

# Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



**10 / 11 APRIL 2021**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF THE FIFTY DAYS OF EASTER ✦ YEAR B**  
**DAYS 7/8 OF THE FIFTY DAYS OF EASTER**

## **THIS WEEK'S READINGS**

*Victory Is Ours*

Here is what the Scripture Readings for this week claim. By his cross, Christ conquered sin; by his resurrection, he destroyed death. At Easter, we celebrate his victory with joy.

The second Reading affirms that Christ's victory is ours. If we have faith that Jesus is the Christ, then we are begotten by God. If we are, then we conquer the world. And if we do, then we love God, we love the children of God, and we keep God's commandments obediently. In that condition, we are victorious with Christ.

But these lines in the second Reading look like joy-destroyers, don't they? If we don't keep God's commandments, if we don't love God's children, we don't conquer the world. And if we don't conquer the world, then we aren't begotten of God. And in that case, we don't really have faith. How do we have victory then?

And it gets worse.

In another place, the same Letter of John says that anyone who says he doesn't have sin is a liar (I John 1:8). So, it seems that there is a Catch-22 here. If you sin, you aren't victorious. You are a loser. But if you try claiming that you don't sin, you are guilty of lying, which is a sin; and so, you aren't victorious in that case either.


It seems that whether you think you sin or think you don't sin, you lose. So, what happened to our victory? Where is joy?

The solution is to notice what faith is. Faith is the belief that Jesus is the Christ, the one who—the one who what? Well, the one who conquers sin and death.

So here is the message from the Readings. For our part, we are saved from sin and death by believing that we are saved from sin and death—by Christ. There is no Catch-22. Even in our sinful state, where truth forces us to confess our disobedience and our failures in love, we are victorious—over the sin and death in ourselves—as long as we believe that Christ won the victory for us.

This faith is what God requires of us, and the second Reading is right: this requirement isn't burdensome.

So here is our joy: As long as we believe that Christ won the victory for us, the victory of Christ is ours.

The Gospel of John, written long after – about 60 years after – the other three gospels, is a meditation upon the events of the Saviour's life filled with Resurrection light. It is not surprising, therefore, that the gospel readings for the Sundays of the Easter season 



☞☞ are from the fourth gospel. Today's readings are a celebration of the Resurrection faith that makes it possible to know and enter into the Paschal Mystery. They come to a climax with the story of how the original 'doubting Thomas' found faith.



This gospel invites us to share the experience of the disciples, finding faith through the coming of the Lord into their midst on the evening of his Resurrection Day. What a dramatic situation – they are to meet the one whom they have deserted and abandoned to his fate. There is no word of reproach, no reference to what has taken place, only 'Peace be with you' and again 'Peace be with you' – you are forgiven come once more into my friendship. Their finding faith is a meeting with God's generous and reconciling love. And he sends them forth with the good news of the forgiveness of sins.

For many, faith does not come easy and they are helped by the testimony that echoes down through the centuries of hard headed Thomas – as he owns that it is indeed the crucified one – the one who shared the deepest darkness of the world we have made – to whom we can entrust ourselves, as our 'Lord' and our 'God'.

The Resurrection faith today's liturgy celebrates is a faith which must find expression in action. The reading from Acts describes the first community of Christian faith, no longer a group of discouraged and disillusioned followers, but galvanised into action: sustained by the power of the apostles' witness, united in heart and soul, sharing what they had with those in need. The apostolic witness and preaching are echoed for us in the reading from John's first letter. The faith that unites believers in the Resurrection is a 'victory' – not a victory achieved by violence and power, but the triumph that belongs to those who have truly learned the ways of the Risen Lord – whose greeting was 'Peace' and the forgiveness of sins.

Authentic Resurrection faith awakens a sense of responsibility and brings a call to mission: 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you'.



## Thank You!



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2021. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) to make your donation online.

Through your generosity you will be empowering the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

**Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2021 Lenten appeal.**

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who attended our Easter Liturgies, and thank you so much to all who helped in so many ways with the Liturgies, in preparing for them, involved in them, and clearing up after them. Thank you! Enjoy the fifty days of celebration. Alleluia!



## COLLECT FROM THE FRONT VERANDAH

Whenever you wish from Easter Sunday onwards, please collect these from the front verandah of the presbytery:

- ✓ palms blessed on Palm Sunday
- ✓ rosemary blessed on Good Friday
- ✓ Easter Holy Water blessed at the Easter Vigil [*and Blessings for your home and car*]

---

## VINNIES NSW FLOOD APPEAL

It's been called many things. A “once-in-100-year flood”, “unprecedented” and “chaotic”. Thousands of people were ordered to evacuate, a home floated down the Manning River on the Mid-North Coast and one person died after becoming trapped in their car in Sydney's north-west.

So how do NSW's most recent floods stack up against others in the state? Experts say what makes this flood event a stand-out is the vast area affected. “Its just the sheer scale of having it from the border all the way down south of Sydney and now heading west as well,” said Fiona Johnson, a hydrologist from the water research centre at UNSW.

The entire NSW coast has been drowned by at least 200 millimetres, and in some places, more than 400mm of rain. To put that in context, Sydney averages 132mm of rain for the whole month of March. Flooding stretches 600 kilometres from Sydney to the Northern Rivers. More than 11,000 damage claims have been made with the Insurance Council of Australia; many families do not have flood insurance. Farmers reported hundreds of live-stock losses, crop loss and infrastructure damage. Extensive deaths of wildlife occurred. The floods affected hundreds of people, many who were temporarily homeless, and many have lasting mental health problems.

Donations to the Vinnies NSW Flood Appeal can be made by calling **13 18 12**, or at any Vinnies Shop, or at [www.vinnies.org.au/NSWFloodAppeal](http://www.vinnies.org.au/NSWFloodAppeal) or at the Parish Office, or **this weekend**, there will be a special collection.



---

## THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

On 8 December 2020, Pope Francis published an Apostolic Letter *Patris corde* (With a Father's Heart), commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. You are encouraged to visit the Australian Catholic Bishops Year of St Joseph page at <https://www.catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph> including monthly reflections on various aspects of St Joseph's life and character and prayers. You are encouraged to read the beautiful pastoral Letter from Pope Francis – *With a Father's Heart*. Printed copies are available in the church and via email from the Parish Office. Saint Joseph Prayer Cards are also available in the church and via email.

**ONE NON-PERISHABLE ITEM PER FAMILY EACH WEEK  
TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE LOCAL ILLAWARRA AREA  
drop items in the special white plastic bin if you come to Mass**

## ANZAC DAY 2021

Arrangements for local ANZAC Day dawn services are yet to be finalized. As soon as updates are obtained from local RSL Sub-Branches, information will be provided here.

# WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK – AND BEYOND

Saturday 10 Apr Dinner at the Thirroul Club (The Bowlo) after 5:30pm Mass  
Sunday 25 Apr ANZAC Day Mass at 8:00am

## SURFING SEASON ... BE SAFE

Since 1 July 2020, there have been **4,547** rescues [*last week 4,476*] completed by surf lifesavers, and **16,019** first aid treatments [*last week 15,672*] have been performed. Swim safely – the water is 22°C.



## RECIPE OF THE WEEK – CAROL'S CAKE

1 cup sugar, 1 cup mixed fruit, 60g margarine, 1 teaspoon mixed spice, 1 teaspoon bi-carbonate of soda. Mix these and pour over them 1 cup of boiling water, stirring until dissolved. Add 2 cups self-raising flour and 1 beaten egg. Mix and place in a square tin (~30cm). Cook slowly in a moderate oven for ¾ hour (don't overcook). When cooked, leave to cool in the tin covered with a tea towel.

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Next **Tuesday, 13 April**, commencing **11:00am** in the McCarthy Centre, in our Parish School grounds. Judy Bull will be our guest speaker – there will also be a Trading table. The monthly meeting will follow at 1:30pm. All are welcome!

## NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS ON FRIDAYS

With the retirement of Maureen Franciskovic, Magda Pires will now be working each day the Parish Office is open: *Tuesdays, Wednesdays 09:00 to 15:30* and **Fridays 09:30 to 14:30**.

## GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND

Thank you for your generosity. You donated **\$3,193.90!** Total in 2019: \$1,211.85.

### THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Second Sunday of Easter • Year **B**  
1st Reading Acts 4:32-35  
2nd Reading 1 John 5:1-6  
Gospel John 20:19-31

### NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Third Sunday of Easter • Year **B**  
1st Reading Acts 3:13-15,17-19  
2nd Reading 1 John 2:1-5  
Gospel Luke 24:35-48

### SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Church of St Michael • Thirroul  
Saturday – 5:30pm • Sunday – 8:00am

### LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Thirroul  
Monday —  
Tuesday 17:30  
Wednesday 09:00  
Thursday 09:00  
Friday 09:30

**Restricted numbers apply ... however, there is no need to register beforehand with the Parish Office**

## 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](mailto:thirroul@dow.org.au)

**Parish Office Hours** Tuesday, Wednesday Friday

**9:00am to 3:30pm**  
**9:30am to 2:30pm** Magda Pires