



Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
3/4 SEPTEMBER 2022
23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + YEAR C
SPRING AND HAPPY FATHERS DAY

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

In the gospel reading, Jesus recommends hatred—of your mother and father, of your wife (or husband), in fact, of your very life.

What's to hate about these people? How can Jesus say that unless you hate them, you can't be his disciple? Didn't Jesus command us to love our neighbours as ourselves? How can you hate your life if you love yourself?

Well, think of St Thomas More. Henry VIII of England wanted his own marriage to his wife annulled so that he could marry another woman, Anne.

(Anglicans and Catholics both have troublesome characters in their history!) When the Pope wouldn't agree to what Henry wanted, Henry declared himself supreme head of the Church in England. Thomas More was Chancellor of England then, and Henry wanted More to support him in all this. Henry wanted More to sign the Oath of Supremacy declaring Henry the Supreme Head of the Church in England.

More saw that Henry's passion for Anne was moving Henry to betray his wife and bring scandal on the Church. And More wouldn't support him. He wouldn't sign the Oath. So More resigned his chancellorship and went home. But Henry pursued him. First, he stripped More of his income and property, and then he imprisoned him. More's wife was frantic. More's children were heart-broken, thinking More's life hung in the balance, and they were right.

Couldn't More have just signed that Oath? His wife would have had him home. His children would have rejoiced at his return. He would have kept his property. He would have kept his life.

But he would have lost his life in keeping it. He would have betrayed the Lord he loved if he had signed that Oath.

So More lost all his possessions. He left his wife and children behind and went to prison. And finally, he went to his death, for love of the Lord. This is the kind of hatred of life and loved ones that the Lord is talking about. More loved his family and his life, but he let go of everything for love of Christ.

Because he maintained his integrity and did not let Henry push him into evil, More was true to the Lord he loved and to himself. He could not have loved himself or his wife or his children or his neighbours better than he did.

From time to time, we should stop and consider how momentous is the decision we have made to be a follower of Jesus. So easily we expect our Christian life to be undisturbed and unchallenged; so that it can become little more than engaging from time to time in consoling practices. We can fail to recognise that we are caught up in nothing less than the life and death struggle of the whole world. The one we are called to follow is the eternal Son of the Father, who became one of us, that through his Paschal Mystery he may lead us out of the world of selfishness and violence we have made, into a new heaven and new earth, where all is shaped by the generous and merciful ways of his Father. We should not be surprised that, as he undertakes his courageous journey to Jerusalem, his teaching has a sharp edge. It is important, however, to understand what he is asking of us, so that it will not remain little more than a seemingly impossible ideal.

Luke has Jesus giving this teaching to 'great crowds'; it is not teaching for an elite group, but teaching that all those who call themselves his followers should take to heart. We must not be misled, of course, by the stark Semitic turn of phrase he uses. He does not tell us that we should have no love for the things most precious in our lives, our many bonds of kinship, even our own life itself. He is telling us that even these things must not be given a preference in our decisions that would amount to a renunciation of Christ and what he stands for. He is showing us the seriousness of the mysterious mission he has received from his Father, as he makes for the Holy City to take up his cross. If we are to be his true followers, we must 'carry his cross and come after him'. Our following must not be half-hearted, his two parables tell us. We must weigh up fully the implications of our decision not to allow any consideration to destroy our commitment to him; we must be ready to carry it through to the end. Otherwise, our situation will be like that of the man whose half-completed building is a monument to his foolishness; or worse, like that of the king whose lack of foresight leads him to defeat and death. In the continuation of Luke's text, Jesus tells us that we – who are called to share in his mission to bring wholesomeness to the world – should not become like salt that has lost its taste.

The final words of the gospel are the most challenging of all: 'none of you can be my disciples unless you give up all your possessions'. But these very words help us to understand that Luke is not holding up to us an impossible ideal. Luke stresses the place of poverty in the Christian life; the wording of his first beatitude is blunt: 'Happy are you who are poor' (Luke 6:20); but what follows makes it clear that he does not expect all followers of Jesus to give up all their possessions – they are urged to 'lend, without hope of return' and to 'give' generously. What the Lord asks for is that, in our life commitments, we place all that is most dear to us in his hands, ready to accept whatever he asks of us. Some Christians, of course, receive a personal call to immediate renunciation – a reminder to us all of the seriousness of our following of Christ.

What's To Hate?



QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading Wisdom 9:13-18b

- ✚ It is hard enough “to guess what is in our grasp”—according to the Letter to the Hebrews, “let alone the things of heaven.” Can you relate to that statement? Is there anything you are uncertain about in the political arena in your country? Is there anything you are uncertain about in your spiritual life?
- ✚ Does God give you help when you are unclear? Which do you think God prefers in you, perfect certainty— or your best guess, trusting in God?

Second Reading Philemon 9-10, 12-17

- ✚ How did Paul bring about a change or a conversion in Onesimus? What part does love play in any change for the better? Has love worked any changes in your life?
- ✚ Slavery was an accepted institution in Paul's time, but he states a revolutionary idea anyway: there are no divisions in Christ. What causes social divisions in the world today? Can you do anything to change that?

Gospel Luke 14:25-33

- ✚ Is following Jesus a one-time choice or do you have to make it daily? Which would you rather have, all the possessions you could ever want, without Christ, or Christ with no possessions? Can you name some people who lived/live in Christ and have possessed nothing? What does this freedom allow them to do?
- ✚ “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” Do crosses make discipleship desirable? Is there anything that makes us want discipleship, even though it involves crosses? How would Pope Francis answer?

The human heart desires joy. We all desire joy; every family, every people, aspires to happiness. But what is the joy the Christian is called to live out and bear witness to. It is the joy that comes from the closeness of God, from his presence in our life ...

Jesus has come to bring joy to all people for all time. It is not just a hopeful joy or a joy postponed until paradise, as if here on earth we are sad but in paradise we will be filled with joy. No! It is not that, but a joy already real and tangible now, because Jesus himself is our joy, and with Jesus joy finds its home, ... joy is at home in Jesus.

And our joy is just this: to be his disciples, his friends.

– Pope Francis, *The Joy of Discipleship*, ch. 5, pp. 78, 79, 89.

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

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 ☎ 0439 665 010.

2022 ROAD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BIKE RACE: 18–25 SEPTEMBER

Check out <https://www.uci.org/> for forthcoming road closures that will affect your travel arrangements.

CROCHETED BLANKETS FOR WOLLONGONG PERINATAL WARDS

Bulli Corner Quilters have been asked to provide crocheted baby blankets for Wollongong Public and Private Hospital perinatal wards. The blankets are 50cm square (20”) can be crocheted in any stitch in 2 colours (preferably not lemon) with a simple or narrow fluted border. They are given to the premature babies whilst in hospital. Not all the bubs make it home and the parents may choose to use the blankets to wrap the baby in. If any parishioners are interested in contributing please contact Wendie Milazzo ☎ 0417 215 716 for further details. **Thanks to those who help out.**



What non-perishables to bring along each week? Always needed are: **cuppa noodles; toothpaste; tooth brushes; soap; toilet paper.**

FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- ✦ **Monday to Thursday, 5 to 8 September, Ken at the Canon Law Conference** for Australia and New Zealand.
- ✦ **Wednesday, 7 September: Spirituality in the Pub/on the Sofa, 7:30pm to 9:00pm** – see page 4.
- ✦ **Saturday, 10 September: NO DINNER AT CLUB THIRROUL ... POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT SATURDAY**
- ✦ **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.]

44. Guardini writes, “Here there is outlined the first task of the work of liturgical formation: man must become once again capable of symbols.” This is a responsibility for all, for ordained ministers and the faithful alike. The task is not easy because modern man has become illiterate, no longer able to read symbols; it is almost as if their existence is not even suspected. This happens also with the symbol of our body. Our body is a symbol because it is an intimate union of soul and body; it is the visibility of the spiritual soul in the corporeal order; and in this consists human uniqueness, the specificity of the person irreducible to any other form of living being. Our openness to the transcendent, to God, is constitutive of us. Not to recognize this leads us inevitably not only to a not knowing of God but also to not knowing ourselves. It is enough to look at the paradoxical way in which the body is treated, in one moment cared for in an almost obsessive way, inspired by the myth of eternal youth, and in another moment reducing the body to a materiality to which there is denied every dignity. The fact is that value cannot be given to the body starting only from the body itself. Every symbol is at the same time both powerful and fragile. If it is not respected, if it is not treated for what it is, it shatters, loses its force, becomes insignificant.

We no longer have the gaze of St. Francis, who looked at the sun — which he called brother because so he felt it to be — and saw it *beautiful and radiant with great splendour*, and, full of wonder, he sang that it *bears a likeness of You, Most High One*. To have lost the capacity to grasp the symbolic value of the body and of every creature renders the symbolic language of the Liturgy almost inaccessible to the modern mentality. And yet there can be no question of renouncing such language. It cannot be renounced because it is how the Holy Trinity chose to reach us through the flesh of the Word. It is rather a question of recovering the capacity to use and understand the symbols of the Liturgy. We must not lose hope because this dimension in us, as I have just said, is constitutive; and despite the evils of materialism and spiritualism — both of them negations of the unity of soul and body — it is always ready to re-emerge, as is every truth.

45. So, the question I want to pose is how can we become once again capable of symbols? How can we again know how to read them and be able to live them? We know well that the celebration of the sacraments, by the grace of God, is efficacious in itself (*ex opere operato*), but this does not guarantee the full engagement of people without an adequate way of their placing themselves in relation to the language of the celebration. A symbolic “reading” is not a mental knowledge, not the acquisition of concepts, but rather a living experience. [continued next week]

A Special Blessing of Fathers, Grandfathers and Great Grandfathers

May the God of strength be with you, holding you in strong-fingered hands. May you be a strength to those whose hands you hold. May the God of gentleness be with you, caressing you with sunlight, rain and wind. May God's tenderness shine through you, to warm all who are hurt and lonely. May the God of mercy be with you, forgiving you, beckoning you, encouraging you. May your readiness to forgive calm the fears, and deepen the trust of those who hurt you. May the God of wonder be with you, delighting you, enchanting your senses, filling your heart, giving you wide-open eyes for seeing the splendour in the humble and the majestic. May you open the eyes and hands and hearts of the blind and the deaf and the insensitive. May the God of wisdom and love be with you, lighting within you the fires of faith and hope. May your children honour you always with a spirit of profound respect and friendship.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Weekday readings are from **Year II**

Monday	5 Sep	Monday of Ordinary Time Week 23 Ken at Canon Law Conference 5 to 8 September	1 Corinthians 5:1-8	Luke 6:6-11
Tuesday 📧	6 Sep	Tuesday of Ordinary Time Week 23	1 Corinthians 6:1-11	Luke 6:12-19
Wednesday	7 Sep	Wednesday of Ordinary Time Week 23	1 Corinthians 7:25-31	Luke 6:20-26
Thursday	8 Sep	The Nativity of the Virgin Mary	Micah 5:1-4	Matthew 1:1-16,18-23
Friday	9 Sep	Friday of Ordinary Time Week 23	1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-27	Luke 6:39-42
Saturday	10 Sep	St Gregory the Great, pope, doctor	1 Corinthians 10:14-22	Luke 6:43-49
		Dinner at Club Thirroul after Saturday Mass postponed until Saturday 17 September		
Sunday	11 Sep	24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C ...	Scripture Readings are listed below	
		CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY		

THIS WEEK'S RECIPE: Blueberry Corn Loaf with Maple Butter

Loaf: 1 cup plain flour; 1 cup polenta (cornmeal); 1 cup sugar; 4 tsp baking powder; ¼ cup vegetable oil; 1 egg; 1 cup milk; 100g blueberries, lightly coated in plain flour (or any fruit you desire); Pinch of salt.

Maple butter: 125g soft butter; 3 tbs maple syrup; Pinch of salt.

Preheat the oven to 200°C. Butter and flour a loaf tin. Mix all the loaf ingredients together in a bowl with a wooden spoon and pour into prepared loaf tin. Allow to rest for 20 minutes until it becomes a bit fluffy. Gently toss blueberries in a little flour and distribute evenly over the top of the loaf. Bake for 30 minutes until a tester comes out clean. Remove and allow to cool. To make maple butter place butter in the stand mixer bowl with a whisk on medium speed, slowly add maple syrup while whisking to whip butter up. Add a pinch of salt. And stop when butter is light and fluffy. Place in a serving bowl. Serve a slice of corn loaf slightly warmed or toasted with a large dollop of maple butter. Serves 8. Takes 40 minutes plus cooling time. *Thanks, Raymond, for this week's recipe.*

Some people think they cannot cook, or need to read a recipe to make ice. ... 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.*

SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB / ON THE SOFA – WEDNESDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER, 7:30PM

You are invited to join in the conversation on Wednesday, 7 September, 7:30pm to 9:00pm, via Zoom. The year's theme is "Being Heard", and this month's topic is "Being heard – listening with the heart". Come, and from the comfort of your own home, engage with **Ina Mullin** and **Stuart Torrance** as they help us explore the power which "deep listening" can have as a pathway to renewal and the prevention of social isolation. **Ina** is the Director – Engagement & Communication – of the National Mental Health Commission, and **Stuart** is the Men's Health Project Coordinator of the Australian Men's Shed Association. Susan Eichorn will be the Moderator. The Zoom meeting ID is 868 9450 7448 and the Passcode is 814377.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86894507448?pwd=MUoxbDNwT3dpekB2MDA1MIR0M2IwQT09>

CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

Most provident God, you graciously give us all good gifts. Teach us to care for the earth: to till the soil responsibly; to keep the air pure; to free the waters from pollution; to harvest the warmth of the sun; to protect the climate; and to respect the rights of all species. May we willingly share the gifts of your goodness with all. All-powerful God, in creatures great and small, you are present in the whole universe. You embrace with your 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 sisters and brothers, harming no one. God of the poor, so precious are they in your eyes, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it.

THIS Sunday's Readings – on website

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • Year C

1st Reading Wisdom 9:13-18

2nd Reading Philemon 9-10,12-17

Gospel Luke 14:25-33

NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • Year C

1st Reading Exodus 32:7-11,13-14

2nd Reading 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Gospel Luke 15:1-32

SUNDAY

MASS TIMES

Saturday 5:30pm

Sunday 8:00am

📧 Saturday Mass recorded

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

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WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday _____

Tuesday 📧 **5:30pm**

Wednesday 9:00am

Thursday 9:00am

Friday 9:30am

Anointing of the Sick 1st Friday