

Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



17/18 APRIL 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE FIFTY DAYS OF EASTER ✦ YEAR B
DAYS 14/15 OF THE FIFTY DAYS OF EASTER

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

What are we supposed to do?

Once, in perplexity, people asked Jesus, "What are we supposed to do?" (John 6:28). The second Reading raises this question for us too.

The second Reading says that if you don't keep God's commandments but say that you know the Lord, you are a liar.

Being a liar is bad enough. But the second Reading also says that if you don't keep the Lord's commandments, you don't know the Lord.

That is the worst, isn't it? Especially because the test for whether or not you know the Lord is not whether you have fervent prayer or sweet religious experience. No, the test is just whether you keep the Lord's commandments. That is why you lie if you don't keep the Lord's commandments but still try to tell yourself and others that you know the Lord.



In another passage, this same Letter (1 John 1:6-8) claims that if you say you have no sin, you are a liar, too.

And now we have a real puzzle, don't we? To avoid the sin of lying, you have to confess that you do sinful things. But then you are confessing that you aren't keeping the Lord's commandments, aren't you? And in that case, you are a liar, and you don't know the Lord. Well, then, what are we supposed to do?

The answer is in what Jesus told the people when they asked him that very question. Jesus said, "Believe on the one whom God has sent."

Notice that this is a command.

And here is what it means. We can tell the truth: that we are sinful. But it doesn't follow that we don't keep God's commandments. If we believe that Jesus is the Saviour, sent by God to save us from our sins, then, sinful as we are, we are in fact keeping the commandment the Lord gave the people when they asked him what they were supposed to do.

And if we keep his command, then it is also true that we know him. We know him as the Christ, sent by God to save us from our sins.

It can be true then that we are sinful and that we keep the commandment of the Lord, both, if we believe that he will save us from our sinfulness. So, this is what we are supposed to do: know *him*.





The New Testament contains many accounts describing for us the experience of the original disciples of Jesus as they found faith through their encounter with their Risen Lord. The writers of the gospels are so certain of the meetings that laid the foundations of Christian faith that they do not attempt to harmonise the details of the stories they are handing on. They pass on these stories in order to share the wonder of finding faith and new purpose through an encounter with the Lord's triumph – a wonder that can hardly be captured by a single account.



As our Easter liturgies recall these stories we are like a family group listening to one another sharing personal recollections of a past event that meant a great deal to the whole family. Given from different points of view, these recollections bring a far fuller appreciation of what took place. Last Sunday, we heard the story as it was recalled in the community of John's gospel. Today, we hear Luke's account of the disciples' meeting with the Risen Saviour. From all these accounts a coherent story emerges that invites the Church of every age to share in the original moment of Resurrection faith: the disciples are confused and frightened; when Jesus comes into their midst, finding faith in him is not easy and immediate; his greeting, however, and his loving acceptance of them into his abiding friendship brings them a great joy, and they find full faith in him; he instructs them – all that has taken place is according to the designs of God set forth in the Scriptures; he charges them with the mission of bringing to the whole world the good news of their Resurrection faith and the 'forgiveness of sins' it brings; he promises the gift of the Holy Spirit.

All three readings make reference to 'sin' and the need for conversion. Our immediate reaction may well be to think those are themes for Lent, why stress them in the midst of our Easter celebration? But can we understand what has been achieved in the Lord's Paschal Mystery without taking account of the reality of sin. It is the abuse of human freedom that has made the destructive world from which we need to be saved and set free. The words of Peter in the first reading suggest a line of thought which has relevance for the world in which we live. Quite rightly, our discussion of 'sin' usually stresses what is done with full and wilful responsibility. Peter points to another form of 'sin' when he acknowledges that the perpetrators of the terrible miscarriage of justice that has 'killed the prince of life' did not fully understand what they were doing. In today's world of confused moral values, who is to judge the moral guilt of many things that are done? But if what is done is a turning away from the light to darkness, from what leads to life to what leads to death, it is sinful in the sense that it is an aberration that has destructive consequences from which only God can save us.

Our mission – as those who have found Resurrection faith and the hope it brings – is to bring liberation from sinfulness in all its forms, by sharing the light and life of the Risen Lord with our struggling world.

LAST CHANCE to Collect from the Front Verandah

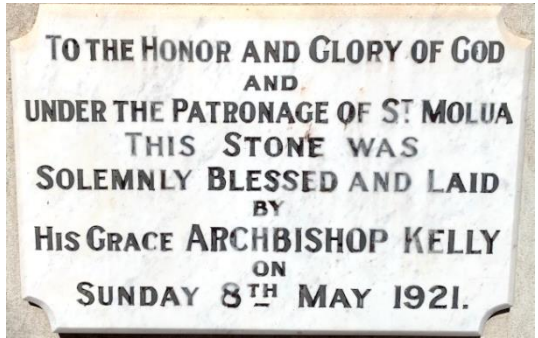
Please collect these from the front verandah of the presbytery:

- ✓ **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*]

If you know anyone who cannot get to church, and they would like Holy Communion, please let the Parish Office know.

CENTENARY OF OUR PARISH CHURCH

On Sunday, 8 May 1921, the foundation stone of our parish church was blessed and consecrated to St Molua and St Michael by Archbishop Kelly of Sydney. The original name suggested was St Kevin but this was rejected by Archbishop Kelly as there was already a St Kevin's in Sydney at Eastwood. Fr Power, then parish priest of Bulli, suggested St Molua, an Irish monk and abbot of the 6th century. The stone was blessed under both names, Molua and Michael, but only St Molua appears on the foundation stone.



St Michael is well-known as one of the archangels but not so St Molua. Further information about St Molua can be found online at websites such as www.libraryireland.com and <http://omniumsanctorumhiberniae.blogspot.com> – there are also three St Molua churches at Belfast, Ardagh, Co. Limerick and Killaloe, Co. Kilkenny.

To mark the centenary, Bishop Brian will join us to celebrate the **Saturday** evening Mass on **15 May 2021**, and **afterwards**, there will be a gathering in the McCarthy Centre. Due to Covid regulations we cannot have a bring-a-plate/buffet/BBQ meal, so we are asking people attending to BYO picnic/food along. Tea/coffee/cordial will be provided, BYO other liquid refreshment. Sanitiser and QR code check-in will be provided. We also need to keep a check on numbers so if planning to attend would you please register by email or phone with the parish office with family name, contact number and number coming.

Please note that this is only the centenary of the church which, at first, remained as part of Bulli Parish. The Parish of Thirrourl was not established until October 1923, so the big celebration will be held in October 2023. If you have any photos of or stories about the church, we would be very happy to hear from you.

Judy Bull, on behalf of St Michael's Parish Pastoral Council.

THANK YOU TO LISA METCALFE

Lisa Metcalfe has been a catechist for several years, teaching Special Religious Education in our local State Schools. She has also been the Catechist Coordinator for our Parish of Thirrourl, as well as helping the Catechists in the Parishes of Bulli and Corrimal. Lisa is retiring as Catechist Coordinator, but will continue as a Catechist, bringing the Word of the Lord to the children in our local State Schools.

Thank you, Lisa, for your ministry in our Parish, and for the time and energy you give to this ministry and to the other Catechists. *If*

you would like to help in this important ministry, please see one of the Catechists, or call the Parish Office.



**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**

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND

Thank you for your generosity. You donated **\$3,243.90!** Total in 2019: \$1,211.85.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK – AND BEYOND

Monday 19 Apr Welcome back to school term 3
Sunday 25 Apr ANZAC Day – Dawn services *restricted*
Mass at 8:00am special ANZAC Service



ANZAC DAY
LEST WE FORGET
25 APRIL

SURFING SEASON ... BE SAFE

Since 1 July 2020, there have been **4,597** rescues [*last week 4,547*] completed by surf lifesavers, and **16,151** first aid treatments [*last week 16,109*] have been performed. Swim safely – the water is 20°C. The surfing season ends next Sunday, 25 April.



VINNIES NSW FLOOD APPEAL

Thank you for your generosity in giving to the NSW Vinnies Flood Appeal: the total you have donated is – **so far** – a huge **\$2,810**. You can still donate at the church or Parish Office – special envelopes are available for your generous donations. **Thank you!**

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

Pope Francis has decided to institute throughout the Church the celebration of World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which, beginning this year, will be held on Sunday, 25 July, near the liturgical memory of Saints Joachim and Anne, grandparents of Jesus.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Jesus Christ is the Son of God made human in whom and thanks to whom the world and humanity attain their authentic and full truth. The more that human realities are seen in the light of God's plan and lived in communion with God, the more they are empowered and liberated in their distinctive identity and in the freedom that is proper to them.

– *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.*

THIS 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

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Fourth Sunday of Easter • Year **B**

1st Reading Acts 4:8-12
2nd Reading 1 John 3:1-2
Gospel John 10:11-18

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Church of St Michael • Thirroul

Saturday – 5:30pm • Sunday – 8:00am

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

LITURGIES THIS WEEK

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

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

📮 PO Box 44 • Thirroul 2515

☎ 4268 1910

📠 4268 1976

📧 thirroul@dow.org.au

Parish Office

Hours

Magda Pires – Parish Secretary

Tuesday, Wednesday 9:00am–3:30pm Friday 9:30am–2:30pm



www.thirroulcatholic.org.au

Parish School of St Michael ☎ 4267 2560