‘Kingdom’ that his whole existence among us is given.

Mark begins his ‘day of parables’ with three ‘seed’ parables. The familiar parable



of the sower is not included in today's passage; it gives us the parable of the seed that grows mysteriously to produce a full harvest, and the parable of the mustard seed, the smallest seed familiar to Palestinian farmers, which can produce a bush three or four metres high. The most striking feature of these parables is the contrast between the tiny seed and what it goes on to produce.

If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, nothing will be impossible for you.



The 'Kingdom' Jesus announces is not a worldly triumph (something we need constantly to be reminded of); of its nature it has beginnings which are unimpressive and obscure by human standards. But in the end it initiates the realisation of the final achievement of God. Reference to the sickle and harvest echoes what the prophets had said about the End-time. Mark's audience, who had already seen the Church grow from being a marginal Jewish movement into an international fraternity, would have appreciated the prophetic promise of the original parable of Jesus. The 'birds of the air' may be an echo of this. The seed growing mysteriously has a lesson for every age. The growth of the 'kingdom' is God's work, a work that is vast and mysterious. Vatican II teaches that God's grace is at work in every human existence 'in a way known only to God' (*Gaudium et spes*, n.22). We must distinguish the Church and the 'Kingdom' – of which the Church is the 'first-fruits' and sign in the world. And even in the Church, as we all recognise, what is important to God is often humble and hidden.

WHAT SELF-RESPECTING FARMER IS GONNA ADMIT THAT HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW SEEDS GROW? THAT'S BASIC BIOLOGY!

I THINK JESUS IS TALKING ABOUT HOW THEY GROW ON THEIR OWN, HIDDEN IN THE EARTH. — THE GOSPEL WORKS ON ITS OWN, HIDDEN FROM VIEW.

BUT EVERYONE KNOWS THAT SEEDS DON'T JUST GROW! YOU GOTTA PUT CHEMICALS ON THEM!



The whole life of Jesus, we can say, is a parable, leading us into the mystery of God's generous and merciful dealings with us. As we come to appreciate the 'Kingdom' Jesus announced, and see him caring for God's people in their needs, we come to know the commitments which shaped his human existence. More than one of the Fathers spoke of Jesus as the 'seed'. In fact, he himself said he was the seed that must fall into the ground and die to produce God's final harvest.

PEACE ... WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS

"Peace is a gift that can easily be destroyed through petty gossip and speaking ill of others. People who receive and give the sign of peace should be men and women of peace and not ruin the peace made by the Holy Spirit with your tongue. Gossip is not a work of the Holy Spirit, it is not a work of the unity of the Church. Gossip destroys the work of God. Please stop gossiping. Gossip is war. Poor Holy Spirit! the work the Spirit has with us with our habit of gossiping! All the faithful are urged to preach the Gospel with deeds and words that edify and not with words of gossip that destroy. There is no way we can promote interreligious harmony if our communities are marked by gossip, division and bitterness. There are many enemies of harmony, one of the deadliest and most common is gossip."

2018 SIGNIFICANT MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY MASS

If you are celebrating 25, 40, 50 or 60 years of marriage this year and would like an invitation to the Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow on Sunday, 19 August 2018 at 2pm, please contact Helen Bennett 4222 2403 or email helen.bennett@dow.org.au at the Office of the Bishop by Friday, 13 July and an invitation will be sent to you. *Margaret and Peter Wolfe – 60 years married on 6 June* ⇨



LONG LIVE YOU – CATHOLICARE AGED SERVICES

The Australian Government has increased home care packages to support senior Australians remain living at home for longer. If you or someone you love needs assistance, CatholicCare can offer support with their day-to-day living or help them navigate the myagedcare portal to see what services they may be eligible to receive. For more information please call ☎ 4254 9342 or visit www.catholiccare.dow.org.au

CREATING A SAFE CHURCH FROM WITHIN – Fr Hans Zollner sj

On Friday, 31 August 2018 and Saturday, 1 September 2018 Campbelltown Catholic Club Fr Hans Zollner will address the most significant issues facing the Catholic Church today with respect to harmful behaviour, including the theological and spiritual implications arising from the abuse crisis and their impact on victims and survivors, together with members of the Church. There will be two distinct and separate presentations on Friday, 31 August and Saturday, 1 September 2018. ⓘ www.hanszollner.dow.org.au Any enquiries relating to this event can be directed to rsvp@dow.org.au

THE WINTER SOLSTICE

The June Solstice (Winter Solstice) is on **Thursday, 21 June 2018 at 8:07pm** in Sydney. In terms of daylight, this day is 4 hours, 31 minutes shorter than on December Solstice. In locations south of Equator, the shortest day of the year is around this date. On 21 June, the sun will rise at 6:59am and set at 4:53pm, the “day” being 9 hours 53 mins and 50 secs long! The latest sunrise occurs on 30 June (7:01am) and the earliest sunset on 11 June (4:53pm). Why?! Read more at <https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/equation-of-time.html> For many in the northern hemisphere 8:07pm on 21 June is the beginning of their summer.

WELCOME TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED THIS WEEKEND



Welcome to **HARVEY HAY** and **HARRISON SHUM** baptized on Saturday evening, and **VIVIENNE CRINIS** baptized on Sunday morning! Welcome to their parents, god-parents and families. Thank you for having your children baptized in our community.

Next Baptisms in our Parish will be during the weekend Masses on either **14/15 July**. If you want your infant daughter or son baptized on 14/15 July, at least one parent needs to attend the Baptism Preparation Class which will be held at **7:15pm** on **Thursday, 21 June**. Enrolment forms are obtainable from the Parish Office.

Baptism, the first sacrament of initiation, prepares us to celebrate the Eucharist. Baptisms are usually held on the third weekend of each month [except January and Lent], during either of the weekend Masses. Baptism forms are obtainable from the Parish Office.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Thursday 21 June St Aloysius Gonzaga, *religious*
7:15pm Baptism Preparation Meeting

Friday 22 June St John Fisher, *bishop, martyr*
St Thomas More, *martyr*



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 any-time 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!**

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

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

There are 33 Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. Bishop Brian Mascord will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Thursday, 28 June** at 7:30pm. Please remember before the Lord the 33 Candidates and their families. On the weekend of 30 June / 1 July, the newly confirmed will be presented to the parish, *and a special Sunday morning tea.*

THIS 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

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Birth of John the Baptist
1st Reading Isaiah 49:1-6
2nd Reading Acts 13:22-26
Gospel Luke 1:57-66,80

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