



Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
16/17 APRIL 2022
EASTER VIGIL AND SUNDAY ✦ YEAR C
HAPPY EASTER TO ALL

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Easter Joy

The Psalm for Easter Sunday says, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Above all days, Easter is a day of joy.

But what is joy? The answer St Francis gave to this question is famous. St Francis said to his Brother Leo, "When we come to St Mary of the Angels [our house], soaked by the rain and frozen by the cold, all soiled with mud and suffering from hunger, and we ring at the gate of the place and the brother porter comes and says angrily: 'Who are you?' And we say: 'We are two of your brothers.' And ... he does not open for us, but makes us stand outside in the snow and rain, cold and hungry, until night falls—then if we endure all those insults and cruel rebuffs patiently, ... oh, Brother Leo, ... perfect joy is there!"

Whatever we may think of St Francis' explanation of perfect joy, Easter reminds us that Francis' kind of joy is not the end of the story. At Easter, we celebrate the other kind of joy, the kind each of us longs for, when every tear is wiped away, and there is no sorrow anymore—no more suffering from weather or hunger or hurtful human beings. As we sing in the much-loved hymn by John Foley SJ, at Easter there is only "the cross and passion past; dark night is done, bright morning come at last!" When we ourselves rise to meet our risen Lord, in that bright morning we will hear him say, "come away, beloved. The winter is past; the rain is gone, and the flowers return to the earth" (Song of Songs 2:10-12). In the loving union of that encounter, all the heartbrokenness of our lives will be redeemed. That will be perfect joy. If all we had was the joy St Francis describes, our courage might fail us in this life. Easter celebrates now the perfect joy waiting for us when we and all creation are reborn with our resurrected Lord into the everlasting love of God. This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The Gospel today is from the Gospel of John. This is the gospel written by one who spoke of himself as the 'disciple whom Jesus loved' (John 21:24). It was he who was next to Jesus at the Last Supper (John 13:23) and who stood at the foot of the cross with Jesus' Mother (John 19:26). His is the Gospel of love for he in a special way came to understand the heart of Jesus.

Often throughout his gospel, John speaks of Jesus' hour of glory. It is important to remember that he is speaking of Calvary. The purpose of the Incarnation was so that we would see God. Through Jesus' words and actions, his smile, his prayer and his ready forgiveness, we came to see who God really is. Peter recalls aspects of this in the first reading of today's Mass.



Jesus' revelation of God reached its climax in his love--giving from the cross, symbolised for John in the piercing of Jesus' heart by a lance and the outpouring of blood and water (John 19:34). It was at that moment that God was fully revealed as a God of forgiveness and compassion, as a God who gives of himself in love.

What, then, is the importance of the resurrection? It is the proof that God is as Jesus believed him to be. It is the proof that though everyone else abandoned Jesus, God did not. It is the proof that good will ultimately triumph over evil, and that the wielders of unjust power do not have the final say. The resurrection of Jesus encourages us, as it encouraged Jesus' first followers, to follow the way he showed, even through apparent failure, for it proves that there is a justice that transcends death and the limited horizons within which we tend to live our lives.

Two questions come to mind. What convinced the first disciples that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead, and how might we share this same conviction?

The stone rolled back, and the cold and gaping emptiness of the tomb recalled by John in today's gospel is a sign that death could not hold Jesus in its clutches. But it does not, of itself, tell us what happened to him. The experiences which led to belief in the resurrection are expressed in what are commonly called the 'appearance stories'. These icon – like portraits in which the Evangelists express the theological significance of the resurrection touch on the many ways in which Jesus' early followers experienced the presence of the living and glorified Christ in their lives.

It is not enough just to contemplate Jesus crucified. We must experience him for ourselves as he continues the mission of love given him by God. Like Thomas, we will do this only when we listen to him calling us to reach out and touch his wounds (John 20:27). For whenever anyone is hungry or thirsty or naked or sick or imprisoned, the heart of Christ is pierced. This was the experience of the first generation of Christians, and it has been the experience of hosts of Christians since. It is when we allow him to live in us (Galatians 2:20), and to reach out to the oppressed through us, that we will experience him alive among us, and with Thomas, we will find ourselves saying in sacred awe: 'My Lord and my God'. Today's feast gives us hope for those we love who have died. It also gives us hope for ourselves. As Paul says in the Second Reading: 'When Christ is revealed --- and he is your life --- you too will be revealed in all your glory with him'. There were those in Jesus' day whose only reason for hope was Jesus himself and the way he mirrored God's love to them. May all of us, especially those who are without hope this Easter, find ourselves looking at the love of Jesus' disciples and crying out in wonder: 'Jesus is risen! Praise be to God!'

QUESTIONS ABOUT EASTER SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading Acts 10:34a, 37-43

- ✚ What is the significance of the word “witness,” in the sentence, “We are witnesses of all that he did”? Peter uses it both as a noun (meaning “observer”) and a verb (meaning “corroborate,” “testify”). It is something you can be (how are you a witness?) and do (what is your action to witness to truth?).
- ✚ Should we witness with more than words? Peter bore witness in a different manner after the Resurrection than he did before Christ died. To what do you attribute this? Was he consumed by love for Christ and his Gospel? Could the source of strength for Peter be the same source for us?

Second Reading Colossians 3:1-4

- ✚ “Brothers and sisters: If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above.” (See later in Colossians 3 for Paul’s meaning of “above”). He says that we should put on heartfelt compassion. What does compassion look like in our immediate world and in the larger one? What cries of the poor “deeply move” you? Dying children in Ukraine? People suffering from effects of global warming, unhoused people and starvation? What do you make of Pope Francis’ statement: “*We incarnate the duty of hearing the cry of the poor when we are deeply moved by the suffering of others.*” – *Evangelii Gaudium* 193
- ✚ One of St Paul’s last directives was to let the peace of Christ control our hearts. How do you do that when you’re feeling negative, cynical, despondent, or paralyzed with fear? Where do you find help? What happened to the desolate women when they found the tomb empty?

Gospel John 20:1-9

- ✚ The same women who came to anoint his body in the morning had been with Jesus when he died. Were they deterred from their task by fear? Compare and contrast their behaviour with some of Jesus’ other disciples. Think about events like the Ukrainian war and protests against injustice. Is President Zelenskyy stopped by fear? Were people like John Lewis, Gandhi, Doctors without Borders, and Dorothy Day? Where is your courage on a scale of 1 to 10? Will it look different on every person and in every situation?
- ✚ What is it that allowed John to “see and believe,” to have this kind of clarity? Does love give you knowledge about a person, or insights into their behaviour? In John, Jesus said “Whoever loves me, I will love them and reveal myself to them” (John 14:21). Is there a connection between Jesus’ statement and John’s “seeing and believing”?

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

Confirmation, one of the three Sacraments of Initiation, is celebrated in our Diocese for Year 6 students or older. Details of Confirmation this year, including an Enrolment Form, are on our Parish website: thirroulcatholic.org.au Click on **Sacraments** (on the left hand side), then on **Confirmation**. Enrolments close on **Monday, 9 May**.

FLOOD AND UKRAINE APPEALS – THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generosity over the last month. 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.

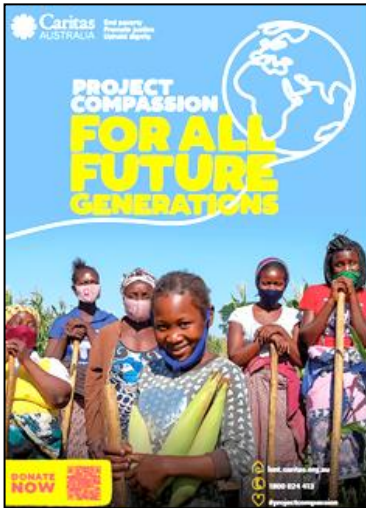
VINNIES FLOOD APPEAL – TOTAL DONATED SO FAR IS: \$9,660. THANK YOU!

UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL – TOTAL DONATED SO FAR IS: \$6,531. 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

AED = Automated external defibrillator. An AED may save your life during cardiac arrest. If you’ve ever watched a TV medical drama, chances are you’ve seen someone shocked back to life by a doctor who yells, “Clear” before delivering a jolt of electricity to the person’s chest to get the heart beating again. The machine being used is called a defibrillator, and its use isn’t limited to a hospital setting. Devices called automated external defibrillators (AEDs) can be used at home and in schools and are also found in a number of public places. AEDs are used to revive someone from sudden cardiac arrest. This usually occurs when a disruption in the heart’s electrical activity causes a dangerously fast heartbeat or a fast and irregular heartbeat. **Anyone can use an AED** – thanks to Thirroul Surf Lifesaving Club for providing training **next weekend** as to how to use an AED – no previous experience needed.

**Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia!**

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**.

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2022 Lenten appeal.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.

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

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

O Lord, our God, look down with mercy on the Ukrainian people. Protect and save them from the unjust aggressors who seek to subdue them. Grant them steadfast trust in your mercy and protection.

O Mother of God, who gave us Jesus, your Son, intercede for the Ukrainian people, who run to the shelter of your mercy in their times of need.

O Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Grant peace and protection to the people of Ukraine. Give them strength and courage to defend what is good, right and holy. Keep them safe from harm and provide for all their needs, both temporal and spiritual.

Hear our prayers, O Lord, and deliver us from distress, for you are merciful and compassionate, and you love humankind. To you we give glory: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FIFTY DAYS OF EASTER

Lent lasted forty days – not including the Sundays. Easter lasts **fifty days**, and, of course, does include the Sundays, from sundown on Easter Saturday until the Day of Pentecost! Every Sunday of the year is “Easter”. As the sacrament of new life, baptism is an Easter theme; as baptized Christians we take time during Easter to ponder the meaning of membership in Christ’s body, the Church. We look at events in the Church’s life, the sacraments, the accounts of resurrection and the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus to discover their meaning and what they tell us about how we as a community are to live the life of the Risen Lord. Like the two who walked the Emmaus road with Jesus, we can know Christ in the sharing of the word and in the breaking of bread at the Eucharist. The Great Fifty Days of Easter are the time when those who have reaffirmed their baptismal vows or have been baptized at the Easter Vigil reflect on the meaning of their baptism. Through the lectionary texts they explore the “mysteries” of their faith. The early Church called this period of the process *mystagogia*. The whole Church enters into this period of uncovering anew the mysteries of faith expressed in sacrament, word, and life lived for others.

TECHNOLOGY SKILLS WORKSHOPS

CatholicCare and the Being Connected network are teaming up to facilitate small group sessions aimed at assisting older Australians with improving their digital skills and knowledge. Sessions will be held at Wollongong Golf Club on Monday, 2 May and Monday, 9 May from 10am–12pm. Spaces are very limited. This is a great opportunity to learn new skills and connect with others. Morning tea will be provided, and you are encouraged to stay, purchase lunch from the club and continue the conversation. For more information: Jane Hollier, Parish and Community Liaison Officer ☎ **0417 018 152** or janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au

ANZAC DAY SERVICES AND MASS

ANZAC Day is on Monday, 25 April. There are special **dawn services** at **Thirroul, Austinmer and Coledale Cenotaphs** – they are at **06:00 [6am]** and are followed by breakfast at Club Thirroul or the Coledale RSL Club. The special **ANZAC Day Mass** will be held at **08:30** at our Parish Church and will include the special ANZAC Day prayers and memorial. All are welcome.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK – AND BEYOND

Monday	18 Apr	Monday within the Octave of Easter	Acts 2:14,22-33	Matthew 28:8-15
Tuesday	19 Apr	Tuesday within the Octave of Easter	Acts 2:36-41	John 20:11-18
Wednesday	20 Apr	Wednesday within the Octave of Easter	Acts 3:1-10	Luke 24:13-35
Thursday	21 Apr	Thursday within the Octave of Easter	Acts 3:11-26	Luke 24:35-48
Friday	22 Apr	Friday within the Octave of Easter	Acts 4:1-12	John 21:1-14
Saturday	23 Apr	Saturday within the Octave of Easter	Acts 4:13-21	Mark 16:9-15

After 5:30pm Mass – Defibrillator Update

Sunday 24 Apr Second Sunday of Easter ... *Scripture Readers are listed below*

After 8:00am Mass – Defibrillator Update

Monday 25 Apr ANZAC Day

06:00 Dawn Services at Thirroul, Austinmer and Coledale

08:30 ANZAC Day Mass and ANZAC Day Service [televised]

THIS WEEK'S RECIPE ... HOT CROSS BUNS ... FOR ALL OF EASTER

1 cup (250ml) milk; 2 tablespoons honey; 2 tablespoons grapeseed or vegetable oil; 60 grams butter, chopped; 1 cup (250ml) apple or pear juice, at room temperature; 7 grams sachet dry yeast; 1 egg; 1 tablespoon finely grated orange rind; 1/3 cup (55g) dried currants; 1/3 cup (55g) sultanas; 5 1/3 cups (800g) bread flour [Bread flour is higher in gluten than plain flour, so produces a better-textured bun. Bread flour goes under various names: "strong", "baker's" or "bread"]; 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon; 1 teaspoon salt. FLOUR PASTE: 1/2 cup (75g) plain flour; 1 tablespoon caster (superfine) sugar; 1/3 cup (80ml) cold water, approximately. GLAZE: 1 tablespoon caster sugar; 1 teaspoon powdered gelatine; 1 tablespoon water. **METHOD:** Bring milk to the boil in a small saucepan; remove from heat. Add honey, oil and butter; stir until combined. Whisk juice and yeast in a large bowl until dissolved. Add egg and rind, then currants and sultanas. Add combined flour, cinnamon and salt, then milk mixture; using your hand, mix together until combined. Cover with plastic wrap; stand in a warm place for 30 minutes or until the dough doubles in size. Lightly knead dough on a lightly oiled or floured surface for 10 seconds. Return to bowl, cover; stand in a warm place for 1 hour or until risen by half. Divide the dough into 16 pieces (each a little over 90g; shape into balls. Place in a large square cake pan or baking dish lined with baking paper or greased, in four rows of four. Cover; stand in a warm place for 30 minutes or until risen by half. Preheat oven to 200°C. Make flour paste: Combine flour and sugar in a small bowl. Gradually mix in enough water to make a smooth paste. Place flour paste mixture into a small piping bag fitted with a small plain tube. Pipe crosses onto the buns. Bake buns for 25 minutes or until buns are browned and sound hollow when tapped. Cool in pan. Make glaze: combine ingredients in a small saucepan; stir over low heat, without boiling, until sugar and gelatine dissolve. Transfer buns to a wire rack; brush tops with glaze.

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 **4,470** rescues [last week 4,449] performed by Surf Lifesavers in Australia, and **13,928** first aids [last week 13,842]. The surfing season finishes on Monday, 25 April 2022. *Although the surf is currently 22°C, check with Environment NSW for advice about swimming given all the rain we have had and the possible stormwater pollution. Rip currents are the number one hazard on Australia's coastline. Rip currents are a significant contributor to coastal drowning deaths and account for more deaths per year than sharks, floods and cyclones combined. 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

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

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

2nd Sunday of Easter - Year C
 1st Reading Acts 5:12-16
 2nd Reading Revelation 1:9-13,17-19
 Gospel John 20:19-31

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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 9:30am
 Anointing of the Sick 1st Friday