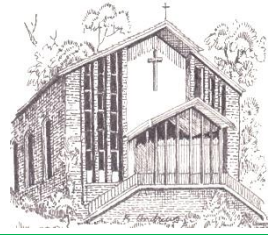




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



7 / 8 JULY 2018
14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR B
NAIDOC Week · Vinnies Winter Appeal

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

A Prophetic Race

The first reading deals with the witness of the prophet Ezekiel. The Gospel deals with the witness of the prophet Jesus. Both accounts leave no doubt that the prophet is in for trouble: the people, “rebels who have rebelled against God,” find the prophet “too much for them.” Paul describes what awaits the prophet: mistreatment, distress, persecutions and difficulties.

Our age has had its prophets: Dietrich Bonhoeffer; Martin Luther King; Dorothy Day, Archbishop Oscar Romero; Thomas Merton; Mahatma Gandhi; Pope John XXIII; Pope Francis. Theirs were not easy lives, and many of them were killed by “rebels who have rebelled against God.” Because of their lives, which bore witness to “the power of Christ,” the rest of us have been able to grow in faith.



“Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel.” (First Reading) That message to Ezekiel echoes in God’s sending of today’s prophets. It would be a mistake to think that only Romero and Gandhi and those like them had a calling to be prophets.

We believe that we are a prophetic race, called to be prophets in the midst of “a rebellious house.” Our task is “to bring Good News to the poor,” to speak God’s word in such a way that “they shall know that a prophet has been among them.”

The consequence of such prophecy will inevitably be trial and difficulty, but also the victory of the God whose “right hand is filled with justice.”

“We urge (everyone), again and again, to spare no labours and let no difficulties conquer them, but rather to become day by day more courageous and more valiant. Arduous indeed is the task which we propose to them, for we know well that ... there are many obstacles and barriers to be overcome. Let them not, however, lose heart; to face bitter combats is a mark of Christians, and to endure grave labours to the end is a mark of them who, as good soldiers of Christ, follow him closely.” — Pope Pius XI, *Quadragesimo Anno*, 1931:138

Long neglected because of its brevity, the Gospel of Mark is now recognised to be a work of genius. Mark’s was the first gospel to be written. Combining something of the freshness of the earliest memories of Jesus’ life with an ordered presentation of his material, Mark intends to provide a guide to authentic discipleship – as a following of the crucified Saviour. Today’s incident – which tells of the rejection of Jesus by the people of his own town, at the end of his ministry in Galilee – illustrates this. Mark’s telling of the story of



✠✠ Jesus comes to its climax with the Saviour's passion – the rejection of the Messiah by God's own people. It seems that Mark was writing for the Christians of Rome in the decade of the first persecutions, calling them to be true disciples of the crucified Christ.

Today's gospel also conveys the sense of immediacy often present in Mark. We have an echo of the reaction of those who witnessed the event (the 'disciples' who accompanied Jesus to his "home town") – they are surprised and disconcerted by the very human reaction of Jesus. Rejected by the people of 'his own country' and 'his own relations', Jesus seems to be disarmed, so that 'he could work no miracle there'. A very human situation and a typical human reaction – Jesus truly became one of us, our brother. What the gospel describes is so true to life that Jesus' summing up has become a proverb: 'No honour for prophets among their own'.

For Mark, of course, as we have seen, this rejection is a foreshadowing of the great rejection described in the final chapters of the gospel – something for which Jesus will repeatedly prepare his disciples as they make their way to Jerusalem: he is to be 'rejected', 'put to death', but he will 'rise again' (Mark 8: 31). The reading from Ezekiel reminds us that a pattern of rejection and rebellion runs through the whole story of the Scriptures. The patient but firm spirit of the Saviour, so well captured in Mark's gospel, is an expression of the patient firmness of God as the divine plan unfolds in the life of an uncooperative and self-centred people.

Jesus made his own a life that shares in our common human experience. In the reading from Paul, the great apostle takes us into his confidence, explaining how he has faced his immense difficulties. It is uncertain what his 'thorn in the flesh' was: a physical ailment perhaps, or more probably the betrayal and persecution he had to suffer from those who should have been his friends. But he has learned the lesson of Mark's gospel, and he gives expression so well to what he has learned in this passage that it is very familiar. Having, at first, 'pleaded with the Lord' to be freed of his trial, he has come to recognise it as discipleship's taking up of the Cross, giving him a share in the divine power unleashed in the world through the Paschal Mystery. He will even 'boast' of his weakness, as bringing an assurance that 'the power of Christ' will 'stay over' him: 'For it is when I am weak that I am strong'.

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

"Where do you go when there's nowhere to go?"

Jenny and her children suffered at the hands of a violent partner for too long. Desperate to protect her children, Jenny felt that she had no choice but to flee the family home with them, not knowing where they'd go or how they'd cope. What would you do?

What if you just couldn't stay any longer, but you didn't have anywhere safe to go? If you had a car, would you sleep there? Would a park be the right choice for a night?

Jenny left home with two pillows, an overnight bag and her daughter's favourite teddy bear for comfort. They got in the car and got away. But where would they sleep? Jenny didn't have anyone to turn to, and she didn't have any money.

That night they slept in the car but how long could that last?

Sadly, for people like Jenny, they did not have any other choice.

The Winter Vinnies Appeal will provide emergency relief to people at risk and experiencing homelessness. Your donation will help our Vinnies volunteers to rebuild lives. The Vinnies Winter Appeal is the first campaign to build on a new strategic approach – one that refuses to paint beneficiaries as victims, but shows the core difficulty being faced by so many vulnerable children, women and men in Australia – they simply don't feel like they have another option. *Do you choose food over medicine? Do you pay bills instead of buying school shoes?*



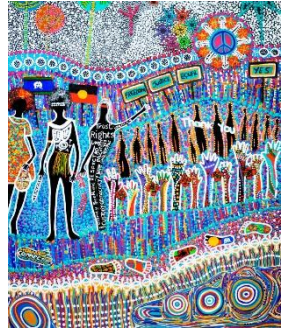
OUR PARISH – A SHORT HISTORY

A meeting took place at Mr McGrade's shop, Main Road, Thirroul, on the evening of 28 August 1918. This meeting was called by Fr Peter Power, parish priest of Bulli as he saw the need for the growing communities north of Bulli to have their own parish. Mass was held in a rented hall until the church was built in 1921. The original name chosen was St Kevin's Church. This was originally approved by Archbishop Kelly but he later suggested another name as there was already a church in Sydney, at Eastwood, using that name. Fr Peter was keen on St Molua who was a 6th century Irish saint, a monk, founder of monasteries and an abbot, although there is some confusion with another early saint of the same name. The foundation stone dedicates the church to St Molua but Archbishop Kelly blessed the stone under the joint patronage of St Michael and St Molua on 8 May 1921. The church was opened and blessed by the Right Rev Dr Hayden (Bishop of Wilcannia-Forbes) on 30 October 1921 – *that's just under 100 years ago!!* [continued next week]

NAIDOC WEEK: 8-15 JULY 2018

Under the theme – **Because of Her, We Can!** – NAIDOC Week 2018 is held nationally from Sunday 8 July and continue through to Sunday 15 July. As pillars of our society, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have played – and continue to play – active and significant roles at the community, local, state and national levels. As leaders, trailblazers, politicians, activists and social change advocates, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women fought and continue to fight, for justice, equal rights, our rights to country, for law and justice, access to education, employment and to maintain and celebrate our culture, language, music and art. They continue to influence as doctors, lawyers, teachers, electricians, chefs, nurses, architects, rangers, emergency and defence personnel, writers, volunteers, chief executive officers, actors, singer songwriters, journalists, entrepreneurs, media personalities, board members, accountants, academics, sporting icons and Olympians, the list goes on. They are our mothers, our elders, our grandmothers, our aunties, our sisters and our daughters.

Sadly, Indigenous women's role in our cultural, social and political survival has often been invisible, unsung or diminished. For at least 65,000 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have carried our dreaming stories, songlines, languages and knowledge that have kept our culture strong and enriched us as the oldest continuing culture on the planet. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women were there at first contact. They were there at the Torres Strait Pearlers strike in 1936, the Day of Mourning in 1938, the 1939 Cummeragunja Walk-Off, at the 1946 Pilbara pastoral workers' strike, the 1965 Freedom Rides, the Wave Hill walk off in 1966, on the front line of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in 1972 and at the drafting of the Uluru Statement. They have marched, protested and spoken at demonstrations and national gatherings for the proper recognition of our rights and calling for national reform and justice. Our women were heavily involved in the campaign for the 1967 Referendum and also put up their hands to represent their people at the establishment of national advocacy and representative bodies from the National Aboriginal Congress (NAC) to ATSIC to Land Councils and onto the National Congress for Australia's First Peoples. They often did so while caring for our families, maintaining our homes and breaking down cultural and institutionalised barriers and gender stereotypes. Our women did so because they demanded a better life, greater opportunities and – in many cases equal rights – for our children, our families and our people. Their achievements, their voice, their unwavering passion give us strength and have empowered past generations and paved the way for generations to come. – *National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee.*



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

School Winter Holidays ... until Tuesday, 24 July
Tuesday 10 July 11:30am CWL Christmas in July



CREATING A SAFE CHURCH FROM WITHIN – Fr Hans Zollner sj

On Saturday, 1 September at the Campbelltown Catholic Club Fr Hans Zollner sj 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. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. There is **no cost**, but you are asked to register by **17 August: rspv@dow.org.au** Recommended seminar. **📍 www.hanszollner.dow.org.au**

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE CHRISTMAS IN JULY

A reminder to members that next Tuesday, 10 July, we will be celebrating Christmas in July with the members of St. David's Anglican Women's Fellowship at Thirroul Bowling Club at 11:30am for 12 noon.

PARISH LADIES' DINNER

Due to several circumstances the Annual Ladies' Dinner had to be postponed. It will still be held, however, in a few months' time when the weather is warmer. Details will then be published in the Bulletin.



RECYCLE ▪ REUSE ▪ REDUCE

Consumerism impacts on the environment. If we reduce our consumption of both goods and energy we reduce waste and pollution. When we buy goods, we reduce waste if they are reusable rather than disposable. Recycling is essential at home and at school or work. Don't let "the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful." John 4:19

THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B
1st Reading Ezekiel 2:2-5
2nd Reading 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
Gospel Mark 6:1-6

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B
1st Reading Amos 7:12-15
2nd Reading Ephesians 1:3-14
Gospel Mark 6:7-13

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