



Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
9/10 APRIL 2022
PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY + YEAR C
EASTER TRIDUUM TIMETABLE

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

The Small Things and the Great King

In the gospel reading, the Passion according to Luke, Jesus is acclaimed as King of Israel by a crowd of people as he rides to Jerusalem on a donkey. It is a great triumphal parade, a high point of local fame and popular success for Jesus.

But I want to ask about the donkey. It's not Jesus' donkey. How did he get it?

The Gospel says Jesus sent his disciples to a neighbouring village to untie it and take it away. But why would anyone let the disciples of Jesus simply make off with somebody else's donkey? As far as that goes, how did Jesus even know a donkey was there in that village?

Here's one possible answer. The Gospel says that Jesus was near Bethany when he sent his disciples to get the donkey. So maybe that donkey was in Bethany. Bethany is the home of Martha and Mary and Lazarus. Like the donkey, which is a humble beast, Martha, Mary, and Lazarus are small and ordinary people. Nobody would acclaim them in great parades. But they are nonetheless the particular friends of Jesus.

Maybe the donkey belongs to them or to their friends. Maybe Jesus knows exactly where that donkey is because he has seen it when he was visiting Mary and Martha and Lazarus. Maybe the villagers are so ready to let the disciples of Jesus take the donkey because they know and trust Jesus.

On this way of reading the story, with the people shouting and acclaiming him King, Jesus rides into Jerusalem on the small beast which comes from the village of his particular friends, two ordinary women and their equally ordinary brother.

And here's the sequel. The crowd that acclaims Jesus so greatly is next seen shouting for his crucifixion. That's how much fame and popular success are worth. And here's what particular friendship with the Lord is worth. When Jesus ascends to God the Father, do you know what place he chooses as the site for his ascension? It's Bethany (Luke 24:50), where his friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus live.



And so, in his royal procession, on that little donkey, our Lord shows us what is truly worth caring about, the small things, the particular things so dear to us and to our great King.

Today's liturgy begins with the familiar commemoration of the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. This year we hear Luke's account. Its majestic tone is an appropriate prelude to the greatest week of the Church's year – emphasising the unique authority of Jesus, and ending with the joyous cry of 'the whole group of disciples': proclaiming that the miracles worked by Jesus are a breaking in of 'heaven' itself. In Luke's account, his preoccupation with the issues of riches and poverty finds expression; it is not palms but 'cloaks' – the proud possessions of the rich – that are spread on the road.

The reading from Isaiah invites us to learn from the example of the Saviour, the trust we should have in our Father in heaven, whatever trials we may face. But it is something else that makes the reading an appropriate one, as we find ourselves on the threshold of Holy Week – with God's true Servant, we must have minds and hearts open to a new meeting with our God in what lies ahead. Like him we should be glad that the Lord 'wakes us to hear, to listen like disciples'

In the second reading, from the letter to the Philippians – echoing a hymn used in the liturgy of the first generation of the Church – Paul summarises with majestic brevity the drama of the Paschal Mystery we are about to celebrate: how Jesus 'emptied himself', shared our human condition, even to 'accepting death on a cross', and how finally, for our sake, he is 'raised high', one with the Father in the glory of the divine name.

Luke's account of the Lord's passion has been put together with great care, as this faithful disciple of Jesus makes reference in the course of his narrative to many of his favourite themes: the example of Jesus' prayer during his ordeal (on Calvary; for Peter); the good news of a merciful and forgiving God ('Father forgive them'; 'Today you will be with me in paradise'); the attitudes of true discipleship ('The leader must be as one who serves'; the presence of the disciples, men and women, on Calvary – 'at a distance'); the great titles of the Church's confession of faith in the Saviour are skilfully woven into the narrative, often on the lips of those who are rejecting him ('Son of Man', 'Son of God', 'Christ of God', 'King of the Jews', 'Chosen One'; and significantly it is the gentile centurion who is given the final word, 'This was a great and good man').

The liturgies of Holy Week will teach us, not with fine oratory, but by recounting the great events in which the divine Truth found expression in our human history. Let this recognition set the tone for our participation in the liturgies of these days.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading **Isaiah 50:4-7**

- ✚ We see Jesus as the subject of this reading. Could it apply to others too? Are the Ukrainians speaking on God's behalf, and have they "set their faces like flint" when confronted by injustice? What injustice do you feel strongly about? Is there anything you can do to help make it right?
- ✚ If Jesus hadn't challenged the status quo, would he have gone to the cross? "Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear." What am I hearing now? The cries of Ukraine? Of starving children? Of the planet in crisis? Of the racial injustice??

Second Reading **Philippians 2:6-11**

- ✚ "Agape" love (pronounced *ab-gah-pay*) is selfless and free from self-concern and self-preoccupation. It includes conversion, vulnerability, search for justice, and suffering. Explain Jesus' love for us in terms of *agape*. What would the world be like if everyone had some of this kind of love??
- ✚ Discuss Javier Melloni SJ's statement: "The will of God is the divinization of every creature; and it was to bring about this divinization that the One who was in God and who was God, emptied himself in order to participate in our human condition and transform it from within." Can you agree with such a statement?

Gospel **Luke 22:14-23:56**

- ✚ Luke says that the marginalized or the neglected went with Jesus on the way to his death. These included the women, and Simon, and the good thief. What does this tell you about Jesus and those who went with him? What does it tell you about Luke?
- ✚ Pope Francis asks what happened to those people who in admiration for Jesus, cried "Hosanna" but shortly afterward shouted "Crucify him." What were they missing?

Let us ask for the grace to be amazed. A Christian life without amazement becomes drab and dreary. How can we talk about the joy of meeting Jesus, unless we are daily astonished and amazed by his love, which brings us forgiveness and the possibility of a new beginning? When faith no longer experiences amazement, it grows dull: it becomes blind to the wonders of grace; it can no longer taste the Bread of life and hear the Word; it can no longer perceive the beauty of our brothers and sisters and the gift of creation. It has no other course than to take refuge in legalisms, in clericalisms and in all these things that Jesus condemns in chapter 23 of the Gospel of Matthew.

– Pope Francis Asks for the Grace to Be Amazed, Palm Sunday, 28 March 2021

ROSEMARY NEEDED

Rosemary will be needed for Good Friday, 15 April – cut into strips about 10cm long. Please deliver to the sacristy.



FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT 14-26 APRIL

From 4:00am on Thursday, 14 April to 3:59am on Tuesday, 26 April all Opal transport travel will be free on trains, buses, ferries, light rail (trams) and metro in Sydney, the Illawarra, Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Hunter Valley regions – with the exception of the two Airport stations, private ferries and "point-to-point transport services" (taxis, hire cars, mini buses). So, plan yourself a trip or two ... or three – it's FREE!



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: ENROLMENTS CLOSE 9 MAY

FLOOD AND UKRAINE APPEALS – THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generosity over the last few weeks. After Easter, when the totals of your donations are finalized, the Pastoral and Finance Councils will decide how much from the Christmas Day collections and general Parish funds will be added to your donations.

VINNIES FLOOD APPEAL – TOTAL DONATED SO FAR IS: **\$9,560. THANK YOU!**

UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL – TOTAL DONATED SO FAR IS: **\$6,356. THANK YOU!**

For those unable to come to church, or those outside our Parish, please direct credit our Parish account, St Michael, BSB 066 711, Account Number 001788, and in the "Reference" indicate FLOODS or UKRAINE.

DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE: AFTER MASSES ON 23/24 APRIL

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

PROJECT COMPASSION

With your generosity, Caritas Australia has been able to help millions of vulnerable people around the world, through its annual Project Compassion appeal. Thanks to you, people like **Thandolwayo** in Zimbabwe, **Halima** in Bangladesh and **Shirley** in the Philippines have received the support that they need to face the challenges of today and build a better tomorrow, for all future generations.

We first met **Thandolwayo** in 2019. Now 14 years old, she continues to thrive, with enough accessible food and water to sustain her community, allowing her to concentrate on her studies. In Bangladesh, Halima's training in hygiene and sanitation has enabled her to help her community to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the Cox's Bazar refugee camp. While Shirley from Project Compassion 2020, is today on the healthcare frontline, providing care and leadership to the Manide Indigenous community, throughout successive waves of the pandemic.

Every day, more than 200 million children miss out on school, around 690 million people go hungry, and 2.2 billion people cannot access clean drinking water. In recent years, COVID-19 has also devastated vulnerable communities already living in poverty, with the health and economic impacts to reverberate for years to come.

Through your support for Project Compassion, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction – people like 12-year-old, Thandolwayo, who featured in Project Compassion 2019. With your generous support, Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas Hwange helped the community to install two solar-powered pumps and two 10,000 litre water storage tanks. Thandolwayo could then bathe every day, wash dishes and clothes regularly, with clean drinking water available for the entire community. She could also concentrate on her studies, instead of spending hours a day collecting water.

For **Halima**, a Rohingya refugee, living in the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh, the past year since she featured in Project Compassion 2021, has been particularly tough. She is caring for her two young children in the Cox's Bazar refugee camp, as well as for her mother who has a disability. Widowed at just 21, she fled escalating violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State in 2017, arriving at the camp with nothing. With your support, Caritas Australia, through its partner, Caritas Bangladesh, provided Halima with shelter and cooking equipment. She also participated in a water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) program, before becoming a community trainer herself – skills that became all the more invaluable when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Halima is earning an income from her training role which enables her family to be more independent. She's also helping the community to prevent the spread of COVID-19, as best they can in the crowded conditions with limited access to water, soap and masks.

Meanwhile, **Shirley**, a Manide indigenous health worker in the Philippines who featured in Project Compassion 2020, has been able to lead her community through the COVID-19 pandemic in the remote Camarines Norte province. The mother of four children under 17, she was struggling to support her family on her own, as her husband was unwell. She used to collect materials from the forests to make slippers out of dried banana bark "abaca" to sell. With your generous support, through Caritas Australia's local partner, the Socio Pastoral Action Centre Foundation of Daet, Inc. (SPACFI), Shirley trained to become an indigenous health worker and learnt to supplement her income by growing vegetables. The Sustainable Income-Generating Activity-Integrated Community Development program for the Manide also helped with her children's school fees, uniforms and supplies. Shirley has taken over her father's role as tribal chieftain and has been able to represent her community's rights and to tackle discrimination faced by indigenous minorities. However, her community has faced significant challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, including various lockdowns and curfews. "My life has been sad because I cannot visit my relatives and we cannot do our normal activities," Shirley says. "But the pandemic taught us to become strong, prayerful and it enhanced our families' relationships. My tribe and families have stayed in the forest and plant root crops to survive. In this way we were free from any transmission of COVID 19."

It's through the generous support of people like you, even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, that we are able to continue to help people like Thandolwayo, Halima and Shirley – support that is needed now more than ever. Over 1,200 schools and 1000 parishes in Australia supported Project Compassion over the past year alone. Thank you for your continued support for Project Compassion – past, present and future. Together we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *For All Future Generations*.

FIRST COMMUNION ... FINAL TWO CANDIDATES

Congratulations to the final two Candidates who will receive First Communion on Saturday, 9 April. These Candidates were to receive Communion last year. **Congratulations to COCO ELPHICK and TYLAH ELPHICK.**

Enrolments for the Sacraments of First Penance and First Communion for 2022 for parishioners **seven years** and older (**Year 2**) close on **13 September 2022**. Enrolment Forms are downloadable from our Parish website: www.thirroulcatholic.org.au ... click on Sacraments [in the left column], then **First Penance and Communion**.



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK – AND BEYOND

Monday	11 Apr	Monday of Holy Week	Isaiah 42:1-7	John 12:1-11
Tuesday	12 Apr	Tuesday of Holy Week	Isaiah 49:1-6	John 13:21-33
		19:00 Chrism Mass live stream: https://livestream.lumenchristi.org.au		
Wednesday	13 Apr	Wednesday of Holy Week	Isaiah 50:4-9	Matthew 26:14-25
Thursday	14 Apr	Holy Thursday 09:00 – come along to the church at 09:00 to help set up for Easter The Easter Triduum begins ... 19:30 Mass of the Lord's Supper 22:00 Night Prayer of the Church	Exodus 12:1-8,11-14 1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-15
Friday	15 Apr	Good Friday 10:30 Way of the Cross 15:00 Liturgy of the Passion	Isaiah 52:13–53:12 Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9	John 18:1–19:42
Saturday	16 Apr	Holy Saturday 19:00 Easter Vigil in the Night	[no 5:30pm Mass] Special Scripture Readings	
Sunday	17 Apr	08:00 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection		

EASTER LITURGY TIMES

Saturday	9 Apr	5:30pm	Palm (Passion) Sunday Mass with Blessing of Palms
Sunday	10 Apr	8:00am	Palm (Passion) Sunday Mass with Procession of Palms
Tuesday	12 Apr	7:00pm	Chrism Mass at St Francis Xavier Cathedral – <i>live streamed</i>
Thursday	14 Apr	7:30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper at Thirroul <i>[no morning Mass]</i>
Friday	15 Apr	10:30am	Way of the Cross at Thirroul
		3:00pm	Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord at Thirroul
Saturday	16 Apr	7:00pm	Easter Vigil at Thirroul [bring a bell] <i>[no 5:30pm Mass]</i>
Sunday	17 Apr	8:00am	Easter Sunday Mass at Thirroul [bring a bell]

THIS WEEK'S RECIPE ... EASY, FULFILLING TOMATO SOUP

1 can Heinz Big Red Tomato Soup; 1 can milk; 1 dessert spoon sugar; 1 onion finely chopped; celery finely chopped; freshly ground pepper; tasty cheese cut finely. Combine all ingredients, and heat slowly stirring regularly. Do not boil; simmer until piping hot. Add some sherry. Serve with a dollop of cream and parsley.

If you have a favourite recipe that you are willing to share, please deliver or email it to the Parish Office or hand it in at Mass one day.

SURFING SEASON 2021-2022

Since 1 July 2021, there have been **4,449** rescues [last week 4,420] performed by Surf Lifesavers in Australia, and **13,842** first aids [last week 13,721]. The surfing season finishes on Monday, 25 April 2022. Although the surf is currently 22°C, Environment NSW advises **DO NOT GO SWIMMING AT PRESENT** - due to extreme wet weather conditions and flooding events, and stormwater pollution. **Keep safe at the beach: download this app <https://beachsafe.org.au/apps> Stay safe and swim between the flags.**



THIS Sunday's Readings – on website

Palm (Passion) Sunday · Year C

1 st Reading	Isaiah 50:4-7
2 nd Reading	Philippians 2:6-11
Gospel	Luke 11:14 – 23:56

Parish of St Michael – Thirroul

One of the four Northern Illawarra Parishes
Moving forward as a Parish Family

Patrick Vaughan · Parish Priest

Andrew Granc ofm, Ken Cafe ofm · Assisting

Lauren Faulks · Parish Secretary

Tues, Wed 9am–3:30pm; Fri 9:30am–2:30pm

NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection

1 st Reading	Acts 10:34,37-43
2 nd Reading	Colossians 3:1-4
Gospel	Luke 24:1-12

www.thirroulcatholic.org.au

325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive

PO Box 44 · Thirroul 2515

4268 1910 4268 1976

thirroul@dow.org.au

Parish School of St Michael

4267 2560

SUNDAY

MASS TIMES

Saturday	5:30pm
Sunday	8:00am

Saturday Mass recorded

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday	_____
Tuesday	5:30pm
Wednesday	9:00am
Thursday	9:00am
Friday	9:00am

Anointing of the Sick 1st Friday