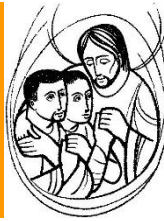




Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN

21 / 22 MAY 2022

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER + YEAR C

CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Mindless Meddlesome Official Busybodies

The first reading reports that some Judaeen people came to the Christians at Antioch to tell them they could not be saved unless they were circumcised. The Judaeans were worried that the traditional practices were being altered by the church at Antioch, and they were exercising themselves on behalf of the tradition.

But who are these people? Who empowered them to speak for the Lord? How do they know what the Lord requires for salvation? And what business is it of theirs what the Christians in Antioch are doing? They themselves live and worship in Judea.

To be officious is to push your services on people who neither want nor need them. To be a busybody is to pry into the affairs of other people and try to meddle in them. These people are officious busybodies for the Lord, aren't they?

And they do seem to be mindless in their meddling, don't they? Here is their idea of God. God is the kind of Deity who will not let anybody into heaven who is not circumcised. Spell their thought out this way, and it looks blasphemous, doesn't it? What kind of goodness or love would there be in such a God? In fact, these officious busybody defenders of the Mosaic tradition are not being true to the Mosaic tradition either. That tradition mandated circumcision for males as a ritual of initiation into the Jewish people. It said nothing about criteria of salvation.

The apostles rebuke those Judaeans by telling them what the decision of the Holy Spirit is: circumcision is not required for salvation. And this response is perfect. The decision about what is required for salvation is the Lord's. And the mindless meddlers were actually opposed to the mind of the Lord. So, people who push their way forward to rebuke the Christian practices of others need to be careful how they speak for God and what kind of God they are witnessing to by what they say. Who wants to be a mindless meddlesome officious busybody for the Lord?

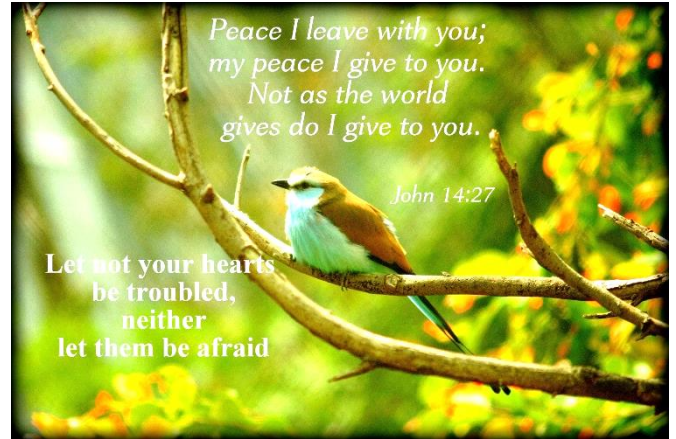
The days in which the Risen Lord has shown himself to his disciples, leading them to full faith in him, are coming to an end – 'I am going away, and shall return'. The disciples have come to recognise, that faith in what God has done for the world in Christ brings a daunting task: 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you'; 'By this love you have for one another everyone will know that you are my disciples'.

That same task has been passed on to the Church of every age; but today's gospel reading brings encouragement. The first disciples became aware of the extraordinary resources that had been given to them, as they took up their task.

'Keeping the word' of the Saviour had a practical meaning for them: putting into practice what the teaching and example of Jesus asked of them. But, whatever age they live in, the disciples of the Risen Lord do not take up this task alone. The Father and the Son 'make their home' in them. Have we really taken to heart all that these words we have heard so often really mean? We are invited to share the humble stories of our lives with these almighty, constant and merciful companions. As they took up their mission, the first disciples experienced the power of the Word of God. If we become familiar with the great story of the Scriptures, we shall find them a constant source of inspiration and strength – nourishment for our faith in every circumstance. But the greatest gift of all is the Holy Spirit, the full expression of the love and joy that unites the Father and Son dwelling in us. The Spirit of Christ living in us will 'teach' us the ways of God, 'reminding' us of all that the Saviour has given to the world. No matter how unworthy we may feel, we are invited to enter into the love of the Father, Son and Spirit 'poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us' (Romans 5), inviting us to journey confidently towards the final Kingdom, where they will be our eternal joy.

Last week, our reading from the Book of Revelation spoke of the first Christians' vision of the Church brought into existence by the Saviour's Paschal Mystery, 'the new Jerusalem, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband'. Today's reading, a continuation of the same chapter, reminds us that the Church is the fulfilment of all the hopes of Israel – something we have tended to neglect in our Catholic awareness: twelve tribes, twelve gates, twelve apostles; filled with 'the radiant glory of God and the Lamb'.

But today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles also reminds us that, with all its blessings and resources, the Church will still face practical problems in the carrying out of its mission – problems that must be patiently resolved, in a fraternal spirit open to the guidance that is promised from on high.



QUESTIONS ABOUT EASTER SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

- ✚ Is there any growth without tension? Would the Church be better off today if there was never dissension and debate? Which is a sign of life: Paul and Barnabas going to Jerusalem to work out the Judean people's objections, on the one hand, or the two "sides" staying as far away from each other as possible on the other?
- ✚ Was there speaking and listening going on in the first reading? Discuss the value both of listening and of representing your own viewpoint when coming together to work out a problem. How are your listening skills? Do you try to see the other person's point of view?

Second Reading Revelation 1:10-14, 22-23

- ✚ What kind of vision are we reading about in the Second Reading? Is it literal? Do the "names of the twelve tribes" and the "names of the twelve apostles" on the gates and stones of the city (Revelations 21:13) close the chasm between the Jewish people of the Old Testament and the New Testament Christians?
- ✚ In this reading John talks about the "Lamb," present with the twelve apostles. Why is Christ called the Lamb (which we repeat in every Mass: "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world ...")? Was he a sacrificial victim?

Gospel John 14:23-29

- ✚ "Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." What gift did Jesus leave us to prevent the Church from being closed in on itself and acting in fear all the time?
- ✚ "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you." According to Pope Francis, how do we keep our faith from becoming "static," to make sure it is always "growing"?

He teaches us: he teaches us the mystery of faith, he teaches us to enter into the mystery, to understand the mystery a bit more. He teaches us Jesus' doctrine ... so that the doctrine grows, but always in the same direction: it grows in comprehension. ... Faith is not something static; doctrine is not something static, it grows. It grows like trees grow, always the same, but bigger, with fruit, but always the same, in the same direction. And the Holy Spirit prevents doctrinal error: he prevents it remaining stuck there, without growing in us. ... He will make the doctrine of the Lord grow in us until it reaches maturity.

– Pope Francis, *The Spirit Teaches Us Everything*, 11 May 2020

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

FLOOD AND UKRAINE APPEALS – THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generosity over the last month. Totals *so far* ... as donations keep coming in:

VINNIES FLOOD APPEAL – TOTAL TO BE DONATED IS: **\$13,550. THANK YOU!**

UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL – TOTAL TO BE DONATED IS: **\$10,370. THANK YOU!**

} TOTAL \$23,920

If you still wish to make a donation: please direct credit our Parish account, St Michael, BSB 066 711, Account Number 001788, and in the "Reference" indicate **FLOODS** or **UKRAINE**. ALL DONATIONS WELCOME!

SCRIPTURE TEACHERS – SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – NEEDED

For Catholics in the State Primary Schools of Scarborough, Coledale, Austinmer and Thirroul, each week, for **thirty minutes**, parishioners volunteer to teach or to assist with the SRE (Special Religious Education) curriculum. Books and lessons are provided. At the moment, for **Term 3 this year**, our Parish is in **urgent need of two or three parishioners** to volunteer for **Term 3** as the usual volunteers will be away for the term. You can volunteer as a **teacher** or as an **assistant**. Here is where the needs are: **Scarborough** on **Tuesdays, 2pm to 2:30pm for four students**. **Thirroul** on **Fridays, 9:15am to 9:45am and 10am to 10:30am**. If you can help out – just for Term 3 – please contact the **Parish Office** as soon as possible to get ready for Term 3, 18 July to 23 September 2022.

MORNING TEA AFTER SUNDAY MORNING MASSES

As most Covid health restrictions have now been lifted, **Morning Teas** of a Sunday morning can be resumed. If you would be available to go on the roster – say once every three months – to prepare and serve morning tea of a Sunday morning after Mass, please contact **Judy Bull, Roster Coordinator** ☎ 4267 2417, or the **Parish Office** ☎ 4268 1910. The aim is to resume morning teas from **Sunday, 7 August** – just about the time when **Krista Spiers** would have turned fifty. Morning Tea on that day will be in memory of **Krista**. **Please help** – even it is every pancake day.



FIVE BIBLICAL "SECRETS" TO PEACE

Pray about everything; entertain beauty; accept God's gift of peace; conquer your fear; emulate the saints.

BAPTISMS LAST WEEKEND

WELCOME to those baptised in our Parish last weekend: **CAMPBELL BRYCE** on Saturday evening; on Sunday morning during Mass, **BENTLEY OVINGTON** and **BLAKE JONES**, and later, **DELILAH COOPER**. Thank you to their parents, godparents, families and friends for bringing the children to our Parish community for Baptism.



Baptism is the first Sacrament of Christian Initiation. If you would like Baptism for your infant daughter or son – age younger than 7 – then you need to contact the Parish Office to obtain the Enrolment Form and other materials, and to book a time for the Baptism. Baptisms are held on the **third weekend** of the month, during either the 5:30pm Saturday Mass or the 8:00am Sunday Mass. At least one parent will need to attend a Baptism Preparation Meeting which is usually held on the last Thursdays of each month at 7:15pm in the presbytery. The next Baptisms to be held in our Parish will be on either Saturday or Sunday, 18/19 June 2022.

A PRAYER FOR THE EARTH – by Pope Francis – LAUDATO SI' WEEK

All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen.

THIRROUL SEASIDE FESTIVAL 2022 – 3, 4 AND SUNDAY, 5 JUNE



The annual festival is a celebration of the arts and seaside activities that reflect our community interests and way of life.

Friday, 3 June – Official Opening, Thirroul District Community Centre

6:30pm Sponsors' Preview

7:00pm Doors open

7:30pm Official Opening and presentation of prizes

The exhibition is open all weekend (gold coin entry). All art works are for sale so enjoy a visual feast of art, sculpture and photography. Persons under 18 years of age are not admitted on the opening night.

Saturday, 4 June – Checkout the Art Exhibition prize winners and visit the artist stalls at the Thirroul District Community Centre.

Sunday, 5 June

Enjoy our magnificent seaside park where there is a full day of entertainment, commencing with the **Sunday Lions Club BBQ breakfast 8am**, at the south car park at Thirroul Beach.

Remember to check out the Art Exhibition Prize winners at the Thirroul District Community Centre, from 10am.

CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL THIS WEEK – “Bring hope to Neela”

This weekend, you have the opportunity to partner with the Church in **Ethiopia** to bring hope to the community of Emdibir. Neela [*not her real name*] worries deeply for her children, especially her baby. She starts each day unsure of how she will provide for her family, a reality that, alarmingly, is not hers alone. With over 70% of households in Emdibir facing similar challenges, Fr Habte and the Church are desperate to come alongside their community and make a lasting difference for families like Neela's. In collaboration with the local community, Fr Habte has a vision of establishing a goat rearing centre that will provide nourishing milk for families in most need. But this project is only possible with the partnership and support of people like you. **Thank you for your generosity.**

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Monday	23 May	Monday of the 6 th Week of Easter	Acts 16:11-15	John 15:26-16:4	
Tuesday	24 May	OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS	Genesis 3:9-15	Ephesians 3:14-19	Luke 8:19-21
Wednesday	25 May	Wednesday of the 6 th Week of Easter	Acts 17:15,22-18:1	John 16:12-15	
Thursday	19 May	Saint Philip Neri, priest	Acts 18:1-8	John 15:9-11	
Friday	20 May	Friday of the 6 th Week of Easter	Acts 15:22-31	John 15:12-17	
Saturday	21 May	Saturday of the 6 th Week of Easter	Acts 16:1-10	John 15:18-21	
Sunday	22 May	ASCENSION OF THE LORD ... Scripture Readings are listed below			

THIS WEEK'S RECIPE ... Mint and Pistachio Chocolate Fridge Cake

Makes 24 bar. 100g mint-flavoured dark chocolate, roughly chopped into 3cm pieces; 200g dark chocolate (70% cocoa solids), roughly chopped into 3cm pieces; 120g unsalted butter, cut into 2cm cubes; 100g golden syrup; ¼tsp salt; 100g sultanas or raisins, soaked in 2tbsp rum for 30 minutes; 170g digestive biscuits, roughly broken into 2cm pieces; 100g pistachios, copped.

Line a 28 x 18cm baking tray or glass dish with parchment/baking paper and set aside. Put both chocolates, the butter, golden syrup and salt into a large heatproof bowl, set over a saucepan of gently simmering water (taking care that the base of the bowl is not touching the surface of the water). Heat for 2-3 minutes, stirring often, until completely melted and combined. Add the sultanas and rum, the biscuits, and three-quarters of the pistachios (try adding the larger bits here, leaving the more powdery bits to finish) to the chocolate. Using a spatula, combine everything together until the biscuits and nuts are completely coated in chocolate. Transfer to the prepared tray, smoothing the top with spatula so that it is flat and even, then sprinkle the remaining pistachios on top. Set aside for 10 minutes to cool, then wrap tightly with cling film. Refrigerate for 2-3 hours, until completely set. Cut into bars – you should get 24. If not serving straight away, score them in an airtight container and serve fridge-cold.

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

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO BOB SCOTT

Congratulations and thank you to **Bob Scott** for his many, many years of dedicated and practical service to our Parish and to our Parish School. Last Saturday night at Mass, then at dinner at Club Thirroul, and again at Sunday morning Mass, Bob was presented with a framed Certificate acknowledging his generosity and service. The Parish also provided Bob with some wines to share with his wife, Joan – who was presented with some flowers.



LAUDATO SI' WEEK 16-24 MAY

Laudato Si' Week, a celebration of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* and a call to action for Catholics around the world, is being celebrated 16-24 May 2022. In the first chapter of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis names the pain we have wrought on our planet: pollution, climate change, a throwaway culture, loss of biodiversity, global inequality, and the issue of water. In response to this devastation, he calls us to integrate personal and social responsibility, spirituality and science, economics, and education. How might we truly listen to the cry of the earth, the cry of our land? These cries might arise from the cacophony of birds in our backyards, the scarred earth yielding minerals for our mobile phones, or choked rubbish receptacles overflowing with poisoned packaging.

THIS Sunday's Readings – on website

6th Sunday of Easter • Year C

1 st Reading	Acts 15:1-2,22-29
2 nd Reading	Revelation 21:10-14,22-23
Gospel	John 14:23-29

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

ASCENSION OF THE LORD • Year C

1 st Reading	Acts 1:1-11
2 nd Reading	Ephesians 1:17-23
Gospel	Luke 24:46-53

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Parish School of St Michael

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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