



Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN

11/12 JUNE 2022

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY + YEAR C

ORDINARY TIME HAS RESUMED

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

The Truth

When Jesus was standing before Pilate (John 18:37-38), Pilate asked Jesus, with world-weary sophistication, "What is truth?" But Pilate left without waiting for an answer. Elsewhere in the Gospel, Jesus actually gave this question its rightful answer (John 14:6): "I am the Truth," he told his apostles.

In the gospel reading for this Sunday, Jesus explains how we ourselves come to the Truth. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ, and Christ is the Truth. So, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. And he guides Christ's people to all truth.

When a person opens to Christ, who is the Truth, then the Spirit of Christ comes to dwell in that person. And the indwelling Spirit brings the gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom; understanding; right judgment (counsel); knowledge; courage; reverence; awe and wonder. A person who loves Christ and has the Spirit of Christ within, knows the Lord. And in the light of that knowledge, that person can also see a lot of things that they would have been blind to before they came to love the Lord. The knowledge of the Lord puts a lot of things into perspective.

With that perspective, that person will understand something of the great arc of creation which begins from the Lord and returns to the Lord, and they will see the goodness of the Lord operative in it. And so, they will be able to discern the great good things in life from the small ones. And this is wisdom.

Finally, with these gifts of knowledge, understanding and wisdom, they will also have insight into the means for finding the great good things of the Lord. This insight is the gift of right judgment – counsel. So, because that person has opened to the Spirit of Christ and knows the Lord, they have these gifts of the Spirit: wisdom; understanding; right judgment; and knowledge.

But you might think, how does any of this help me know the truth about what to do with this day's troubles? How should I deal with my teenage son or daughter? What shall I do when I am sorrowful over the state of the Church, politics, climate change, social justice ...? What is the right answer to these questions? Where does the truth about these things lie? Well, if you don't know where the truth lies and the Spirit of Truth is within you, then you can just ask the Spirit. And then, the Spirit of the Lord, who is truth, will lead you to all truth, as the Lord says.

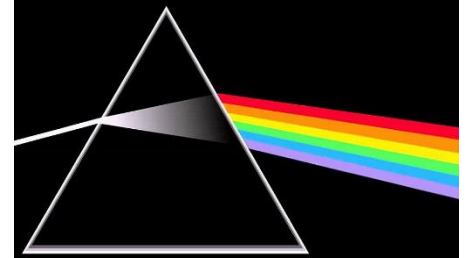
Pilate should have stayed for the answer to his question.

The Easter season – the principal festival of the Church's year – has ended. The celebrations of the Sundays immediately following are like an afterglow. Today the liturgy invites us to renew our faith in the Trinity of Persons made know to us in what God has done for the world in Jesus Christ.

As Jesus awakened the beginnings of faith in his disciples, filling them with wonder at the mysterious depths they recognised in him, he directed their faith beyond himself, to the One with whom he was in continual communion – their prayer and their trust, he told them, should be addressed to their 'Father in heaven'. Later, as the full impact of what had happened in the world's first Easter galvanised them into action, and they found new strength on the day of Pentecost, they remembered that Jesus had promised them the help of the his own Spirit to face what lay ahead of them. Faith in their Risen Lord gave the themes of the Old Testament a new depth of meaning for them.

The first reading from Proverbs recalls one of these themes. For the Old Testament, the 'wisdom' of God, like the 'word' of God' was understood as God's self-expression in creation and the shaping of human affairs. Now, as his disciples recognised the ultimate identity of their Risen Lord, they knew him as the 'Word' of the Father and the 'wisdom' of God, through whom 'all things came into being'. For the Old Testament, the 'spirit of God' was another self-expression of God in creation. God's 'spirit' worked interiorly – giving the breath of life, and bringing the call of God to human hearts. After the Resurrection, as today's reading from St Paul to the Romans shows, the disciples were vividly aware of the Holy Spirit as a divine agent carrying forward the work of Christ. And they remembered Jesus speaking of the Spirit as Someone other than himself, sharing as he does in the life of the Father. And in the second reading from Paul to the Romans, what Jesus has achieved for the world is clearly expressed as a work of the Father, Son and Spirit together – the 'Lord Jesus Christ' gives us God's 'grace', an entitlement to our sharing in the divine 'glory'; and at the same time the Spirit brings us the life-giving power expressed in the love the Father has shown us through the life, death and resurrection of his Son.

The ultimate mystery of God's life is – not surprisingly – far beyond our complete comprehension. It would be tragic, however, if it remained for us no more than a daunting abstraction. Christian faith should bring us the joy of recognising that - in the overflowing tumult of the divine life that we call the BLESSED TRINITY – we find three friends who invite us to share in their common life as the ONE TRUE GOD. Today's gospel from John expresses this sharing in simple terms, and it brings us this astounding invitation: the Spirit 'will lead us to the complete truth', since the Spirit shares all with the Son, who in turn shares in 'everything the Father has'.



QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading Proverbs 8:22-31

- Who is talking when the first reading says, "Then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world"? Is there a similarity between this ancient reading and the opening of John's Gospel, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God ..."?
- This reading says in God's voice, "delighting in the children of Adam." Did God create the human race with some wisdom? What responsibility does the human race have to use the gift of wisdom to keep the earth "from transgressing God's commands" in the climate crisis?

Second Reading Romans 5:1-5

- "The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit." If God's love is the source, what has been poured into your own heart? Can you sense the presence of the Holy Spirit there?
- Why would God include us intimately in the divine love of the Trinity? Does that give reason to hope? What would the world look like without hope?

Gospel John 16:12-15

- Does the Spirit change your understanding of revelation? What is the source of your own sympathies? Can understanding of divine love be exhausted? Have you ever reached a place where "you could not bear" more knowledge of love?
- Jesus said to his disciples: "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when the Spirit comes, the Spirit of truth will guide you to all truth." According to Pope Francis, what is the first advice the Holy Spirit gives us?



The first advice offered by the Holy Spirit is, "Live in the present." The present, not the past or the future. The Paraclete affirms the primacy of today, against the temptation to let ourselves be paralysed by rancour or memories of the past, or by uncertainty or fear about the future. The Spirit reminds us of the grace of the present moment. There is no better time for us: now, here and now, is the one and only time to do good, to make our life a gift. Let us live in the present. – Pope Francis, *Pentecost Homily*, 23 May 2021

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: **\$13,950. THANK YOU!**

UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL – TOTAL TO BE DONATED IS: **\$11,120. THANK YOU!**

} TOTAL \$25,070

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!

MORNING TEA AFTER SUNDAY MORNING MASSES RESUMES ON 7 AUGUST

As most Covid health restrictions have now been lifted, and as we have a minimal number of volunteers – THANK YOU! – Morning Teas of a Sunday morning will be resumed, as from 7 August. KRISTA SPIERS who died on 24 April inspired a return to Sunday morning teas. Krista would have turned 50 on Saturday, 8 August, so the first "Return of the Morning Teas" will be dedicated to Krista. Morning Teas, for the present will resume on 7 August and will be held on the first and third Sundays of each month (except January). 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. Thank you for your generosity.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The Catholic Women's League will be meeting in the church on Tuesday, 14 June, at 11:00am. Pat Hazell will be demonstrating the art of flower arrangement. Pat has been responsible for preparing the main flowers around the Cross all during Easter. ALL welcome to join us!



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2022

Confirmation is the second Sacrament of Initiation. There are 26 Candidates for Confirmation this year. Their second "class" in preparation for the Sacrament will be on this Tuesday. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated by Bishop Brian at 7:00pm on Tuesday, 21 June. Please keep these young parishioners in your prayers.



DRILLS AND GUNS: Matilda, 9, doesn't miss her US school

Beep! Beep! Beep! The lockdown bell went off. We raced under our tables and stayed there, crouching in the darkness of the room.

We were all shaking, and some were crying softly. Finally, several minutes later, it was over. The lights were turned back on, and we were all asking two questions: was that a real lockdown? Was there really a gunman at our school?

We are not even halfway through 2022, but there have already been more than 17,000 deaths caused by guns in America. In Australia, there are more than 200 guns deaths most years.

That's still 200 lives too many, but you can see that America has a big problem with guns. As a result, kids in America have to do regular active shooter drills, and it's far more likely that it's not a drill, but there is actually a real shooter.

Australia in general is viewed as a safe, happy and friendly country, and it is! Recent studies show that Australia is the 18th safest country in the world. There are 193 countries in the world – so 18th is pretty good.

This keeps our country safe – not only for the people, but also for our fragile flora and fauna that may be harmed by foreign bugs or disease.

Australia is one of my favourite places in the world. And our home, Stanwell Park, is a wonderful safe place to call home. It is beautiful, with the escarpment behind us and the Pacific Ocean just over there. There are great opportunities and, most importantly, it is safe.

For example, here you don't have to worry about your friend having a gun in their house as a decoration. In America, you would.

When we lived in the US, my parents would always worry about play dates because they didn't know if there was a gun at my friend's house. This meant that I wouldn't be able to go to my friend's house for a play date because it might not be safe.

In Australia, you can go to the shops or a sporting event and know that it will be fairly safe. In America, there's a high chance that there will be someone with a gun. Our suburb is beautiful and safe - it is a great place to call home.

But there is one thing that is very dangerous about our home here in Stanwell Park. And it happened to my brother in our first week here at Stanwell Park Public School.

The scene of the crime was outside the classroom and the perpetrator was no bigger than my arm. I was walking out of the classroom and my brother raced up to me. He was sobbing as he told me that his lunch box was missing.

We looked everywhere for it and eventually found it on the other side of the shed. The lunchbox had been ripped open and it had two big holes in it. My brother and I immediately knew that the perpetrator was a mean cockatoo.

So, you can see, in our safe Stanwell Park we don't have to worry about the guns, just the dangerous cockatoos.

Matilda McCullough, 9, is now in Year 4 at Stanwell Park Primary School after starting school in the US. She is a dual Australian-American citizen whose family relocated to Australia last July. One of the reasons for their move was to avoid the regular gun violence in America.

– *Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 May 2022

KINDERGARTEN 2023 ENROLMENTS FOR OUR PARISH SCHOOL NOW OPEN

Enrolments are accepted all year round, but the best time to enrol your child at St Michael's is at the beginning of the year – the year **before** your child is due to commence school. Contact the school office by phone [4267 2560] or in person to put your child's name on the enrolment list and you will be given/sent an enrolment package. Kindergarten enrolments are distributed and completed during Term 1, then enrolment interviews are usually held in May. Contact the school office as soon as possible so you and your child can come in and meet with the principal, Mrs Belinda Hughes. Written offers of placement will follow at the end of Term 2 (usually in June). <https://www.smtow.catholic.edu.au/parents/enrolment-information/>

COULD YOU PROVIDE A FOSTER HOME?

CatholicCare urgently needs foster carers to provide love, care, and support to help children thrive and reach their full potential. Carers receive comprehensive support from the Fostering Futures team to ensure they have a full range of resources and networks to nurture their forever home. Our team have over 30 years' experience helping carers give vulnerable children a loving home and a brighter future. We are **urgently** seeking a placement for Katie* (name has been changed for privacy) aged 13 years. Katie enjoys cooking, bike riding, playing board games, reading and loves animals. She needs a loving and caring home and will thrive with carers who have patience and time to support her to manage emotions, build connections with others and achieve a positive future. If you would like to learn more about becoming a carer with CatholicCare, please call 0418 783 956 or email fosteringfutures@catholiccarer.dow.org.au

menALIVE Growing Good Men: Father & Teenage Son Weekend Experience ... 6:30pm, Friday, 21 October – 1:30pm, Sunday, 23 October 2022 at Cataract Activity Centre, Appin. ☎ 4222 2403

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Weekday readings are from Year II

Monday	13 Jun	St Anthony of Padua, friar priest, doctor	1 Kings 21:1-16	Matthew 5:38-42
Tuesday	14 Jun	Tuesday of Ordinary Time Week 11 3:45pm Sacrament of Confirmation Class #2	1 Kings 21:17-29	Matthew 5:43-48
Wednesday	15 Jun	Wednesday of Ordinary Time Week 11	2 Kings 2:1,6-14	Matthew 6:1-6,16-18
Thursday	16 Jun	Thursday of Ordinary Time Week 11	Sirach 48:1-14	Matthew 6:19-23
Friday	17 Jun	Friday of Ordinary Time Week 11	2 Kings 11:1-4,9-18,20	Matthew 5:27-32
Saturday	18 Jun	Saturday of Ordinary Time Week 11	2 Chronicles 24:17-25	Matthew 6:19-23
Sunday	19 Jun	THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST ... Two Baptisms during 8:00am Mass	<i>Scripture Readings are listed below</i>	

THIS WEEK'S RECIPE ... Succulent Casseroled Lamb

5-6 forequarter lamb chops *or* 4 lamb shanks; 1 red onion, cut into wedges; 1 red capsicum, diced; 2 medium carrots, diced; ½ cup marmalade jam; ¼ cup BBQ sauce; ¼ cup sweet chilli sauce; ¼ cup soya sauce; 2 tsp fresh ginger, grated; 2 cloves fresh garlic, finely chopped; ½ cup gravy mix; 1 cup water; 1 large oven bag; 2 tbs plain flour.

Preheat heat oven to 160°C fan forced (or 180°C no fan force). Read instructions on oven bag. Prepare the vegetables and place on a plate. In a separate plastic bag place the meat and flour and shake well to coat. Add total contents to the oven bag that is laying in a baking dish. Add the veggies to cover the meat. Combine all remaining ingredients in a jug. Mix well. Pour the sauce over the meat and veggies in the oven bag. Tie off the end of bag with enclosed tie. Place in oven and cook for 2 hours. If cooking shanks allow ½ to ¾ hour longer. When cooked remove from oven and slit open oven bag being careful not to burn yourself with the steam. Serve and enjoy. The marmalade in this dish gives it a sticky succulence that is just divine. Serve with mashed potato, pumpkin and greens.

Favourite recipe to share? Email it to the Parish Office.

2022 SIGNIFICANT MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS

If you are celebrating 25, 40, 50, 60 or over 60 years of marriage this year, and would like an invitation to the Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord at St Francis Xavier Cathedral on **Sunday, 7 August 2022** at 2pm, please register online at www.dow.org.au/events/ – or contact **Helen Bennett** at the Office of the Bishop at **4222 2403**, or via email helen.bennett@dow.org.au by no later than Monday, 11 July. Once you have done so, an invitation and official online registration procedures will be sent to you.

SPIRITUALITY ON THE SOFA, WEDNESDAY, 22 JUNE VIA ZOOM

“Being heard – love and light”. Come, and from the comfort of your own home, on your own or with a friend or two, engage with **Kate Wilson** and **Dr Zachariah Duke** as they share some of their life adventures in the fields of disability, disadvantage and depression ... and how there might be Love and Light at the end of the tunnel ... Kate, in her early twenties, has represented Australia in the Paralympics and Zach is known internationally for his research in Disability Theology and is a senior lecturer at the Australian Catholic University.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85782086082?pwd=NHl0R1JUNm1FZ3Bxb0RmaW5FOS9kUT09>
or launch Zoom and use: **Meeting ID: 857 8208 6082** and **Passcode: 936307** ⓘ Marea on 0414 873 910



LIVE Local is a Regional Youth Group every Friday night in the school term from 7–9pm, at St Therese West Wollongong school hall. All people aged 13–17 are welcome to attend. ⓘ youth@dow.org.au

<p>THIS Sunday's Readings – on website</p> <p>TRINITY SUNDAY • Year C</p> <p>1st Reading Proverbs 8:22-31</p> <p>2nd Reading Romans 5:1-5</p> <p>Gospel John 16:12-15</p>	<p>NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website</p> <p>BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST • Year C</p> <p>1st Reading Genesis 14:18-20</p> <p>2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 11:23-26</p> <p>Gospel Luke 9:11-17</p>	<p>SUNDAY MASS TIMES</p> <p>Saturday 5:30pm</p> <p>Sunday 8:00am</p> <p>☞ Saturday Mass recorded</p>
<p>Parish of St Michael – Thirroul <i>One of the four Northern Illawarra Parishes</i> <i>Moving forward as a Parish Family</i> Patrick Vaughan • <i>Parish Priest</i> Andrew Granc ofm, Ken Cafe ofm • <i>Assisting</i> Lauren Faulks • <i>Parish Secretary</i> Tues, Wed 9am–3:30pm; Fri 9:30am–2:30pm</p>	<p>🌐 www.thirroulcatholic.org.au</p> <p>📍 325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive</p> <p>📧 PO Box 44 • Thirroul 2515</p> <p>☎ 4268 1910 📠 4268 1976</p> <p>📧 thirroul@dow.org.au</p> <p>Parish School of St Michael</p> <p>☎ 4267 2560</p>	<p>WEEKDAY MASSES</p> <p>Monday _____</p> <p>Tuesday ☞ 5:30pm</p> <p>Wednesday 9:00am</p> <p>Thursday 9:00am</p> <p>Friday 9:30am</p> <p><i>Anointing of the Sick 1st Friday</i></p>