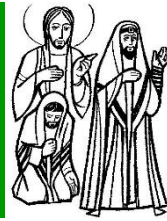




## Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



**PARISH BULLETIN**  
**22/23 OCTOBER 2022**  
**30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + YEAR C**  
**WORLD MISSION DAY**

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

### *The Worst Kind Of Pride*

In the gospel reading, Jesus tells a parable about a Pharisee and a tax collector in order to teach a lesson about pride. As Jesus tells the parable, the Pharisee is not pleasing to God; the tax collector is.

In the parable, what the Pharisee says in his prayer is this: "I thank you, God, that I am not like the rest of humanity—greedy, dishonest, adulterous—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income." The tax collector just prays for God to have mercy on him, a sinful man.

Now what exactly is wrong with the Pharisee's prayer?

Notice that the parable doesn't doubt the Pharisee's truthfulness: he does have real moral excellence. And notice too that the Pharisee doesn't congratulate himself on this moral excellence in himself. He thanks God for it; he gives God all the credit for it. So, what exactly is wrong with this Pharisee?

Think about it this way. Saint Thomas Aquinas says that there are four kinds of pride.

(1) There's foolish pride. You think you have an excellence which you don't have, like a child who thinks he's the best basketball player in the world.

(2) There's the pride of the self-made man. You think you have an excellence you do have, but you think you got that excellence for yourself, without anybody's help.

(3) There's the sneakily self-congratulatory pride. You think you have an excellence you do have, and you recognize that God gave it to you; but you assume God gave it to you because he knew that you would make such good use of it.

(4) And then there's the most self-deceptive kind of pride. You think you have an excellence you do have, and you recognize that you have it because God gave it, and you acknowledge that God gave it because he is so good, not because you are so nice—but you are glad others don't have it and you hope they don't get it.

Now we see what is wrong with the Pharisee, don't we? He accepts that his excellence is a gift from the Lord. He just doesn't want anybody else to have what he has. He likes looking down on that tax collector! And that is the worst kind of pride.

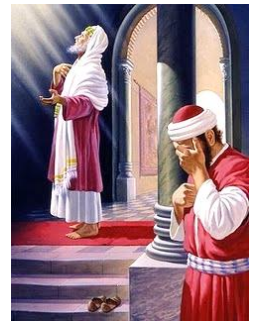
True humility is seeing that every excellence you have is a gift from your loving Lord and is given to you so that you can share it with others in love and rejoice with them when they have it too.

The parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector speaks so clearly to us that it needs little commentary. We can recognise the deep implications Luke saw in this story, when we situate it within the compilation made by the evangelist – that we have followed during the past weeks. As Jesus courageously takes the road to meet his fate, he is giving his final instructions to the disciples he will leave behind. Faith, he has taught them is an obedient openness to God's coming in their lives, and to the plan of God about to reach its moment of climax. Their prayer should be the living expression of this faith, teaching them to trust in the Father who will show his care for them – whatever the difficulties they may have to face. In the end they should see themselves as God's 'unprofitable servants'. Today's short parable sums up what his teaching should have brought home to them – in a few words, everything depends, in the end, not on our own efforts, but upon the grace and mercy of God. It is this outlook that has shaped the lives of the outstanding disciples of Jesus, one after the other, down through the ages.

The Pharisees are a tragic group in the gospel story. There was a movement of popular piety that aimed to promote a revival of Israel's traditions. Many of them were honourable; and not a few found faith in Christ. This parable, however, highlights the issue that brought some of them into conflict with Jesus. These people thought they were 'at rights with God', and faithful to the God of the covenant, through their strict observance of the externals of the Law's requirements. Luke has already described Jesus' criticism of the Pharisees for preferring external observance to 'justice and the love of God' (11:42), and for a love of money that had no thought for almsgiving (16:14). The Pharisee in the story is pleased with himself, because he does more than the Law requires in his fasting and the tithes he gives. He brings these practices of his to the Lord, as establishing his claim on God's favour. His spirit of self-sufficiency is echoed ironically in the telling of the story – in his prayer, he is speaking 'to himself'.

The only attitude on our part, that opens a genuine meeting with God, is one of humility. We should stand naked before the Lord, aware that there is nothing we can bring to God that is not, in the first place, his gift. All that we bring before him that is truly our own is our sinfulness.

The tax collector, on the other hand, 'went home at rights with God' because of the humble confession that made up his prayer. The generous mercy of God is emphasised by the fact that a repentant tax collector would probably bring before God an impossible situation, as far as recompense was concerned. Despised by his people for being the agent of the occupying power, and constantly tempted to take advantage of his position by defrauding the people, he was bound to make restitution of the amount unjustly taken, plus twenty per cent.



# QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

## First Reading Sirach 35:12-14,16-18

- ✚ “The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds.” How are the orphan, widow and oppressed lowly or humble? Name some people you know who fit their description. What does humility look like on them? How is your humility? Are you honest with God?
- ✚ Do you do anything when you hear the cry of the oppressed, the wail of the orphan or the widow's complaint? Is there something you could do to help anyone in need that you are not doing now? How is our own Pope Francis like Sirach in biblical times?

## Second Reading 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18

- ✚ Do you sometimes feel as if you are being “poured out like a libation,” or that everyone has deserted you? What do you think Paul did to combat these feelings in himself? What do you think would help you?
- ✚ Paul was rescued from the lion's mouth, and he trusted that he would be safe from every evil threat. What are the evil threats to the earth? To the Church? What threatens to you? How is your trust?

## Gospel Luke 18:9-14

- ✚ The Pharisee says a prayer in this Gospel. Is it to God or to himself? If you were in God's place, what kind of prayers of the two would you answer first? Which one has a sincere heart?
- ✚ According to Pope Francis, God has a weakness for the humble ones and their prayers open God's heart wide. Which heart can God fill with his mercy: the humble empty one, or the one who keeps track of all his/her good deeds and his/her neighbours' misdeeds?

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our continuing catechesis for this Holy Year of Mercy, we now turn to the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. Jesus contrasts the arrogance and self-righteousness of the Pharisee's prayer with the tax collector's humble recognition of his sinfulness and need for the Lord's mercy. True prayer is born of a heart which repents of its faults and failings, yet pleads for the grace to live the great commandment of love of God and neighbour. Indeed, the proud disdain of the Pharisee for the sinner at his side prevents him from being righteous in God's sight. To pray well, then, we need to look into our own hearts and there, in humble silence, let the Lord speak to us. The honesty and humility which God asks of us is the necessary condition for our receiving his mercy. – Pope Francis, General Audience, 1 June 2016

## THIRROUL SURF LIFESAVING CLUB – NIPPERS ... AND FUNCTIONS

Nippers – for **5 to 13 year old children** – started Sunday, 16 October 2022. If you haven't already done so, please register ASAP. Cost is \$75 per person (\$65 p/p if **four** or more members of the family are **joining!**). Make payment **at time of registration**. If you are having trouble, please contact [nicoleair72@gmail.com](mailto:nicoleair72@gmail.com) or ☎ 0425 374 205. Thirroul Surf Lifesaving Club has a great function space, well appointed and, of course, with a fantastic view! **Hire the function space:** <https://www.thirroulsurfclub.com.au/> ⓘ [functions@thirroulsurfclub.com.au](mailto:functions@thirroulsurfclub.com.au)

## 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 three more Friday sessions this term with the dates being **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.

## WORLD MISSION DAY

Ever since 1926, the Church has celebrated World Mission Day, which falls in 2022 on 23 October. Pope Francis reflected on three foundations of “the life and mission of every disciple”. The first, he said, is “the call of every Christian to bear witness to Christ,” calling it the “heart of Jesus’ teaching to the disciples.” Pope Francis said Christ was the first to be sent to proclaim, as the Father's missionary and as His “faithful witness.” “Every Christian is called to be a missionary and witness to Christ. And the Church, the community of Christ's disciples, has no other mission than that of bringing the Gospel to the entire world by bearing witness to Christ. To evangelize is the very identity of the Church.” **Donation envelopes are available this weekend.**

## FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- ✦ **Sunday and Monday, 23-24 October:** Ken away on a train or two or three.
- ✦ **Tuesday, 25 October, 3:45pm:** First Penance preparation class #2.
- ✦ **Wednesday, 26 October, 7:00pm:** Sacrament of First Penance.
- ✦ **Thursday, 27 October, 7:15pm:** Baptism Preparation meeting.
- ✦ **Friday, 28 October, 9:30am:** Year 5 and Kindy attending Mass.
- ✦ **Saturday, 29 October, 8am onward:** Sydney Water Surf Carnival, Thirroul.
- ✦ **Weekend, 29/30 October:** Catechist Sunday – bring the Gospel message to those in our local State Schools.
- ✦ **Monday, 31 October:** **HALLOWEEN** – eve of the “all holy” i.e., **All Saints Day is tomorrow.**
- ✦ **Tuesday, 1 November:** **All Saints Day and Melbourne Cup Day.** TAB at 3:00pm and Mass at 5:30pm.
- ✦ **Wednesday, 2 November:** **All Souls Day.** Mass at 9:00am.
- ✦ **Friday, 4 November, 9:30am:** Anointing of the Sick.



## The Surfing Season is here – Report from 2021-2022.

From 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, drowning deaths increased by 15% compared to the previous year, but they increased by 24% compared to the 10-year average. **339** people drowned in Australian waterways last year. 82% of drowning deaths were males. There were 17 drowning deaths among children aged 0-4 years. 15 drowning deaths occurred in children aged 5-14 years. 94 drowning deaths occurred in people aged over 65 years, the age bracket with the largest number of drowning deaths, and a **70% increase** compared with the ten-year average. 114 drowning deaths occurred in rivers and creeks; 39 were flood related. Rivers and creeks were the leading location for drowning (34%), followed by beaches (21%) and ocean/harbour locations (13%). **45** drowning deaths were known to involve **alcohol**, and **62** to involve drugs.

In **NSW** there were **125** drowning deaths, a **34% increase** against the ten-year average, and a **26% increase** on the previous season, 2020-2021. **83%** of those who drowned in NSW were **male**. This is the first time drowning in NSW is reported to be over 100 deaths since 2011. This is the highest number of reported drownings in NSW on record (since 2002/03).

In addition to the **339** fatal drownings, there were **686** non-fatal drowning incidents in Australia last season.

**Coastal drownings 2021-2022:** there were **141** coastal drowning deaths, **89%** were **male** and 11% female. **51%** were at the **beach**, 23% offshore, 16% off rocks/cliffs. **49%** were at least 5km from a lifesaving service. Of those who drowned, 29% were swimming or wading, 18% were boating or on a power craft, 11% were rock rishing, 9% were from falls and 9% snorkelling. **6 in 10** Australians cannot swim 50m in the ocean.

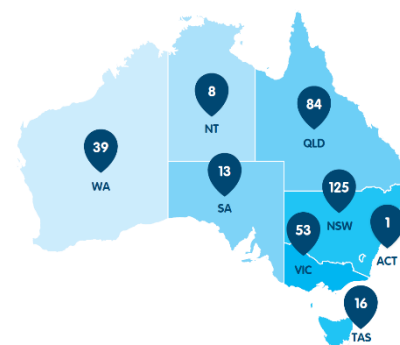
**Already, since 1 July 2022, surf lifesavers have performed 150 rescues and 664 first aids.**

**BLUEBOTTLES:** The bluebottle (physalia) is probably the most well-known marine stinger found around the Australian coastline. It is also known as Portuguese man-o-war, Pacific man-o-war. Bluebottles are a different type of jellyfish called siphonophores. Bluebottles are colonial hydrazoans, made up of four types of specialised and highly modified individuals (polyps). The polyps are dependent on one another, and each performs a different function to ensure their survival. Bluebottles are the most common cause of marine stings in Australia, with 1 in 6 Australians reporting to have been stung by a bluebottle.

Bluebottles are active fishers, dragging their tentacles through the water in search of prey. They catch, sting and kill fish and other small marine life, and then the main fishing tentacle contracts the prey towards the mouths (yes, plural) of the bluebottle. Out in the open ocean where blue bottles live, each armada (the collective term for blue bottles) has both left and right-handed forms. But when a breeze kicks up and drives them toward shore, only those with the crest facing the right direction to catch that particular breeze will sail toward their death. It seems that this is nature's way of ensuring that some survive.

① **How to treat a sting:** ❌ Do not allow rubbing of the sting area. ✅ Pick off – remove – any tentacles carefully using your fingertips. ✅ Wash the area of any remaining tentacles with sea water (not freshwater). ✅ Immerse the patient's sting in hot water – no hotter than can be comfortably tolerated for 20 minutes. ✅ If the pain is unrelieved by heat, or if hot water is not available, apply cold packs or ice in a dry plastic bag. ✅ Send for medical aid for further treatment if symptoms persist.

**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. Drop used stamps into the sacristy please.





## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Weekday readings are from **Year II**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>24 Oct</b>	St Monday of Ordinary Time Week 30	Ephesians 4:32–5:8	Luke 13:10-17
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>25 Oct</b>	St Tuesday of Ordinary Time Week 30 3:45pm: <b>First Penance Class #2</b>	Ephesians 5:21-33	Luke 13:18-21
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>26 Oct</b>	Wednesday of Ordinary Time Week 30 7:00pm: <b>Sacrament of First Penance</b>	Ephesians 6:1-9	Luke 13:22-30
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>27 Oct</b>	Thursday of Ordinary Time Week 30	Ephesians 6:10-20	Luke 13:31-35
<b>Friday</b>	<b>28 Oct</b>	<b>Saints Simon and Jude</b> , apostles	Ephesians 2:19-22	Luke 6:12-19
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>29 Oct</b>	Saturday of Ordinary Time Week 30	Philippians 1:18-26	Luke 14:1,7-11
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>30 Oct</b>	<b>30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C ... Scripture Readings are listed below</b>		

## THIS WEEK'S RECIPE: Canadian Cheese Soup

2 cups chicken broth; 1 cup diced carrots; 1½ cups diced celery; 225g butter; ¼ cup minced onion; ½ cup all-purpose flour, sifted; 6 cups whole milk; 500g cheddar/tasty/mixed cheese, shredded; garnish.

Heat broth; add carrots and celery; cook until tender; set aside. Heat butter in saucepan; add onions and sauté lightly. Add flour while stirring with wire whisk; cook 2 to 4 minutes, making sure butter and flour are well-blended. Add vegetable broth and milk. Bring to boil while stirring with a wire whisk. Turn heat to low as soup thickens. Add cheeses and stir over low heat until melted. Garnish with freshly chopped parsley or bacon bits. Serve.

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

**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.**

## CATHOLIC FAMILY CAMPING WEEKEND

5pm Friday, 4 November – 3pm Sunday, 6 November 2022, Wooglemai Catholic Camping Facility/Environmental Centre, Sheehys Creek Road, Oakdale (15 minutes from Picton). The weekend is for families of all ages, including couples with or without children, and single parents with their children and aims to bring them together to celebrate the great gift of family life. The weekend allows us to be nurtured by each other's company and emboldened as families to witness to the love of God in our world, a key hope articulated by Pope Francis at the conclusion of the World Meeting of Families earlier this year. Cost: \$30 per adult or \$70 per family (Regardless of size) RSVP Date: 1 November 2022. Enquiries: Helen Bennett 4222 2403 / [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au) For more information and to register go to [www.dow.org.au/events](http://www.dow.org.au/events)

## LIVE LOCAL – REGIONAL YOUTH GROUP

LIVE Local is a Regional Youth Group run by the CYMW and NET Team which runs every Friday night during school term from 7–9pm, at St Therese Parish school hall, West Wollongong. This regional youth group is for all parishes and is open to young people aged 13–17 who want to make new friends and grow in their faith. Come along for snacks, games, formation, prayer, and music.

## BISHOPS' SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2022 ... RESPECT: CONFRONTING VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

*Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse* points out that the roots of domestic and family violence “lie in the abuse of power to control and dominate others” and that “this stands in contrast to the relationships to which God calls us”. Our relationships should be “marked by equality and reciprocity rather than domination and violence, respect and freedom rather than coercion and control”. *Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse* discusses how religious teachings – including our own – may be manipulated by perpetrators to excuse violence or to exert control over others.

### THIS Sunday's Readings – on website

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

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Sirach 35:12-14,16-19

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18

Gospel Luke 18:9-14

### NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website

#### 31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • Year C

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Wisdom 11:22–12:2

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 2 Thessalonians 1:11–2:2

Gospel Luke 19:1-10

### 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*