

Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
20/21 AUGUST 2022
21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + YEAR C
BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Go Away

In the gospel reading, Jesus says that some people will come to him confidently, but he will say to them, "I don't know where you are from. Go away, you evildoers!" This must be one of the most frightening passages in the gospels.

But if we get fearful and ask, "OK, then, what do I have to do in order not to be sent away," we are on the wrong track entirely.

God does not hate anything that he has made; he loves it." (John 3:16). So, you don't have to rush out to bring sandwiches to the poor or do anything else whose purpose is to work your way into God's love and forgiveness. The gift of God's love and forgiveness are already there for you.

But then why are those people in the Gospel passage sent away? If the gift is already there, then why don't these people get it?

Well, no gift can be given unilaterally. Successful gift-giving takes two: one to offer the gift, and one to receive it. If you refuse the gift God offers you, the gift cannot be successfully given, can it?

So maybe the whole problem with these people who are sent away is their determination to do the right stuff in order to be part of the in-group. If you want to achieve for yourself what God is offering as a gift, you are in effect refusing the gift, aren't you?

And maybe that's why Jesus says to these people, "I don't know where you are from." If you accept God's gift of his forgiving love, then you are in Christ; and the spirit of Christ is in you. You don't have to come from anywhere to him. You are your beloved's, and he is yours, as the Song of Songs says (Song 6:3).

So, what you have to do in order not to get sent away is nothing. Just receive the gift, open to the Lord, let the Holy Spirit of Christ in. Then you might bring food to the poor, or write a book, or compose a symphony. But, however, you share your gifts, you will do so by first having opened to God's love, which is his gift to you.

Will there only be a few saved?' The response of Jesus to this question has often been interpreted in a pessimistic sense – the very opposite of the message of hope he brought to the world. Fortunately, today's biblical scholarship shows this interpretation to be mistaken. The question put to Jesus was much discussed by the rabbis. Their exclusive view had no place for the Gentiles, and their emphasis upon a strict observance of the prescriptions of the Law that was almost impossible for the common people, led them to conclude that the number of the saved would be rather small.

Jesus had no intention of entering into this discussion; in fact, his whole purpose was to lead them beyond the exclusiveness they took for granted. He called them to identify with the generous ways of God. Israel's calling was, in fact, for the sake of the other peoples of the world. They were to be a 'light to the nations', leading them to come to know the life-giving ways of the one true God. The response of Jesus is along these lines. The image of 'two ways' that can be taken in life is a common one. The 'narrow door' of his parable does not imply that salvation is available to only a few; it refers to the conversion called for if his hearers are to accept his teaching, and thus become the people God wants them to be. (Matthew has this same thought, comparing a 'narrow gate' into the city with the 'wide and spacious' one that most make use of, 7:13.) Similarly, the point of the parable of the 'locked door' is not exclusion, but the need to hurry in – the opportunity brought by Jesus is coming to an end. Only conversion from the constricted ways the nation has come to take for granted will give entrance to 'the master's house' – knowing Jesus, even sitting at table with him, without heeding his call to become the people God intended them to be will leave them out in the cold.

All this is confirmed by what follows. A people who have not been faithful heirs to what they have received from 'Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets' will find themselves 'outside'. But God's purposes will not be frustrated; the peoples of the world will 'take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God'. Clearly, the Church's choice of the first reading for today's liturgy is meant to confirm this optimistic interpretation. This passage, the final lines of the bible's collection of the Isaian writings, envisages all the peoples of the known world coming to Jerusalem to worship the true God. Jesus was calling Israel back to a sharing in the generous ways of God that was their true faith tradition. But, as he makes his way to Jerusalem, time is running out.

Jesus is not interested in theoretical questions such as he has been asked or in idle speculation, so, before replying, he tells the person asking the question: "Try your best to enter by the narrow door". In a sense every path is a narrow one, for to decide to go in one direction is to decide against every other direction. To take one path is to decide not to take other paths. To follow Jesus means to let a lot go and to leave a lot behind. It is the same with every life-decision. Achievements of every kind, and especially in the area of love, are the fruit of commitment. The life of the soul is not handed to us on a plate, and we can't find it by just waiting for it.



QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading Isaiah 66:18-21

- ↳ The Israelites were and remain the chosen people. God extended the same “chosenness” to others. How has this worked out through the ages? For instance, have Christians always honoured their ancestors, the Jewish people? Do you think God wants your involvement in the unity of all humankind? What are you able to do?
- ↳ From the beginning it was God’s plan to save all humankind. Can you help others in this plan? Are people being excluded? Can you think of anything your parish or the Church as a whole could do to be more inclusive? Welcome immigrants? Fight racism?

Second Reading Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

- ↳ The second reading tells us to “strengthen our drooping hands and our weak knees.” What happens to athletes who don’t exercise? Can you yourself become spiritually “flabby”? Do you ever “work out” spiritually on your own? How?
- ↳ From what you know of the lives of the saints, did/does God handle the saints with “kid gloves”? What about you—how does God treat you? Would you like softer treatment? What is the relationship between God’s love and hardships along the spiritual path?

Gospel Luke 13:22-30

- ↳ “We ate and drank in your company.” Is a membership in a particular group an automatic “opening” of the narrow gate? Can people of all religions receive grace? If God is always creating you, moment to moment; do you think God ever stops offering you moments of grace?
- ↳ Is there anybody who can open the “narrow gate”? If you were making a sign for this gate, could you call it “love”? According to Pope Francis what is the only thing that opens the gate?

Jesus makes it clear that it is not a matter of numbers, that there is no “limited number” in Paradise! Rather, it is a case of taking the right way from now, and this right way is for everyone, but it is narrow. He tells us things as they truly are: the doorway is narrow. In what sense? In the sense that, in order to save oneself, one has to love God and neighbour, and this is uncomfortable! It is a “narrow doorway” because it is demanding. Love is always demanding. It requires commitment, indeed, “effort,” that is, a determined and persevering willingness to live according to the Gospel. Saint Paul calls it “the good fight of the faith” (1 Timothy 6:12). It takes a daily, all-day effort to love God and neighbor.

– Pope Francis, *Angelus*, 25 August 2019

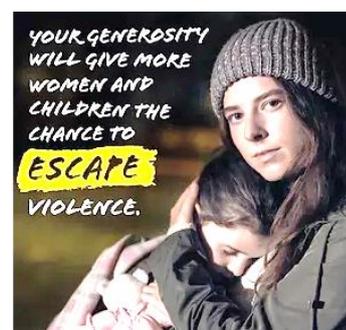
ONE NON-PERISHABLE ITEM PER FAMILY EACH WEEK TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE LOCAL ILLAWARRA AREA: drop items in the special white plastic bin if you come to Mass

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL 2022 – last chance

“Give more women and children the chance to escape violence” –

Domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children. For two frightening years Leah and Charlotte lived in their car and spent their days in parks because they had nowhere else to go. Thankfully, they connected with Vinnies volunteers who were able to get them into a refuge and eventually their own home. Your support this winter will help provide accommodation, financial support and material assistance to help families like Leah and Charlotte to start again. We realise that you have already contributed generously to the Vinnies Flood Appeal and the Ukraine Fundraiser earlier this year, but if you are able to make a contribution no matter how small, it would be gratefully accepted. Donated first week **\$2,364** and donated last week was **\$2,594**, for a total so far of **\$4,958**. In 2020, the total donated to the Vinnies Winter Appeal was **\$4,974**, in 2017 the total was **\$6,741**, in 2015 the total was **\$6,817**, and in 2013 the total was **\$6,747**. Thank you for your generosity over the years! You may still contribute to the appeal, either in the church or online: click on this link:

<https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/vinnies-thirroul-winter-appeal-2022>



2022 ROAD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BIKE RACE: 18–25 SEPTEMBER

Wollongong will welcome the world’s best athletes for the UCI’s (*Union Cycliste Internationale*) pinnacle road cycling event. Eight days of elite racing and a non-stop city festival for the whole community. The world’s best cyclists are coming to Wollongong in **18–25 September!** More than 1,000 of the top international cyclists from 70+ nations will compete for a gold medal and the coveted rainbow jersey. It is one of the top five sporting events in the world and is watched by more than 300 million viewers around the globe. It’s an Olympic-scale sports and community celebration that will bring people together and champion the benefits of life with a bicycle. The UCI Road World Championships are the largest annual road cycling Championships conducted by the UCI and will include road races, time trials, team time trials, cultural events and other community activities. The first UCI Road World Championships took place in 1921, when only amateur men were allowed to race. In 1927 the first Championships for professional

men took place in Nürburgring, Germany and in 1958 the first women's Championship event – the road race – was added to the program. Check out <https://www.uci.org/>

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND – CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME.

WELCOME to **CALLIE MORGAN** baptised in our Parish this Saturday evening during the 5:30pm Mass and **GENEVIVE HARVEY, KITRI DEAN, AMILEO SITERI** and **SAGE DUFFY** baptised on Sunday during the 8am Mass: 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 seven years – 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, **17/18 September 2022** and the Baptism preparation meeting will be in the presbytery on **Thursday, 25 August** at 7:15pm.

Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis on the Liturgy – 29 June 2022 [ctd.]

36. I think of the regular rhythm of our assemblies that come together to celebrate the Eucharist on the Lord's Day, Sunday after Sunday, Easter after Easter, at particular moments in the life of each single person and of the communities, in all the different ages of life. Ordained ministers carry out a pastoral action of the first importance when they take the baptized faithful by the hand to lead them into the repeated experience of the Paschal Mystery. Let us always remember that it is the Church, the Body of Christ, that is the celebrating subject and not just the priest. The kind of knowledge that comes from study is just the first step to be able to enter into the mystery celebrated. Obviously, to be able to lead their brothers and sisters, the ministers who preside in the assembly must know the way, know it from having studied it on the map of their theological studies but also from having frequented the liturgy in actual practice of an experience of living faith, nourished by prayer — and certainly not just as an obligation to be fulfilled. On the day of his ordination every priest hears the bishop say to him: “Understand what you will do, imitate what you will celebrate, and conform your life to the mystery of the Lord's Cross.”

37. Also the plan of studies for the Liturgy in seminaries must take account of the extraordinary capacity that the actual celebration has in itself to offer an organic and unified vision of all theological knowledge. Every discipline of theology, each from its own perspective, must show its own intimate connection with the Liturgy in light of which the unity of priestly formation is made clear and realized (cf. *Sacrosanctum Concilium* n.16). A liturgical-sapiential plan of studies in the theological formation of seminaries would certainly have positive effects in pastoral action. There is no aspect of ecclesial life that does not find its summit and its source in the Liturgy. More than being the result of elaborate programs, a comprehensive, organic, and integrated pastoral practice is the consequence of placing the Sunday Eucharist, the foundation of communion, at the centre of the life of the community. The theological understanding of the Liturgy does not in any way permit that these words be understood to mean to reduce everything to the aspect of worship. A celebration that does not evangelize is not authentic, just as a proclamation that does not lead to an encounter with the risen Lord in the celebration is not authentic. And then both of these, without the testimony of charity, are like sounding a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. (1 Corinthians 13:1)

38. For ministers as well as for all the baptized, liturgical formation in this first sense is not something that can be acquired once and for all. Since the gift of the mystery celebrated surpasses our capacity to know it, this effort certainly must accompany the permanent formation of everyone, with the humility of little ones, the attitude that opens up into wonder.

39. One final observation about seminaries: in addition to a program of studies, they must also offer the possibility of experiencing a celebration that is not only exemplary from a ritual point of view, but also authentic and alive, which allows the living out of a true communion with God, that same communion toward which theological knowledge must tend. Only the action of the Spirit can bring to completion our knowledge of the mystery of God, for the mystery of God is not a question of something grasped mentally but a relationship that touches all of life. Such experience is fundamental so that, once seminarians become ordained ministers, they can accompany communities in the same journey of knowledge of the mystery of God, which is the mystery of love.

40. This last consideration brings us to reflection on the second sense that we can understand in the expression “liturgical formation.” I refer to our being formed, each one according to his or her vocation, from participation in the liturgical

celebration. Even the knowledge that comes from studies, of which I was just speaking, for it not to become a sort of rationalism, must serve to realize the formative action of the Liturgy itself in every believer in Christ.

[continued next week]

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Weekday readings are from **Year II**

Monday	22 Aug	The Queenship of Mary	2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,11-12	Matthew 23:13-22
Tuesday	23 Aug	Tuesday of Ordinary Time Week 21	2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,11-12	Matthew 23:23-26
Wednesday	24 Aug	St Bartholomew, apostle	Revelation 21:9-14	John 1:45-51
Thursday	25 Aug	Tuesday of Ordinary Time Week 21 7:15pm Baptism Preparation Meeting in the presbytery	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	Matthew 24:42-51
Friday	26 Aug	Friday of Ordinary Time Week 21	1 Corinthians 1:26-31	Matthew 25:1-13
Saturday	27 Aug	St Monica, mother of St Augustine	1 Corinthians 1:17-25	Matthew 25:14-30
Sunday	28 Aug	22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C ... <i>Scripture Readings are listed below</i>		

THIS WEEK'S RECIPE: Peach Gingerbread Upside Down Cake

½ cup butter, melted; ½ cup brown sugar; 5 peaches, large; ¼ tsp baking soda; ⅓ cup boiling water; 1⅓ cups flour; ¼ tsp baking powder; pinch salt; 3 tsp powdered ginger; ½ cup butter; ⅓ cup molasses; ½ cup brown sugar; 1 large egg; 2 tbsp freshly grated ginger root, optional. For the Vanilla Whipped Cream: 2 cups whipping cream; 4 tbsp powdered sugar, icing sugar; 2 tsp pure vanilla extract.

Grease a 10-inch round cake pan or a 9x13 rectangular baking pan. Preheat oven to 180°C. Mix together the ½ cup melted butter and ½ cup brown sugar and spread evenly in the bottom of the pan. Cover the entire bottom of the pan with thick-cut peach slices, peeled or unpeeled, your choice. Dissolve together the baking soda and boiling water and set aside. Sift together the flour, baking powder, salt and powdered ginger. Set aside. Cream together the butter molasses and ½ cup brown sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg. Add all at once, the dry ingredients, the baking soda and water mixture, along with the grated ginger root. Mix for an additional minute until smooth then pour over the peaches in the prepared pan. Bake in a 180°C oven for about 40-50 minutes or until a wooden toothpick inserted in the centre comes out clean. Cool in the pan for 10-15 minutes before turning the cake onto the serving plate. Serve warm with vanilla whipped cream. The cream: simply whip together the powdered sugar, vanilla extract and whipping cream until form peaks form.

Some people think they cannot cook, or they need a recipe book to boil water ... but if you can read, then you can cook. *Do you have a favourite recipe to share from around the world? Please email the Parish Office.*

PILGRIMAGE – IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT MARY MACKILLOP

You are invited to join Fr David Catterall (Parish Priest, St Mary MacKillop Parish, Oran Park) and parishioners from across our diocese and beyond on a 2022 pilgrimage in the footsteps of St Mary MacKillop. This pilgrimage (departs Melbourne Thursday, 13 October 2022 and returns Adelaide Sunday, 23 October 2022) is a graced opportunity to set out together on a true Australian Pilgrimage through the life and times of Mary MacKillop, as we rekindle the story, landscapes, and spirit of our nation's first canonized saint. If you would like more information you can contact the Oran Park Parish Office – oranpark@dow.org.au or 02 4648 2226 and a brochure can be emailed or posted to you). As places are limited, you are encouraged to book soon to avoid disappointment. You can download the pilgrimage brochure: www.harvestjourneys.com/tour/footsteps-of-st-mary-mackillop

KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS ADULT FAITH EDUCATION SERIES

The Bulli Branch of the Knights of the Southern Cross invite you to a series of three adult faith formation events on **Thursdays, 25 August, 1 September, 15 September**: “The Question of Science and Religion”; “The Question of ...”

THIS Sunday's Readings – on website	NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website	SUNDAY MASS TIMES
21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • Year C	22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • Year C	Saturday 5:30pm
1st Reading Isaiah 66:18-21	1st Reading Sirach 3:17-20,28-29	Sunday 8:00am
2nd Reading Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13	2nd Reading Hebrews 12:18-19,22-24	Saturday Mass recorded
Gospel Luke 13:22-30	Gospel Luke 14:1,7-14	
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 • Parish Secretary Tues, Wed 9am-3:30pm; Fri 9:30am-2:30pm	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	WEEKDAY MASSES Monday ——— Tuesday 5:30pm Wednesday 9:00am Thursday 9:00am Friday 9:30am <i>Anointing of the Sick 1st Friday</i>