



## Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



**PARISH BULLETIN**  
**8/9 OCTOBER 2022**  
**28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + YEAR C**  
**HOMILY OF POPE FRANCIS**

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

### *Gratitude*

Sunday's Scripture narrates two leprosy cures and two reactions to them. As we get older it is so easy to see the difference between our own old flesh and the soft, clean skin of an infant. What would your reaction be if you were made fresh as a baby, after your skin had been that of a leper? We would probably open a website to sell soft skin!

In the Gospel, Jesus heals ten lepers. He sends them off, saying, "Go show your-selves to the priests." They do, but on the way, they find out that they are already cleansed! Maybe the point of the Scripture is that only one former leper—and it is a Samaritan—has eyes to see what this healing means. Extolling God in a loud voice, this one comes back to Jesus. He drops to the ground giving thanks. The other nine? They must have been glad they had won the lotto and had not thought about who had done the cure. Jesus offers a soul-cure as well as a bodily one. Too bad those others missed it!

Second, in the first reading, a leper, Naaman—also a Samaritan—is healed by Elisha the prophet. Naaman is told to plunge into the Jordan river seven times. He carries out this strange routine just as instructed. The result? His flesh became again like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean of his leprosy. Naaman rushed back to Elisha to give copious thanks. He declared that there was no other god on earth but Israel's God! He offered a gift in thanksgiving. This was a very healthy and normal reaction: when a person is loved so much, their heart goes out to the giver and, without thinking, their soul wants to give gifts in return. Strangely, Elisha refused the gift. We are not given an explicit reason, but probably he did not want earthly rewards for doing God's work. In response to the refusal, Naaman the leper made a dramatic pronouncement: "If you will not accept, please let two mule-loads of earth be given to your servant, for your servant will no longer offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god except to the Lord." Mules and all, he will use Israeli earth to show his gratitude. It will be a sacrifice to the God of Israel, the God we worship. The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius Loyola are based on this same response of gratitude. Especially in an exercise called the "Contemplation to Obtain God's love," people on retreat realize (over time) how deeply they are being loved. Their great desire is to give back to the one doing the loving, to give in return.

Notice that this implies an adult relationship, not a child's. An infant is filled with need after need and tells you all about them. The nine cured lepers who did not say thanks might have been like that. But as maturity grows in a person, he or she wants to give back instead of only receiving. Yes, even to give back to God. God has been seeking a mutual love relationship with each of us from the beginning of our lives. Have you ever sensed this? Have you felt gratitude? Have you ever taken time out to return love? Could you take some time out this week?

Today's gospel reading follows immediately after last Sunday's reading. This linkage is important, because it helps us appreciate Luke's presentation of this incident, as expanding the teaching on 'faith' in last Sunday's gospel. The miracles of Jesus were, before all else, signs pointing to what was to be expected from the Saviour's presence among us. In this miracle, the interaction between Jesus and the Samaritan who re-returns to give thanks leads us deeper into an understanding of the faith that is God's gift. Jesus tells the Samaritan that it is 'faith' that has saved him. His companions, too, we may presume, also had faith – evidenced in their common plea with him, and the fact that they too have been healed – because Jesus is surprised that they have not re-turned. But, unlike the one who returns, they do not have the gratitude that is the ex-pression of a lively faith. If faith is a trusting readiness to receive the great things God does for us, it is also a grateful recognition of what God has done and is doing in our lives. The Samaritan helps us understand what this awareness involves. He 'turned back praising God at the top of his voice'. Our relationship with our God is quite unique; the other relationships that shape our lives cannot be compared with it. Our awareness of our indebtedness to God should deepen more and more this unique relationship, as we grow in wonder at the blessings of each day. It is not by chance that we call our principal act of worship, our 'Eucharist', our 'Thanksgiving'. Shouting his praises, the healed man 'throws himself at the feet of Jesus'. His faith is a readiness to receive what only God can give; but he recognises that it is through Jesus that God's blessing comes to him – through the one whose teaching and minis-try led him and his desperate companions to appeal to the 'pity' they recognised in Jesus; through the one whose authoritative word they accepted immediately, not yet healed, but ready to do what he commanded. The whole sequence presents Jesus as the Saviour. He sends the band to 'show themselves to the priests' – in accordance with the accepted custom: that the authority to allow those with contagious diseases re-join the community was given by Israel's Law to the priests. Now, in the case of the Samaritan, Jesus himself assumes this authority, 'Go on your way!'

The gift of God given by God to those who have faith is universal – it excludes no-body. It is not surprising that Luke, the Gentile convert, is especially conscious of this. His care to include reference in his writings to the Samaritans – the renegade group, hated by the Jews as half-pagan – reflects this awareness, pointing to the con-versions that were to be so important in the first Christian communities. He alone brings us the story of the Good Samaritan; he devotes a chapter (8) of the Acts of the Apostles to the preaching of the gospel to the Samaritans; and now he alone holds up this Samaritan as an example of lively faith.

# QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

## First Reading 2 Kings 5:14-17

- ↳ What challenges do you have to be “clean”? The Jordan was a muddy creek: what muddiness in your life could lead to making you “clean”?
- ↳ Do you try to “bribe” God with “gifts”? Where do you feel “on home soil”? With whom?

## Second Reading 2 Timothy 2:8-13

- ↳ What “word of God” helps you to be unchained? What gives you hope to endure and live with God?
- ↳ What examples come to mind about God's being faithful to you? About you being faithful?

## Gospel Luke 17:11-19

- ↳ How does Jesus save at every level of your being? What fills your faith?
- ↳ Jesus shared God's love and healing with all the lepers. He didn't test them to see if they would understand the greater work that he would do in Jerusalem. Do you “test” people before reaching out to heal?

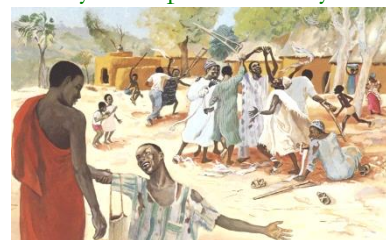
## HOMILY OF POPE FRANCIS – 28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 2019

“Your faith has saved you” (Luke 17:19). This is the climax of today's Gospel, which reflects the journey of faith. There are three steps in this journey of faith. We see them in the actions of the lepers whom Jesus heals. They cry out, they walk and they give thanks.

First, they **cry out**.

The lepers were in a dreadful situation, not only because of a disease that, widespread even today, needs to be battled with unremitting effort, but also because of their exclusion from society. At the time of Jesus, lepers were considered unclean and, as such, had to be isolated and kept apart (cf. Leviticus 13:46). We see that when they approach Jesus, they “kept their distance” (Luke 17:12). Even though their condition kept them apart, the Gospel tells us that they “called out” (v.13) and pleaded with Jesus. They did not let themselves be paralyzed because they were shunned by society; they cried out to God, who excludes no one. We see how distances are shortened, how loneliness is overcome: by not closing in on ourselves and our own problems, by not thinking about how others judge us, but rather by crying out to the Lord, for the Lord hears the cry of those who find themselves alone.

Like those lepers, we too need healing, each one of us. We need to be healed of our lack of confidence in ourselves, in life, in the future; we need to be healed of our fears and the vices that enslave us, of our introversion, our addictions and our attachment to games, money, television, mobile phones, to what other people think. The Lord sets our hearts free and heals them if only we ask him, only if we say to him: “Lord, I believe you can heal me. Dear Jesus, heal me from being caught up in myself. Free me from evil and fear”. The lepers are the first people, in this Gospel, who called on the name of Jesus. Later, a blind man and a crucified thief would do so: all of them needy people calling on the name of Jesus, which means: “God saves”. They call God by name, directly and spontaneously. To call someone by name is a sign of confidence, and it pleases the Lord. That is how faith grows, through confident, trusting prayer. Prayer in which we bring to Jesus who we really are, with open hearts, without attempting to mask our sufferings. Each day, let us invoke with confidence the name of Jesus: “God saves”. Let us repeat it: that is prayer, to say “Jesus“ is to pray. And prayer is essential! Indeed, prayer is the door of faith; prayer is medicine for the heart.



The second word is to **walk**.

It is the second stage. In today's brief Gospel, there are several verbs of motion. It is quite striking is that the lepers are not healed as they stand before Jesus; it is only afterwards, as they were walking. The Gospel tells us that: “As they went, they were made clean” (v.14). They were healed by going up to Jerusalem, that is, while walking uphill. On the journey of life, purification takes place along the way, a way that is often uphill since it leads to the heights. Faith calls for journey, a “going out” from ourselves, and it can work wonders if we abandon our comforting certainties, if we leave our safe harbours and our cosy nests. Faith increases by giving, and grows by taking risks. Faith advances when we make our way equipped with trust in God. Faith advances with humble and practical steps, like the steps of the lepers or those of Naaman who went down to bathe in the river Jordan (cf. 2 Kings 5:14-17). The same is true for us. We advance in faith by showing humble and practical love, exercising patience each day, and praying constantly to Jesus as we keep pressing forward on our way.

There is a further interesting aspect to the journey of the lepers: they move together. The Gospel tells us that, “as they went, they were made clean” (v.14). The verbs are in the plural. Faith means also walking together, never alone. Once healed, however, nine of them go off on their own way, and only one turns back to offer thanks. Jesus then expresses his astonishment: “The others, where are they?” (v.17). It is as if he asks the only one who returned to account for the other nine. It is the task of us, who celebrate the Eucharist as an act of thanksgiving, to take care of those who have stopped walking, those who have lost their way. We are called to be guardians of our distant brothers and sisters, all of us! We are to intercede for them; we are responsible for them, to account for them, to keep them close to heart. Do you want to grow in faith? You, who are here today, do you want to grow in faith? Then take care of a distant brother, a faraway sister.



✚✚ To **cry out**. To **walk**. And to **give thanks**.

This is the final step. Only to the one who thanked him did Jesus say: “Your faith has saved you” (v.19). It made you both safe, and sound. We see from this that the ultimate goal is not health or wellness, but the encounter with Jesus. Salvation is not drinking a glass of water to keep fit; it is going to the source, which is Jesus. He alone frees us from evil and heals our hearts. Only an encounter with him can save, can make life full and beautiful. Whenever we meet Jesus, the word “thanks” comes immediately to our lips, because we have discovered the most important thing in life, which is not to receive a grace or resolve a problem, but to embrace the Lord of life. And this is the most important thing in life: to embrace the Lord of life.

It is impressive to see how the man who was healed, a Samaritan, expresses his joy with his entire being: he praises God in a loud voice, he prostrates himself, and he gives thanks (cf. vv.15-16). The culmination of the journey of faith is to live a life of continual thanksgiving. Let us ask ourselves: do we, as people of faith, live each day as a burden, or as an act of praise? Are we closed in on ourselves, waiting to ask another blessing, or do we find our joy in giving thanks? When we express our gratitude, the Father’s heart is moved and he pours out the Holy Spirit upon us. To give thanks is not a question of good manners or etiquette; it is a question of faith. A grateful heart is one that remains young. To say “Thank you, Lord” when we wake up, throughout the day and before going to bed: that is the best way to keep our hearts young, because hearts can grow old and be spoilt. This also holds true for families, and between spouses. Remember to say thank you. Those words are the simplest and most effective of all.

– Pope Francis, Homily, 13 October 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**

*Always needed are:* **cuppa noodles; toothpaste; tooth brushes; soap; shampoo; conditioner; toilet paper.**

## OPERATIONS CHRISTMAS CHILD – SAMARITAN’S PURSE

Thank you for your donations to the Samaritan’s Purse appeal. Your gifts will be prepared and put in shoe boxes before being sent to children over the Pacific and South-East Asia.

**You can make a cash donation at the church or call/email the Parish Office.**



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHURCH CLEANING

Thank you to the many on the roster who clean the church. The church is cleaned each week, usually on a Friday or Saturday. Currently, there are six teams of two in each team. Some on the roster are having to retire, some after many years of service to our Parish. So, there is a need for more volunteers. It would be good to have at least four more volunteers. You would be on the roster about once every **six or seven weeks**, so the burden is shared. **If you can help, please see Trish Buchan or Ken or call the Parish Office by next Friday.** Again, thank you to those on the cleaning rosters – and indeed, thanks to all who volunteer in our Parish.

## FREE TECHNOLOGY TRAINING FOR SENIORS – HOLY SPIRIT COLLEGE

If you are struggling with your mobile phone, downloading apps, or anything else that you may need, CatholicCare are very proud to be partnering with CEO and Holy Spirit College offering **free technology training** again to seniors within our diocese. The Cross + Generational training program is a unique opportunity for an ‘exchange of gifts’ between both students and seniors. This program has been successful in the Macarthur, Shellharbour and was great to see the connections formed between the seniors and students and to hear the things that the seniors needed assistance with. There are only four Friday sessions this term with the dates being **21 October, 4 November, 18 November, and 2 December ... 9:30–11am at Holy Spirit College, Bellambi.**

This is a GREAT opportunity to find out how to work those electronic things – and a computer! To secure your place, please call Jane Hollier, Parish and Community Liaison Officer at CatholicCare ☎ **0417 018 152** or 📧 **[janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au](mailto:janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au)**

Maybe your parents or grandparents might benefit from this opportunity – ask them and you can enrol on their behalf. **Don’t miss out on this great opportunity.**

## FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- ✚ **Tuesday, 11 October, 7:30pm:** Parents’ meeting for First Penance and First Communion in the church.
- ✚ **Wednesday, 12 October, 11:00am:** Catholic Women’s League meeting in the McCarthy Centre.
- ✚ **Friday, 14 October, 2:30pm:** Saint Francis Liturgy in the School.
- ✚ **Saturday, 15 October, 5:30pm:** five baptisms during Mass.
- ✚ **Sunday, 16 October, 8:00am:** one baptism during Mass.
- ✚ **Tuesday, 18 October, 3:45pm:** First Penance preparation class #1.



## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Weekday readings are from **Year II**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>10 Oct</b>	Monday of Ordinary Time Week 28	Galatians 4:22-24,26-27,31-5:1	Luke 11:29-32
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>11 Oct</b>	Tuesday of Ordinary Time Week 28 Memorial of <b>St John XXIII</b> , pope 7:30pm: Parents' meeting for Frist Penance and First Communion in the church	Galatians 5:1-6	Luke 11:37-41
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>12 Oct</b>	Wednesday of Ordinary Time Week 28 <b>11am: Catholic Women's League Meeting in the McCarthy Centre</b>	Galatians 5:18-25	Luke 11:42-46
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>13 Oct</b>	Thursday of Ordinary Time Week 28	Ephesians 1:1-10	Luke 11:47-54
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>14 Oct</b>	Friday of Ordinary Time Week 28	Ephesians 1:11-14	Luke 12:1-7
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>15 Oct</b>	<b>St Teresa of Jesus</b> , virgin, doctor	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 12:8-12
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9 Oct</b>	<b>28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C ... Scripture Readings are listed below</b> <b>BAPTISMS: 5 on Saturday evening and 1 on Sunday morning</b>		

## THIS WEEK'S RECIPE: Lemon Snow from Sue Webb

2 cups water; 1 cup sugar; juice and rind of 2 lemons [more rind if you want!]; 2 tblspns cornflour; 2 egg whites.  
Put juice, rind, sugar and water into a bowl. Moisten cornflour with juice and water, and stir into mixture until thickened. When cool add **stiffly** beaten egg whites.

In a separate bowl, whisk together milk, egg and butter. Add liquid ingredients to bowl of dry ingredients. Stir until just combined. Do not over mix. Bake for 45 to 50 minutes. Top should be golden brown. Cool on wire rack. Remove loaf from pan, slice and serve.

*Do you have a favourite recipe to share from around the world? Please email the Parish Office.*

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE MEETING: 11AM, WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER

The Catholic Women's League will be meeting on Wednesday, 12 October, in the McCarthy Centre at 11:00am. We will be having a trading table and discussing our stall which is to be held after Masses on the weekend of 29/30 October. **ALL WELCOME!**

## THE SURFING SEASON IS HERE – BE SAFE

From 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, the 48,452 proficient surf lifesavers, who completed a total of 1,312,891 volunteer patrol hours, performed 8,916 rescues, 4,257 of them being performed in NSW. Surf lifesavers performed 1,634,223 preventative actions, and 58,390 first aids. During the floods, surf lifesavers rescued or evacuated 1,584 persons, being deployed for 17,159 hours.

Unfortunately, there were 141 coastal drowning deaths, 89% were male, and 11% female.

The full SLISA Report can be viewed at: [https://issuu.com/surflifesavingaustralia/docs/ncsr\\_2022](https://issuu.com/surflifesavingaustralia/docs/ncsr_2022)

Thirroul Beach is currently patrolled Monday to Saturday by Wollongong City Lifeguards, 1am to 5pm, and on Sundays by Thirroul Surf Lifesaving Club volunteers 10am to 5pm. **Swim between the red and yellow flags.** The black and white flags indicate that surfboard riders must stay outside these flags.



## USED STAMPS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED

If you do receive mail nowadays, or if you know of companies who receive mail, the used stamps can be put to good use for charity. Please place them in the "Used Stamps" box in the **sacristy** or drop them in to the **Parish Office**.  
*Thanks for your generosity.*

### THIS Sunday's Readings – on website

#### 28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • Year C

1<sup>st</sup> Reading 2 Kings 5:14-17

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 2 Timothy 2:8-13

Gospel Luke 17:11-19

### NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website

#### 29<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • Year C

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Exodus 17:8-13

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

Gospel Luke 18:1-8

### 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

### 🌐 [www.thirroulcatholic.org.au](http://www.thirroulcatholic.org.au)

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Parish School of St Michael

☎ 4267 2560

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday \_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday ☑ 5:30pm

Wednesday 9:00am

Thursday 9:00am

Friday 9:30am

*Anointing of the Sick 1<sup>st</sup> Friday*