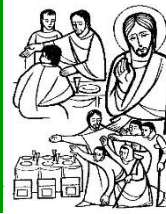


## Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



**PARISH BULLETIN**  
**27/28 AUGUST 2022**  
**22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + YEAR C**  
**OUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

### **THIS WEEK'S READINGS**

In the gospel reading, Jesus censures people who take the seats of honour at a feast. 'Take the least honourable places,' he tells them, and then the host can invite you to a more honourable place.

Jesus is rebuking the pride of those people who go for the honourable seats. But what is the solution to the problem of pride? If you race your friends to the least honourable seat because the reward for doing so is that you get one of the best seats, isn't this pride too?

So, what is true humility?

Well, think about pride.

There is a childish kind of pride, of course, where you brag about your accomplishments while everybody else tries to be polite enough not to roll their eyes while you are talking.

And then there is also the grown-up version of that childish pride, the pride of the self-made man. A multi-millionaire who explains that he has gotten where he is all by himself has this kind of pride. He has failed to notice all the gifts he has been given that have helped him get where he is. He thinks he himself is responsible for the good he has.

A more complicated kind of pride can be found in a person who knows that all his good comes from the grace of God. But he is sure that God has given such grace to him and not to his neighbours, because God knew that he, unlike his stupid worldly neighbours, would make good use of God's gifts. This is the pride of a prig.

Finally, the worst and most sophisticated kind of pride is found in the Pharisee who thanked God that he was not like other men, especially not like that sinner, the publican, praying next to him in the Temple. The Pharisee knew that every good in him was a gift from God. But he was glad that he had God's gifts and that the publican didn't. The Pharisee liked looking down on the publican.

Here is what humility is, then. It is recognizing that every good in yourself is a gift from God and is meant to be given back to the Lord by being shared with others. Humility is recognizing and admitting the truth – seeing yourself as God sees you, and loving yourself as God loves you. So, you can't get true humility by racing for the least honourable seat. If the least honourable seat is, in the Lord's view, the best place to be seated, then true humility requires your sharing it with others in gratitude to the Lord who gave it.

Jesus was sometimes invited to a meal by those who were curious to hear him. They were sometimes unfriendly to him we know from the gospel accounts. But most of his hosts were probably motivated by curiosity to hear what this teacher who was making such a stir had to say. This reconstruction of one such meal by Luke shows the Saviour's skills as a teacher; and the kind of challenge he brought to those who were leaders in the community. Those at table with are 'watching him closely'; he knows that he is expected to entertain them with his table talk.

He uses as his starting point what has been taking place as the guests assembled. To our modern ears, it all seems rather stilted; but the scene described by Jesus was familiar to his listeners, and taken for granted by them, as the customary way to behave in a culture with rules of status and precedence that were very complex – determined by such things as age, learning, public standing and wealth. This situation provides the material of a parable that invites his listeners to see beyond these old conventions. He who is happy to make himself the servant of all and urges his followers to do the same knows how important the openness and generosity of true humility will be in the life of his disciples when his mission has been accomplished in Jerusalem – for 'God opposes the proud but gives his blessings to the humble' (James 4:6). There is a lesson here for every Christian community: the quality of the relationships that make up a community will be the measure of the blessings they receive, and the effectiveness of their missionary outreach.

But Jesus has a deeper lesson to give. He uses the rapport he has established with his audience to speak to them of the revolutionary ways of God, the main burden of his preaching. 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast', he begins – not wanting to offend them by making too obvious reference to the behaviour he has observed; but also, probably, pointing to the messianic theme he will take up later, after one of the guests has commented, 'Blessed is anyone who will share the meal in the kingdom of God'. His reference to seeking the 'place of honour' is an echo of his criticism of the Pharisees for liking 'to take the seats of honour at the synagogue' (Luke 11:43). His story of 'invited guests' probably also challenges the presumption of the 'leading Pharisees' that their strict observance marked them out as the 'elect', or chosen ones, of God, certain to take part in the messianic feast. This is backed up by the parable to which we have made reference that follows on from today's reading. It tells of the guests who do not accept their invitation to the banquet, and are replaced by 'the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame'. In today's reading, Jesus has already startled his listeners by saying that God will bless those who invite these very ones to their table. These interpreters of the Law, he knows, forbade entrance to the temple to the lame and the blind.

### *True Humility*



# QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

## First Reading Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

- ✚ The word used by the ancient Romans, “*humus*” had a lot of meanings, among which were ground, earth and soil. Using this meaning as a springboard, make up your own definition of the word humility.
- ✚ Name someone you think is a truly a great person. Is that person humble? What does humility look like in him/her? The Gospel mentions the lame, poor, crippled and blind. From your experience with these people would you say most of them are humble?

## Second Reading Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a

- ✚ What do you feel when you read the words from the old covenant (“blazing fire,” “gloomy darkness,” “storm,” “trumpet”)? What mood do the words from the new covenant bring to you (“heavenly Jerusalem,” “countless angels in festal gathering”)?
- ✚ What is a covenant? What does it mean to say that Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant? Why does the sprinkled blood of the new covenant speak more eloquently than that of Abel, as this reading asserts?

## Gospel Luke 14:1, 7-14

- ✚ Does anything cripple you, or sometimes make you blind? Discuss the fact that Jesus experienced our human pain along with us in order to help us get to the banquet. Do you feel any responsibility as a member of the body of Christ to help other people get to the banquet?
- ✚ “When you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind. ...” In *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis offers an explanation of one way “you will be blessed” if and when you do this. Have you experienced this blessing?

... I want a Church which is poor and for the poor. They have much to teach us. Not only do they share in the *sensus fidei*, (sense of the faithful)\* but in their difficulties they know the suffering Christ. We need to let ourselves be evangelized by them. The new evangelization is an invitation to acknowledge the saving power at work in their lives and to put them at the centre of the Church’s pilgrim way. We are called to find Christ in them, to lend our voice to their causes, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to speak for them and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God wishes to share with us through them.

– Pope Francis, *Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 198

\* *Sensus Fidei* means the supernatural appreciation of faith on the part of the whole people, when, from the bishops to the last of the faithful, they manifest a universal consent in matters of faith and morals.

**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 – THANK YOU!

“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**; donated the second week was **\$2,594**; and donated last week was **\$830** – for a total so far of **\$5,788**. You may still contribute to the appeal, by clicking 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/>

## YOUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEEDS YOU

The Parish Pastoral Council is seeking new members. Our Council works closely with Fr Ken to grow our community of faith. The Council meets every two months in our Parish Meeting Room. Our current members are Anne Clarke, Kerrie Hennessey, Marie Grace and Natalie Shelley. **It would be good to have at least six members on the Pastoral Council.**

If you are interested, **or if you would like to recommend a parishioner to be on the Pastoral Council**, every parishioner is invited to recommend (not nominate) as many parish members as you wish, for possible membership of the Parish Pastoral Council. There is no need to ask the person beforehand if they wish to be recommended. Every person recommended is contacted by one of the current members of the Pastoral Council, told the good things said about them (but not who recommended them), and invited to an Information Meeting. At the Information Meeting, those recommended receive current information about what a Pastoral Council does and what the previous Council has achieved. To recommend someone, or if you are interested in finding out more, please speak with Fr Ken, or with any of the current members or call Anne Clarke on 0439 665 010.

## FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- ✦ **Friday, 2 September, 9:30am: Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick** during the 9:30am Mass.
- ✦ **Saturday/Sunday, 4/5 September: Blessing of Fathers** for Fathers Day.
- ✦ **Tuesday, 13 September: Enrolments for First Penance and First Communion** close.
- ✦ **Wednesday, 14 September, 11:00am: Catholic Women's League** meeting in the McCarthy Centre to welcome and encourage new members. Judy McLeod will give a presentation on gloves and scarves – bring your own along to learn about them. BYO lunch. **All are welcome** – come along and enjoy the company.
- ✦ **Saturday, 17 September, after 5:30pm Mass: Dinner at Club Thirroul.** Usually held on the second Saturday of the month, for September it will be held on 17 September, as the club is closed on Saturday, 10 September.
- ✦ **Last two weekends of September: Samaritan's Purse** – collection of Christmas presents to be put in shoe boxes for needy children in Oceania and Asia ... time now to collect items such as Jumbo Chalk '15' per bucket, coloured pencils (box sets), small notebooks, small 'matchbox' cars, small combs, hair clips, soap, face washers.
- ✦ **Monday, 3 October, 9:30am: Blessing of Animals** – all animals under 800kg are welcome.
- ✦ **Friday, 4 November, 6:30pm: Dance Through The Decades Trivia** to support our Parish School. Venue – Thirroul SLSC. BYO drinks and nibbles, silent auction, tickets \$40 each ☎ 4267 2560.

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

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.

41. From all that we have said about the nature of the Liturgy it becomes clear that knowledge of the mystery of Christ, the decisive question for our lives, does not consist in a mental assimilation of some idea but in real existential engagement with his person. In this sense, Liturgy is not about “knowledge,” and its scope is not primarily pedagogical, even though it does have great pedagogical value. (cf. *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, n.33) Rather, Liturgy is about praise, about rendering thanks for the Passover of the Son whose power reaches our lives. The celebration concerns the reality of our being docile to the action of the Spirit who operates through it until Christ be formed in us. (cf. Galatians 4:19) The full extent of our formation is our conformation to Christ. I repeat: it does not have to do with an abstract mental process, but with becoming Him. This is the purpose for which the Spirit is given, whose action is always and only to confection the Body of Christ. It is that way with the Eucharistic bread, and with every one of the baptized called to become always more and more that which was received as a gift in Baptism; namely, being a member of the Body of Christ. Leo the Great writes, “Our participation in the Body and Blood of Christ has no other end than to make us become that which we eat.”

42. This existential engagement happens — in continuity with and consistent with the method of Incarnation — in a sacramental way. The Liturgy is done with things that are the exact opposite of spiritual abstractions: bread, wine, oil, water, fragrances, fire, ashes, rock, fabrics, colours, body, words, sounds, silences, gestures, space, movement, action, order, time, light. The whole of creation is a manifestation of the love of God, and from when that same love was manifested in its fullness in the cross of Jesus, all of creation was drawn toward it. It is the whole of creation that is assumed in order to be placed at the service of encounter with the Word: incarnate, crucified, dead, risen, ascended to the Father. It is as the prayer over the water at the baptismal font sings, but also the prayer over the oil for sacred chrism and the words for the presentation of the bread and wine — all fruit of the earth and work of human hands.

43. The Liturgy gives glory to God not because we can add something to the beauty of the inaccessible light within which God dwells (cf. 1 Timothy 6:16). Nor can we add to the perfection of the angelic song which resounds eternally through the heavenly places. The Liturgy gives glory to God because it allows us — here, on earth — to see God in the celebration of the mysteries, and in seeing Him to draw life from his Passover. We, who were dead through our sins and have been made be alive again with Christ — we are the glory of God. By grace we have been saved (Ephesians 2:5). Irenaeus, the *doctor unitatis*, reminds us of this: “The glory of God is man alive, and the life of man consists in seeing God: if the revelation of God through the creation already gives life to all living beings on earth, how much more then is the manifestation of the Father through the Word the cause of life for those who see God.” [continued next week]

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Weekday readings are from **Year II**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>29 Aug</b>	<b>The Passion of John the Baptist</b>	Jeremiah 1:17-19	Mark 6:17-29
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>30 Aug</b>	Tuesday of Ordinary Time Week 22	1 Corinthians 2:10-16	Luke 4:31-37
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>31 Aug</b>	Wednesday of Ordinary Time Week 22	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Luke 4:38-44
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1 Sep</b>	Thursday of Ordinary Time Week 22	1 Corinthians 3:18-23	Luke 5:1-11
		<b>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION</b>		
<b>Friday</b>	<b>2 Sep</b>	Friday of Ordinary Time Week 22	1 Corinthians 4:1-5	Luke 5:33-39
		<b>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK during 9:30am Mass</b>		
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>3 Sep</b>	<b>St Gregory the Great, pope, doctor</b>	1 Corinthians 4:6-15	Luke 6:1-5
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4 Sep</b>	<b>23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C ... Scripture Readings are listed below</b>		
		<b>FATHERS DAY</b> – Special Blessing of all fathers, grandfathers ... at both Masses		
		<b>Morning Tea after 8am Mass</b>		

## THIS WEEK'S RECIPE: Baby Salted Caramel Baked Cheesecakes

Made in a muffin pan, these mini cheesecakes have three distinct layers. Caramel layer on the top, cream cheese layer in the middle and the base is a Hobnob biscuit.

395g can sweetened condensed milk; 60g golden syrup; 40g salted butter; 1tsp sea salt flakes, plus extra, to serve; 500g cream cheese, at room temperature; 100g (½ cup) caster sugar; 130g (½ cup) sour cream; 2 eggs; 12 Hobnob Original biscuits.

Preheat oven to 180°C/160°C fan forced. Spray twelve 125ml (½ cup) capacity silicone muffin pans with oil. Heat condensed milk, golden syrup and butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Cook, stirring, until mixture comes to the boil. Stir through salt. Divide mixture evenly among muffin pans. Bake for 10 minutes. Use electric beater to beat the cream cheese, sugar, sour cream and eggs in a bowl for 1-2 minutes or until just smooth (do not overmix). Spoon mixture evenly among muffin pans over the caramel. Top each with a biscuit. Bake for 18-20 minutes or until set. Set aside to cool completely before transferring to the fridge for 4 hours or overnight. Turn cheesecakes onto a serving plate. Sprinkle with salt to serve.

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. If you would like more information you can contact the Oran Park Parish Office – [oranpark@dow.org.au](mailto: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](http://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 God”; and “The Experience of Faith”. Presentations will be forty minutes in length followed by questions, commencing at **7:30pm** each night. The location is the community room on the ground floor of the old presbytery, Corrimal Parish. The presenter is Anthony Crook, priest in residence at Corrimal.

<p><b>THIS Sunday's Readings</b> – on website</p> <p><b>22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • Year C</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Reading Sirach 3:17-20,28-29</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Hebrews 12:18-19,22-24</p> <p>Gospel Luke 14:1,7-14</p>	<p><b>NEXT Sunday's Readings</b> – on website</p> <p><b>23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • Year C</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Reading Wisdom 9:13-18</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Philemon 9-10,12-17</p> <p>Gospel Luke 14:25-33</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY MASS TIMES</b></p> <p>Saturday 5:30pm</p> <p>Sunday 8:00am</p> <p>☞ Saturday Mass recorded</p>
<p><b>Parish of St Michael – Thirroul</b></p> <p><i>One of the four Northern Illawarra Parishes</i></p> <p><i>Moving forward as a Parish Family</i></p> <p>Patrick Vaughan • <i>Parish Priest</i></p> <p>Andrew Granc ofm, Ken Cafe ofm • <i>Assisting</i></p> <p><b>Lauren Faulks • Parish Secretary</b></p> <p><b>Tues, Wed 9am-3:30pm; Fri 9:30am-2:30pm</b></p>	<p><a href="http://www.thirroulcatholic.org.au">www.thirroulcatholic.org.au</a></p> <p>📍 325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive</p> <p>📧 PO Box 44 • Thirroul 2515</p> <p>☎ 4268 1910 📠 4268 1976</p> <p>📧 <a href="mailto:thirroul@dow.org.au">thirroul@dow.org.au</a></p> <p>Parish School of St Michael</p> <p>☎ 4267 2560</p>	<p><b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b></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 1<sup>st</sup> Friday</i></p>