

Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



24/25 APRIL 2021

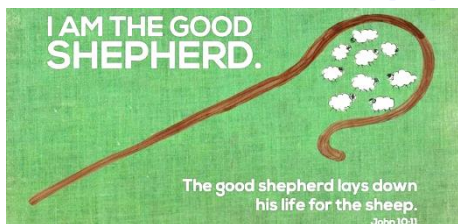
FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE FIFTY DAYS OF EASTER ✦ YEAR B
ANZAC DAY † LEST WE FORGET

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Doctor Without Borders

The international aid organization *Doctors Without Borders* has 27,000 medical personnel in 60 countries, and they bring essential medicines and medical care to very many people who otherwise would go without.

The medical science they use comes from the Western industrialized countries. But no one supposes that there is something exclusivist or arrogant or intolerant about *Doctors Without Borders* for bringing this medical care from the West to the poor and sick in third-world countries. On the contrary, in 1999 *Doctors Without Borders* won the Nobel Peace Prize for its work with the world's needy.




There is an objective truth about what will heal people, and the fact that modern medicine comes from the industrialized West doesn't alter this truth. Western medicine is prized around the world because it has a power to heal which nothing else does.

What Peter says about Christ in the first Reading is a little like this. There is a sickness of the spirit as well as of the body, and it can lead to death too, a death of the spirit rather than the body. There is healing for this spiritual sickness. But, Peter says, it comes only from Christ. Christ has a power to heal that nothing else does.

That is a lesson that the first Reading teaches. To some people, this lesson is worrisome, or worth rejecting. They think it is disrespectful to other cultures and religions.

But notice what Christ adds to this lesson in the Gospel. He has more than one fold of sheep, he says. In their varying countries, cultures, and ethnicities, all those who hear his voice and are glad of it form the different folds of sheep for whom Christ is the good Shepherd. All these differing folds together make up the one truly world-wide flock of the Lord.

And so, there is one objective truth about what heals, whether the healing is medical or spiritual; and there is only one source for this healing. But, unlike modern medicine, the healing of Christ is not another monopoly of the Western industrialized nations. Whatever his social or ethnic group, whatever the way in which Christ's voice comes to him and moves him, each person whose heart is stirred by the voice of the Lord is included in Christ's one flock. **The ultimate doctor without borders is Christ.**

The readings for many Easter liturgies bring us the meditations of John's gospel upon what the life of the Word made flesh means to the world. Sayings of Jesus beginning with 'I AM' abound in this gospel – clearly intimating the Saviour's claim to the divine name 

✠✠ itself (cf. Exodus 3:14). They come readily to mind: ‘**I AM** the bread of life’ (6:35); ‘**I AM** the gate’ (10:9); ‘**I AM** in the Father’ (10:38); ‘**I AM** the way; **I AM** truth and life. No one can come to the Father except through me’ (14:6); ‘**I AM** the true vine’ (15:1); ‘I want those you have given me to be with me where **I AM**’ (17:24); ‘**I AM** he ... I have told you that **I AM HE**’ (18:5, 8); and the momentous, ‘Before Abraham ever was, **I AM**’ (8:58).

The gospel reading of today’s liturgy, ‘**I AM** the good shepherd’, heard against this background, takes us deep into the mystery of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ – and, as we shall see, it tells us of how God’s initiative in the Paschal Mystery was conceived in the depths of the Trinitarian Life itself.

The Good Shepherd theme has had a great impact on Christian consciousness. One of the earliest and most repeated motifs of Christian art is the youthful shepherd carrying the lost sheep home on his shoulders. The image it suggests is so telling that it has featured prominently in the Church’s preaching in every age. As so often happens with the best things in life, we tend to take this theme for granted. Today’s text helps us to find a fresh appreciation of its implications. In it, Jesus explains these implications by reference to the Paschal Mystery.

He says that he is the ‘good’ shepherd – in contrast to the unfaithful shepherds who have failed God’s people, thinking only of their own interests – because, as he three times repeats, he ‘lays down his life’ for them. He lays it down, he explains, ‘in order to take it up again’. In his Resurrection, he will be a source of life for them. And in this drama of his death and resurrection, he is carrying out and making clear to the human family what his Father wills for them – an enterprise so dear to the Father that he looks upon the Son’s obedience with a renewed love.

It is a plan that works to bring all those who believe into unity. There are other ‘folds’, or pens, than the one the community that gave us John’s gospel finds itself in. Through his Paschal Mystery, the Good Shepherd will lead them in the forming of a single ‘flock’, overcoming all the apparently insurmountable barriers that divide the human family.

The other readings illustrate the blessings that belong to those who ‘know’ the Good Shepherd and ‘listen to his voice’. We recall the faith and courage of Peter, as he works the Christian Church’s first miracle in the power of the divine name – ‘in the name of Jesus’. And we are told that we can become ‘God’s children’, through ‘the love that the Father lavishes on us’, with a future which when it is fully revealed will give us a share in the intimate life of God.

THANK YOU TO CHRIS CUMMINS

Chris Cummins has been a catechist since 2007, teaching Special Religious Education in our local State Schools. Chris taught Kindergarten students at Thirroul Public School and Scarborough Public School. Her gentleness with the little ones was very much appreciated by her students and fellow Catechists. Chris is retiring after many years of service in our Parish. **Thank you, Chris.** If you would like to help in this important ministry, please see one of the Catechists, or call the Parish Office.



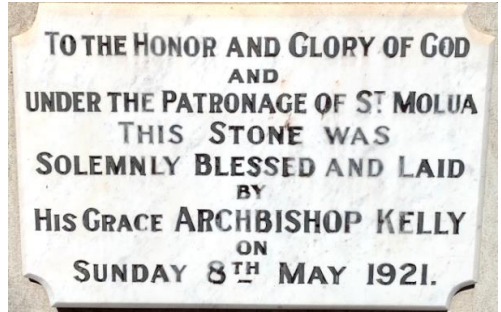
SURFING SEASON ... ENDS SUNDAY, 25 APRIL

Since 1 July 2020, there have been **4,704** rescues [*last week 4,597*] completed by surf lifesavers, and **16,401** first aid treatments [*last week 16,151*] have been performed. Swim safely – the water is 20°C. As the surfing season ends this Sunday, 25 April, if you do go to the beach, watch where the waves are breaking ... and don’t swim alone.



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 Thirroul 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.

ANZAC DAY

ANZAC Day, 25 April, is a day that is very dear to the heart of all Australians, a day when we remember those that have fallen in times of war, in service to their country, its people, and freedom for humankind. ANZAC Day is probably Australia's most important national occasion. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. The soldiers in those forces quickly became known as ANZACS, and the pride they soon took in that name endures to this day.

ANZAC stands for **Australian and New Zealand Army Corp**. ANZAC means much more than that though; it embodies what it meant to be a Digger, a Battler. ANZAC is the true essence of being Australian. In the words of the official Gallipoli Campaign historian, C E W Bean, "*It was not merely that 7,600 Australians and nearly 2,500 New Zealanders had been killed or mortally wounded there, and 24,000 more (19,000 Australians and 5,000 New Zealanders) had been wounded, while fewer than 100 were prisoners. But the standards set by the first companies at the first call – by the stretcher-bearers, the medical officers, the staff, the company leaders, the privates, the defaulters on the water barges, the Light Horse at The Nek – this was already part of the tradition not only of ANZAC but of the Australian and New Zealand peoples. By dawn on 20 December, ANZAC had faded into a dim blue line lost amid other hills on the horizon as the ships took their human freight to Imbros, Lemnos and Egypt. But ANZAC stood, and still stands, for reckless valour in a good cause, for enterprise, resourcefulness, fidelity, comradeship and endurance that will never own defeat.*" **Lest we forget.**

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK – AND BEYOND

Monday	26 Apr	Saint Mark, evangelist 10am ANZAC Day Service in School
Wednesday	28 Apr	Saint Peter Chanel, priest, martyr
Thursday	29 Apr	Saint Catherine of Siena, virgin, doctor
Saturday	15 May	Centenary of the Church 5:30pm Mass with Bishop Brian After Mass reception in the McCarthy Centre



ANZAC DAY
LEST WE FORGET
25 APRIL

Rosemary is traditionally worn on **ANZAC Day**. **Rosemary** has particular significance for Australians as it is found growing wild on the Gallipoli peninsula. Since ancient times, this aromatic herb has been believed to have properties to improve the memory.

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!**

**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**

SOCIAL JUSTICE

There is no state of conflict between God and humanity, but a relationship of love in which the world and the fruits of human activity in the world are objects of mutual gift between the Father and his children, and among the children themselves, in Christ Jesus; in Christ and thanks to him the world and an attain their authentic and inherent meaning.

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

THIS 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

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Fifth Sunday of Easter • **Year B**
1st Reading Acts 9:26-31
2nd Reading 1 John 3:18-24
Gospel John 15:1-8

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

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