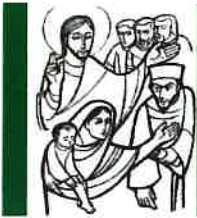




Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
15/16 OCTOBER 2022
29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + YEAR C
WELCOME TO THE NEWLY BAPTISED

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

The second reading says that “all Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for training in righteousness”. And this line sounds wonderful until it bumps up against the first reading, where Moses avails himself of the special power of God to help Joshua destroy the Amalekites in a war.

This story about the Amalekites is a good example of Scriptural stories that prompt outrage in many contemporary readers. It presents God as helping the Israelites to slaughter their enemies. Why shouldn't we reject this story as morally repellent? And if we do, then what happens to the line that all Scripture is inspired of God

Well, here is one way to accept the story of the Amalekites as part of God's inspired revelation.

Human beings are meant to live in everlasting joyful union with their Creator, who loves them. But it is possible for human beings instead to become seriously spiritually sick. If that sickness is bad enough, it is possible for people to become the living dead, still functioning in some sense but spiritually dead, lost to love and union forever.

To ward off this worst thing for human beings, a loving God will go to great lengths. So will we. Just think about what we will let our children suffer in hospitals in the hope of healing them, and you will see the point. God will endure even appalling suffering on the part of the human beings God loves, if that suffering holds a chance of a spiritual cure.

In fact, the process of dying can be an important part of the journey of spiritual healing, as anyone knows who has worked with the dying in hospitals.

Maybe the terrible things that happen when a people loses a war are like this too. Think about it this way: would Germany have been better off if it had won the Second World War? Wasn't it a blessing for the Germans that they lost it?

And so, we can think about the first reading this way. God's love encompasses the Amalekites, too. His great love for them, his hope for their salvation, underlies his willingness to let them suffer even the terrible devastation that comes to them in the loss of the war with the Israelites. And that is the beginning of an explanation for why it is possible to accept even the first reading as divinely inspired Scripture.

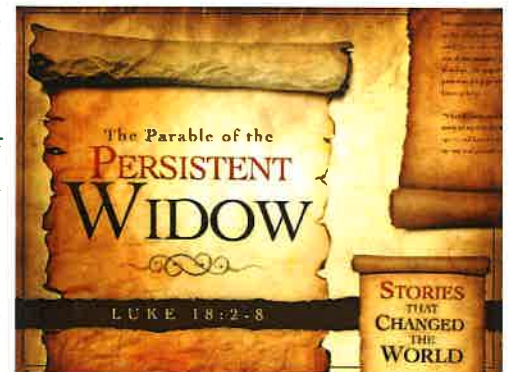
A very typical human situation: a corrupt judge, pestered by a persistent widow, finally gives in to her, not because he is won over to acting justly, but because she is going to 'worry him to death'. We see an unfamiliar side of Jesus in this parable; he is not long faced – he can speak of human foibles with an ironical humour. The story was all too common in the world that Jesus knew. The widow who cannot get a fair hearing, probably concerning her inheritance, represents 'the poor' with whom Jesus identifies. He is certainly not likening his Father to the judge of the parable, but using the parable as the basis of an 'even more so' argument, such as we find in other parables. Having caught their attention with his ironical little story, Jesus is presented by Luke as emphasising the trust in God that should motivate the prayer of his disciples.

The sequence of Luke's compilation leading to this text helps us to understand the implications of Jesus' teaching. Between the teaching on 'faith' that we have considered on the last two Sundays, and today's reading, is a passage concerning 'the coming of the kingdom of God' and the day of 'the Son of Man's return'. Faith, we have seen, is an expectant openness to God's action in our midst.

If the first concern of a lively faith is being alive to God's action in our lives, our prayer should begin and end in recognition that our lives have their real meaning in the unfolding of the plan conceived before all ages in the loving designs of God. This plan – the great virtue of Christian hope assures us – will certainly be realised; and in its realisation, all things will be turned to good. Of course, our personal needs and the concerns of those dear to us should be brought constantly before God in our prayer; but this should be done in the knowledge that these things are part of the plan of God, revealed in all its mercy and generosity in the coming of the Saviour, and realised through a providence that touches every detail of our lives and those who are dear to us. Prayer, Jesus is teaching us, is a living out of our faith; and, at the same time, our faith grows and matures through our life of prayer.

Our reading from the letter to Timothy is a good complement to the lesson of the gospel – urging us to a greater familiarity with the Scriptures. The whole story of the 'inspired Scriptures' is the unfolding of God's plan and the great promise it brings to Christian hope. This story of the Scriptures is important in the life of the Church 'for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy'. Scholars assure us that the last words of the gospel are not pessimistic. Jesus knows that he will find faith when he comes – in 'the chosen ones who cry out to God day and night' – but his words are a warning for those who need it.

All Scripture is Inspired by God



QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading Exodus 17:8-13

- ↳ Could Moses have kept his hands raised (or “prayed constantly”) without the help of his companions? Can you relate to this story in any way? Can you let friends help you when you can't manage it by yourself? And whom do you support spiritually?
- ↳ In this reading some people were at battle and some—Moses, Aaron and Hur—were at intercessory prayer and action. The outcome of the battle was determined by the prayer. How important do you think prayer is to the success of your ministry? How important is prayer to anything you do?

Second Reading 2 Timothy 3:14–4:2

- ↳ What task does Paul lay on you in this reading? What instruction book does he give you to carry out the task? Is it “inconvenient” sometimes to proclaim the word of God by being patient and encouraging?
- ↳ Is proclaiming the Word of God central to all the activities of the Church? To your parish? To your life? How do you proclaim the Word of God in your work? In your life?

Gospel Luke 18:1-8

- ↳ What does Jesus' injunction, “Pray always ... ” mean to you? Do you think Jesus means only prayers of petition? What does Jesus want to make clear to you about petitioning God? Discuss this statement: “When you pray for rain, take an umbrella.”
- ↳ In his address for the “Angelus,” Pope Francis asks, “Why does God want us ‘to cry out day and night’ to the Lord? Doesn't he already know our needs?”

And this is a good question, that leads us to deepen a very important aspect of the Faith: God invites us to pray with insistence, not because he doesn't know what we need, or because he doesn't listen to us. On the contrary, he always hears and knows all of us, with love. In our daily journey, especially in difficulties, in the fight against evil outside of ourselves and within us, the Lord is not far away, he is at our side; we fight, with him beside us, and our weapon is prayer, which makes us feel his presence alongside of us, his mercy, even his help.

– Pope Francis, Angelus, 20 October 2013

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.**

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 4267 2144 or call the Parish Office 4268 1910 by next Wednesday.** 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** Maybe your parents or grandparents might benefit from this opportunity – ask them and you can enrol on their behalf.

THIRROUL SURF LIFESAVING CLUB – NIPPERS

Nippers – for **5 to 13 year old children** – starts 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 or 📞 0425 374 205. **Hire the function space:** <https://www.thirroulsurfclub.com.au/> 📞 functions@thirroulsurfclub.com.au

FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- ✦ **Tuesday, 18 October, 3:45pm:** First Penance preparation class #1.
- ✦ **Wednesday, 19 October, 10:45am:** Memorial Service in the school grounds for **Chris Loughrey**.
- ✦ **Sunday and Monday, 23-24 October:** Ken away on a train or two.
- ✦ **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 for November/December baptisms.

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 **127 rescues** and **553 first aids**.

RIP CURRENTS: Rip currents are one of the greatest, and most common, hazards on Australian beaches. On average, rip currents are responsible for at least 26 drownings deaths in Australia each year. In addition, lifeguards perform countless rescues each and every year to assist swimmers who have been caught in rip currents. There are many myths about the ocean, but rips are the number one hazard on Australian beaches. Avoid rips by swimming at a patrolled beach between the red and yellow flags. We're drawing the line on rips to make you stop and think before getting in the water. **STOP** to check for rips. **LOOK** for other dangers. **PLAN** how to stay safe.

The key signs to look for are: ☹ deeper and/or darker water; ☹ fewer breaking waves; ☹ sandy coloured water extending beyond the surf zone; ☹ debris or seaweed; ☹ significant water movement.

Sometimes it can be easier to look for where the waves are breaking consistently, and then look to each side where they don't break consistently. Those areas are rip currents.

Can you spot a rip? Rips can change shape and location quickly and may be difficult to see.

HOW TO SURVIVE A RIP CURRENT: If you're caught in a rip current, stay calm, conserve your energy and consider these options: **✓** stay calm; **✓** seek help – raise your arm and call out – you may be rescued; **✓** float with the current – it may return you to a shallow sandbank; **✓** swim parallel to the beach or towards the breaking waves – you may escape the rip current.

SWIM BETWEEN THE RED AND YELLOW FLAGS

If you're caught in a rip current, stay calm, conserve your energy and consider these options:



Seek help. Raise your arm and call out. You may be rescued.



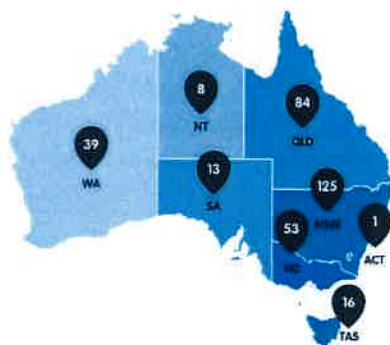
Float with the current. It may return you to a shallow sandbank.



Swim parallel to the beach or towards the breaking waves. You may escape the rip current.

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.*



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Weekday readings are from Year II

Monday	17 Oct	St Ignatius of Antioch , bishop, martyr	Ephesians 2:1-10	Luke 11:29-32
Tuesday	18 Oct	St Luke , evangelist 3:45pm: First Penance Class #1	2 Timothy 4:10-17	Luke 10:1-9
Wednesday	19 Oct	Wednesday of Ordinary Time Week 29 10:45am: Memorial Service for Chris Loughrey in the school grounds	Ephesians 3:2-12	Luke 12:39-48
Thursday	20 Oct	Thursday of Ordinary Time Week 29	Ephesians 3:14-21	Luke 12:49-53
Friday	21 Oct	Friday of Ordinary Time Week 29	Ephesians 4:1-6	Luke 12:54-59
Saturday	22 Oct	Saturday of Ordinary Time Week 29	Ephesians 4:7-16	Luke 13:1-9
Sunday	23 Oct	30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C ... <i>Scripture Readings are listed below</i>		

THIS WEEK'S RECIPE: Honey Nut Slice

1 cup self-raising flour, sifted; 1 cup rolled oats; ½ cup caster sugar; 1 cup desiccated coconut; 1 cup roasted hazelnuts, roughly chopped; 125g butter, melted, cooled; ¼ cup honey; 1 egg, beaten; 1 tsp vanilla essence; 2 cups pure icing sugar, sifted; 1 tsp butter, softened; 1 lemon, rind finely grated, juiced.

Preheat oven to 180°C. Grease and line a 3cm deep, 20cm x 30cm (base) lamington pan. Combine flour, oats, sugar, coconut and ½ cup of hazelnuts in a large bowl. Whisk melted butter, honey, egg and vanilla together in a jug. Add to dry ingredients. Stir until well combined. Press mixture into base of prepared pan. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until golden. Set aside to cool for 20 minutes. Make icing – combine icing sugar, butter, lemon rind and ¼ cup of lemon juice in a bowl. Stir until smooth, adding a little warm water if icing is too thick. Spread icing over slice. Sprinkle with remaining ½ cup of hazelnuts. Allow to set before cutting into squares. Serve.

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

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND – CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME

WELCOME to ARLO CUTIFANI, LIAM HACK, WINNIE WOODS, BEAU SAVILLE, BILLY CUTIFANI baptised in our Parish this Saturday during the 5:30pm Mass and HUGO LENA baptised on Sunday during the 8am Mass: welcome and 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 Thursday 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, **19/20 November 2022** and the Baptism preparation meeting will be in the presbytery on **Thursday, 27 October** at 7:15pm.

THIS Sunday's Readings – on website

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • Year C

1 st Reading	Exodus 17:8-13
2 nd Reading	2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:2
Gospel	Luke 18:1-8

Parish of St Michael – Thirroul

*One of the four Northern Illawarra Parishes
Moving forward as a Parish Family*

Patrick Vaughan • *Parish Priest*

Andrew Grant ofm, Ken Cafe ofm • *Assisting*

Lauren Faulks • *Parish Secretary*

Tues, Wed 9am-3:30pm; Fri 9:30am-2:30pm

NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • Year C

1 st Reading	Sirach 35:12-14,16-19
2 nd Reading	2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18
Gospel	Luke 18:9-14

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Parish School of St Michael

4267 2560

SUNDAY

MASS TIMES

Saturday	5:30pm
Sunday	8:00am

☞ Saturday Mass recorded

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday	—
Tuesday	☞ 5:30pm
Wednesday	9:00am
Thursday	9:00am
Friday	9:30am

Anointing of the Sick 1st Friday