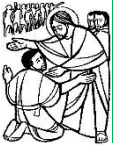




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



12 / 13 OCTOBER 2019
28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR C
WOLLONGONG RALLY FOR REFUGEES

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Gratitude

Sunday's Scripture narrates two leprosy cures and two reactions to them.

As we get older it is so easy to see the difference between our own old flesh and the soft clean skin of an infant.

What would your reaction be if you were made fresh as a baby, after your skin had been that of a leper? We would probably open a website to sell soft-skin!

In the Gospel, Jesus heals ten lepers. He sends them off, saying, "Go show yourselves to the priests." They do, but on the way, they find out that they are already cleansed! And, maybe the point of the Scripture is that only one former leper—and it is a Samaritan—has eyes to see what this healing means.



Extolling God in a loud voice, this one comes back to Jesus. He drops to the ground giving thanks. The other nine? They must have been glad they had won the lotto and had not thought about who had done the cure.

Jesus offers a soul-cure as well as a bodily one. Too bad those others missed it!

Second, in the first reading, a leper, Naaman—also a Samaritan—is healed by Elisha the prophet. Naaman is told to plunge into the Jordan river seven times. He carries out this strange routine just as instructed. The result?

His flesh became again like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean of his leprosy.

Naaman rushed back to Elisha to give copious thanks. He declared that there was no other god on earth but Israel's God! He offered a gift in thanksgiving. This was a very healthy and normal reaction: when a person is loved so much, their heart goes out to the giver and, without thinking, their soul wants to give gifts in return.

Strangely, Elisha refused the gift. We are not given an explicit reason, but probably he did not want earthly rewards for doing God's work. In response to the refusal, Naaman the leper made a dramatic pronouncement: "If you will not accept, please let two mule-loads of earth be given to your servant, for your servant will no longer offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god except to the Lord."

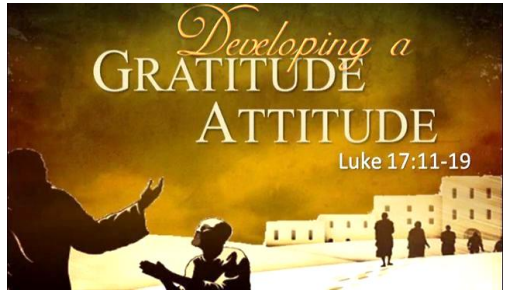
Mules and all, he will use Israeli earth to show his gratitude. It will be a sacrifice to the God of Israel, the God we worship.

The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius Loyola are based on this same response of gratitude. Especially in an exercise called the "Contemplation to Obtain God's love," people on retreat realize (over time) how deeply they are being loved. Their great desire is to give back ↗ ↗

↪↪ to the one doing the loving, to give in return.

Notice that this implies an adult relationship, not a child's.

An infant is filled with need after need and tells you all about them. The nine cured lepers who did not say thanks might have been like that. But as maturity grows in a person he or she wants to give back instead of only receiving. Yes, even to give back to God.



God has been seeking a mutual love relationship with each of us from the beginning of our lives. Have you ever sensed this? Have you felt gratitude? Have you ever taken time out to return love?

Could you take some time out this week?

Today's gospel reading follows immediately after last Sunday's reading. This linkage is important, because it helps us appreciate Luke's presentation of this incident, as expanding the teaching on 'faith' in last Sunday's gospel. The miracles of Jesus were, before all else, signs pointing to what was to be expected from the Saviour's presence among us. In this miracle, the interaction between Jesus and the Samaritan who returns to give thanks leads us deeper into an understanding of the faith that is God's gift.

Jesus tells the Samaritan that it is 'faith' that has saved him. His companions, too, we may presume, also had faith – evidenced in their common plea with him, and the fact that they too have been healed – because Jesus is surprised that they have not returned. But, unlike the one who returns, they do not have the gratitude that is the expression of a lively faith. If faith is a trusting readiness to receive the great things God does for us, it is also a grateful recognition of what God has done and is doing in our lives. The Samaritan helps us understand what this awareness involves. He 'turned back praising God at the top of his voice'. Our relationship with our God is quite unique; the other relationships that shape our lives cannot be compared with it. Our awareness of our indebtedness to God should deepen more and more this unique relationship, as we grow in wonder at the blessings of each day. It is not by chance that we call our principal act of worship, our 'Eucharist', our 'Thanksgiving'.

Shouting his praises, the healed man 'throws himself at the feet of Jesus'. His faith is a readiness to receive what only God can give; but he recognises that it is through Jesus that God's blessing comes to him – through the one whose teaching and ministry led him and his desperate companions to appeal to the 'pity' they recognised in Jesus; through the one whose authoritative word they accepted immediately, not yet healed, but ready to do what he commanded. The whole sequence presents Jesus as the Saviour. He sends the band to 'show themselves to the priests' – in accordance with the accepted custom: that the authority to allow those with contagious diseases re-join the community was given by Israel's Law to the priests. Now, in the case of the Samaritan, Jesus himself assumes this authority, 'Go on your way!'

The gift of God given by God to those who have faith is universal – it excludes nobody. It is not surprising that Luke, the Gentile convert, is especially conscious of this. His care to include reference in his writings to the Samaritans – the renegade group, hated by the Jews as half-pagan – reflects this awareness, pointing to the conversions that were to be so important in the first Christian communities. He alone brings us the story of the Good Samaritan; he devotes a chapter (8) of the Acts of the Apostles to the preaching of the gospel to the Samaritans; and now he alone holds up this Samaritan as an example of lively faith.

WOLLONGONG RALLY FOR REFUGEES

There is a medical crisis in offshore detention centres! It's time to follow doctors' orders. Defend the Medevac Bill and end indefinite detention. **Saturday, 19 October at 1pm** at the **Wollongong Town Hall**. This event is organized by RAC Illawarra [Refugee Action Collective Illawarra].

Over 800 asylum seekers and refugees remain stranded on Nauru and Manus Island. The Morrison government refuses to bring them to Australia yet has no other way to resettle them. The US deal is almost exhausted, with just 550 sent there. The Coalition has rejected New Zealand's offer to take 150. The Medevac Law, passed in February, has allowed some refugees to access the medical treatment they need in Australia. But, with improved numbers in parliament after the election, the government has voted to repeal it in the House of Representatives. In November it will go to the Senate to be voted on again. For more information ☎ 0409 041 381 – come along to make a stand for Social Justice.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 – DISCERNMENT STAGE

This is a process of communal discernment in which we pray, reflect, share, think nationally, think locally and respond with proposals for action will take place across three of the Northern Suburbs Parishes over the next few months. You are invited to read about the national themes for discernment, prayerfully contemplate them, and then come to one or more of the sessions across our parishes. Each session has a cut-off date for registrations to allow the Animators time to distribute materials and prepare.

Session times and dates are below. How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is ☩:

	☩ 2:00pm ☩	☩ 7:30pm ☩	at	☩ Register by ☩
open to conversion, reform	Saturday, 26 Oct	Monday, 28 Oct	Thirroul	Sunday, 13 Oct
inclusive, participatory, synodal	Saturday, 9 Nov	Monday, 11 Nov	Carrimal	Sunday, 27 Oct
prayerful and Eucharistic	Saturday, 23 Nov	Monday, 25 Nov	Bulli	Sunday, 10 Nov
joyful, hope-filled, servant	Saturday, 30 Nov	Monday, 2 Dec	Thirroul	Sunday, 17 Nov

Sign-up sheets are in the church ... sign up to make practical suggestions.

OCTOBER: BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Breast Screen NSW encourages you to join in celebrating the 25th year of empowering women to put their health first. Women between 50 and 74 are encouraged to take the '2 and 5 challenge' – pair up with a woman you care about and support each other to tackle the 5 steps: **be screened**; **be a breast friend**; **be inspired** [visit breastscreen.nsw.gov.au]; **be giving** [give feedback after your breast screen test]; **be encouraging** [share this important message with others]. Book online at book.breastscreen.nsw.gov.au ☎ 13 2050.

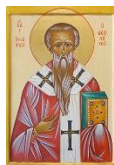
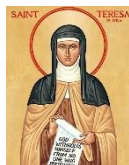
ONE NON-PERISHABLE ITEM PER FAMILY EACH WEEK TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE LOCAL ILLAWARRA AREA

WELCOME TO MONSIGNOR DAVID O'BRIEN

In September 2018, Ken was elected for three years as President of the Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand. Once during that time, Ken has to attend the Canon Law Society Conventions in the United States and in Canada. This year, Ken will be attending the US Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and then to Québec City, Canada for the Canadian Convention. Ken will be away 9 to 30 October. **Thank you to Monsignor David O'Brien** and to **Andrew Granc ofm** who will be filling in for Ken during that time. The Canon Law Society of Aus and NZ has 216 members from twenty countries!

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Tuesday 15 Oct St Teresa of Jesus, virgin, doctor
 Thursday 17 Oct St Ignatius of Antioch, bishop, martyr
 Friday 18 Oct St Luke, evangelist
 Weekend 19-20 Oct Mission Sunday and Collection
 Tuesday 22 Oct 3:45pm, Class for 1st Penance



SURFING SEASON HAS BEGUN

Our surfing season is well under way and runs until 26 April 2020!
Please be safe on our beaches and waterways. So far, since 1 July, there have already been **104** rescues!

In the year 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, in Australia there were **122** coastal/ocean drowning deaths: 87% were male and 13% female; 58% were at the beach, 18% on rocks or cliffs, 15% were offshore; 42% occurred at least 5km from a lifesaving service.

10,176 rescues [4,710 in NSW] were performed by some of the **50,534** proficient surf lifesavers from the **314** surf lifesaving clubs in Australia, who completed **1,379,056** volunteer hours last season. 61% are male and 39% female. **SWIM BETWEEN THE FLAGS.**



VINNIES NO INTEREST LOAN SCHEME

Vinnies no interest loans provide individuals and families on low incomes access to safe, fair and affordable lending. Eligible applicants can apply for loans up to \$1,500 to get essential goods and services, e.g. fridges, washing machines, stoves, dryers, freezers, beds, tables, lounges, televisions, computers, baby items. Once a loan application is approved, affordable repayments are set up over the course of 12 to 18 months. There are no credit checks. Vinnies no interest loans are based on trust and respect. ☎ 4283 3730.

THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C

1st Reading 2 Kings 5:14-17

2nd Reading 2 Timothy 2:8-13

Gospel Luke 17:11-19

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C

1st Reading Exodus 17:8-13

2nd Reading 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

Gospel Luke 18:1-8

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