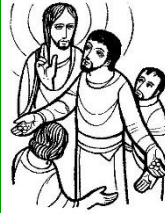




## Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



**PARISH BULLETIN**  
**29/30 OCTOBER 2022**  
**31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + YEAR C**  
**CATECHIST SUNDAY**

### THIS WEEK'S READINGS

### *True Greatness*

In the gospel reading, Jesus comes to Zacchaeus's house for dinner, and it is an enormous honour for Zacchaeus that he does.

Great honours come to great people. If you are a great scientist, you might win the Nobel prize. If you are a great athlete, you might win an Olympic gold medal. The people who get these honours seem amazing to us. And yet these are not the big honours. They pale in comparison to having God incarnate come to dinner.

So, what is it about Zacchaeus that makes him win an honour bigger than the Nobel prize or the Olympic gold medal? What are the standards of greatness on God's standards of value?

The second reading explains it. As Paul tells them, he prays for the Thessalonians that they might be made worthy of the calling of God. And how are they made worthy? By living in such a way that the name of Jesus is glorified in their lives.

How does a life glorify the name of Jesus? Well, people looking at you will not think the God you worship is great if you humiliate your wife in public, neglect your children, spend most of your free time on TV, gossip maliciously about others, and try hard to get as much attention for yourself as you can, will they? Who would want to be like you? Who would want to worship the God you say you worship?



So, to be great by God's standards of value is to live in such a way that others looking at you can see and admire the greatness of the Lord.

Now look at Zacchaeus. He didn't attract anyone's admiration. He was a tax collector, and he got rich from the oppression of his own people. He didn't care much for his own dignity either. Short as he was, he climbed a tree to see Jesus.

But this is the point of the story and the answer to the question about greatness, isn't it?

A person's winning human prizes (and being tall) isn't what glorifies the Lord. What glorifies the Lord is a person's seeking the Lord first, above all other prizes.

Zacchaeus doesn't care what happens to him as long as he can get to the Lord. That is what makes Zacchaeus great. And that is why Jesus came to dinner at his house..

The story of the rich tax collector, converted when Jesus visited him, is found in Luke's gospel alone. He makes it part of the Saviour's instructions on his way to Jerusalem – together with stories about the teaching of Jesus on faith and prayer, other stories about his receiving of outcasts, and his advice concerning this world's possessions. In a sense, all these themes are brought together in this incident so well described in today's reading.

Zacchaeus may have been small in stature, but he was a man of substance – a centre of attention, as he 'made his appearance'. As a senior tax collector, who presided over the collection of tolls and taxes in Jericho, an important centre because it was on the junction of two trade routes, Zacchaeus would have been a man of considerable wealth. The attention he attracted would certainly not have been friendly. His undignified ascent into the branches of a tree to be able to see Jesus over the heads of the crowd would have provoked amusement. But the incident gives us an insight into the forthright character of Zacchaeus – qualities that contributed, no doubt, to his worldly success. The attitude he displays in his encounter with Jesus also makes it clear that, for all his success, he is looking for more from life than the wealth he has accumulated. Drawn by what he has heard of the teacher from Nazareth, he disregards the amusement of the crowd and climbs the tree to see for himself. When Jesus calls him down in order to visit his house, his reactions are wholehearted and generous, 'he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully'.

Zacchaeus is like so many people today who – though they are confused – are not far, in their generous outlook, from the kingdom of God. Those, on the other hand, who 'complain' that the Saviour has 'gone to stay at a sinner's house', are like the righteous who do not understand the generous mercy of God, and do not know how to reach out to those in need. With Jesus at his side, the forthright little tax official confounds his critics; he 'stands his ground', Luke tells us, and amazes the whole town by the generosity of the conversion to which he has been led by the words of Jesus. He is prepared to renounce his wealthy status, by giving half of his riches to the poor, and by repaying fourfold what he has gained unjustly by taking advantage of his position.

'Today', Jesus said, 'salvation has come to this house'. There are moments of grace in the lives of all of us, moments we shall never regret, if we respond trustingly and generously to the call of God. In his concern for the outcasts – stressed in the readings we have had from Luke's gospel in recent weeks – Jesus was giving expression to the true faith of old Israel, forgotten by so many of his contemporaries, and calling them back to that faith: clearly expressed in today's first reading from Wisdom. God loves all those God has brought into existence; if God 'corrects' and 'admonishes' it is that, as a 'lover, of life', the Lord may 'spare all'.

# QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

## First Reading Wisdom 11:22-12:2

- ✚ “Lord, you love all things that exist, and detest none of the things that you have made.” What things do we think of when we hear this? If God’s attitude toward every created thing is love, what is your attitude? Do you show reverence for creation? For your neighbour? For those “detested” or “despised” or “rejected”?
- ✚ This reading is about God’s transcendence (God as beyond our limits or so far above us). At the same time, it is about God’s imminence (God’s Spirit in all things, he pitched his tent among us, God with us, at home with us). How do you feel about God when you think of these attributes?

## Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 1:11–2:2

- ✚ When you are “shaken out of your mind suddenly” on your spiritual journey, do you think God can use your fellow believers or even non-believers to help you out? Give some examples of how this might work.
- ✚ Paul wanted the Thessalonians to know that he was constantly praying for them. Does it help you to know people are praying for you? Explain. Does it help you to pray for other people? How?

## Gospel Luke 19:1-10

- ✚ A man climbs a tree in order to see. A holy man goes to a “sinner’s” house for dinner. A repenting person gives half of all his possessions to the poor. How do you explain these events? Does knowing Jesus Christ elicit extraordinary behaviour from you? What?
- ✚ How does Pope Francis use the story of Zacchaeus to help the United Nations develop goals that impact the “structural causes of poverty and hunger, attain more substantial results in protecting the environment, ensure destructuralized and productive labour for all, and provide appropriate protection for the family”?

It is the encounter between Jesus Christ and the rich tax collector Zacchaeus, as a result of which Zacchaeus made a radical decision of sharing and justice, because his conscience had been awakened by the gaze of Jesus. This same spirit should be at the beginning and end of all political and economic activity. The gaze, often silent, of that part of the human family which is cast off, left behind, ought to awaken the conscience of political and economic agents and lead them to generous and courageous decisions with immediate results, like the decision of Zacchaeus. Does this spirit of solidarity and sharing guide all our thoughts and actions.

– Pope Francis to UN: Resist the Economy of Exclusion, 5 September 2014

## 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. *Transport available.*

## CATECHIST SUNDAY

Volunteer Catechists teach **SRE – Special Religious Education** – in the Public Schools (Scarborough, Coledale, Austinmer and Thirroul) in our Parish. For **one half-hour each week**, Catechists and Catechist Assistants, take the

message of Jesus Christ to these young students, and teach them about the love of God. Catechists and the students are provided with lesson books and a curriculum to follow. Catechists are provided with training and support from our Diocese as well as locally. If this is something you could do, if you love God and children, and have a willingness to pass on your faith to others, why not consider coming along and join other like-minded parishioners to become an SRE teacher – a Catechist or Catechist Assistant? If this is a ministry you would like to take part in, you will be very well supported by experienced Catechists in our Parish, many of whom have given several years of their talents. You can go in as a helper to get the feel of what is involved and what is expected. There is lots of support for Catechists. You will need a Working With Children Check, and you will be assisted in applying for this. There is a real need in our Parish to provide this ministry in the four Public Schools. If you would like to try this for a short time, or more, **please see one of the Catechists in our Parish, or Ken or call the Parish Office.**



**Catholic SRE**  
*Diocese of Wollongong*

## FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- ✦ **Monday, 31 October: HALLOWEEN – the Eve of All Hallows.**
- ✦ **Tuesday, 1 November, 3:00pm: Melbourne Cup.**
- ✦ **Tuesday, 1 November, 5:30pm: All Saints Day Mass.**
- ✦ **Wednesday, 2 November, 9:00am: All Souls Day Mass.**
- ✦ **Friday, 4 November, 9:30am: Anointing of the Sick during Mass.**
- ✦ **Saturday, 29 October, 8am onward: Sydney Water Surf Carnival, Thirroul.**
- ✦ **Tuesday, 8 November, 3:45pm: Preparation for First Communion Class #1.**
- ✦ **Friday, 11 November, 9:30am Mass and 11:00am Cenotaph Service: Remembrance Day.**
- ✦ **Saturday, 12 November, after 5:30pm Mass: Dinner at Club Thirroul.**



## SWIM BETWEEN THE FLAGS

Already, since 1 July 2022, surf lifesavers have performed **180** rescues and **727** first aids. Please be safe on our beaches and waterways. **339** people drowned in Australian waterways last season. Of those, there were **136** coastal drowning deaths, up from **122** coastal drowning deaths three years ago. **8,064** rescues were performed by surf lifesavers last season, and **47,164** preventative actions, while surf lifesavers completed **1,341,174** volunteer patrol hours.

Of the coastal drowning deaths last season, **48%** were at the beach, **22%** were offshore, **16%** were off rocks or cliffs. **51%** drowned at least **5km** from the nearest lifesaving service.

Last season, **14.4 million** adults visited the Australian coast. There were **500 million** individual coastal visitations. Be safe at the beach: download the beach safe app ... <https://apps.apple.com/au/app/beachsafe/id397699623>



## BOOK OF THE DEAD

All during November we remember especially those who have died, our relatives, friends and those who have no one to pray for them. If you would like the name of someone who has died placed in the Book of the Dead, there will be special forms available next to the baptism font in the church all during November. Please complete a form for each deceased person whose name is not already in the **Book of the Dead**, and put the form(s) in any of the collection baskets and the name(s) will be added after November. May they rest in peace.

## THIRROUL SURF LIFESAVING CLUB – A GREAT FUNCTIONS VENUE

At Thirroul, in the surf lifesaving club, there is a beautiful and well-appointed function space, overlooking the beach. It is available for hire for weddings, wakes, birthday and other parties. Why not support your local club and hire the function space: <https://www.thirroulsurfclub.com.au/> [functions@thirroulsurfclub.com.au](mailto:functions@thirroulsurfclub.com.au)

## HALLOWEEN – EVE OF THE "ALL HOLY"

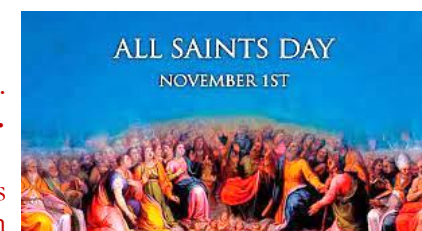
Halloween is the evening (eve) before the Feast of All Saints (the Hallowed). We use that word, "hallow" in the *Our Father* ... hallowed be your name ... holy is your name.

The history of Halloween dates back to a pagan festival called **Samhain**. Hundreds of years ago, people dressed up as saints and went door-to-door, which is the origin of Halloween costumes and trick-or-treating. As the leaves turn vibrant autumn shades, temperatures drop, and you start to pull out sweaters and jackets, in the northern hemisphere, it's time to deck out your porch with pumpkins and get to carving. Halloween, celebrated on 31 October, is just around the corner – on Monday, which means an evening of fun filled with costumes, spooky treats, trick-or-treating, Halloween party games.

Amidst all the festivities, do you ever wonder about the origin and history of Halloween, such as what it its meaning and is it pagan or Christian? The answer: it's complicated—and also shaped by secular pop culture through the ages. So, let's dive into fun facts about the holiday and how its most popular traditions evolved.

Late October is marked as a pivotal time of year when seasons change. But more importantly, observers also believed the boundary between this world and the next became especially thin, enabling them to connect with the dead. This belief is shared by some other cultures; a similar idea is mentioned around the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, which also typically occurs in October and involves saying prayers for the dead. This connection to the dead is also where Halloween gains its "haunted" connotations.

The path to the Christian Halloween date of 31 October is a little more complex. Pope Boniface IV began All Saints Day in the early 7<sup>th</sup> century when he dedicated the Pantheon in Rome to the saints, but the day was 13 May. In the next century, Pope Gregory III changed the day to 1 November when he dedicated a chapel in St Peter's Basilica to the saints. Yet another century later, Pope Gregory IV added All Saints Day to the Christian calendar, extending the



celebration from Rome to churches everywhere. With All Saints Day came All Hallows' Eve on 31 October. This was, perhaps, an effort to offset the pagan occasion with a religious celebration – *just like Christians did with Christmas*.

# WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Weekday readings are from **Year II**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>31 Oct</b>	Monday of Ordinary Time Week 31	Philippians 2:1-4	Luke 14:12-14
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 Nov</b>	<b>All Saints Day</b> 3:00pm: <b>Melbourne Cup</b>	Revelation 7:2-4,9-14	1 John 3:1-3
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>2 Nov</b>	<b>All Souls Day</b> 9:00am: <b>Mass</b>	Isaiah 25:6-9	Revelation 14:13
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>3 Nov</b>	Thursday of Ordinary Time Week 31	Philippians 3:3-8	Luke 15:1-10
<b>Friday</b>	<b>4 Nov</b>	<b>Saint Charles Borromeo, bishop</b> Anointing of the Sick during 9:30am Mass	Philippians 3:17 – 4:1	Luke 16:1-8
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>5 Nov</b>	Saturday of Ordinary Time Week 31	Philippians 4:10-19	Luke 16:9-15
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6 Nov</b>	<b>32<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C ... Scripture Readings are listed below</b>		

## THIS WEEK'S RECIPE: Best Carrot Cake Ever!

2½ cups all-purpose [i.e., plain] flour, plus more for dusting pans; 1 tsp baking powder; 1 tsp baking soda; 1 tsp cinnamon; ¾ tsp coarse salt; ½ tsp ground ginger; ¼ tsp nutmeg; 150g unsalted butter, plus more for pans; 1 cup brown sugar, packed; ½ cup sugar; 3 large eggs at room temperature; 2 tsp vanilla extract; cup water; 500g carrots, 8-10 medium carrots, peeled and shredded, about 2¾ cups; 2 cups pecans, divided (1 cup finely chopped, 1 cup coarsely chopped).

**For the cream cheese frosting:** 2 packages (500g) cream cheese at room temperature; 2 tsp vanilla extract; 100g butter, cut into small pieces and at room temperature; 1kg powdered [i.e., icing] sugar. In the bowl of an electric mixer, beat cream cheese and vanilla on medium speed until creamy. Slowly add in butter and mix until well combined. On a low speed, slowly add in icing sugar and beat until fluffy and smooth.



Preheat the oven to 180°C and butter two 20-25cm round cake pans. Fit the bottom of the pans with parchment rounds, then butter and flour the parchment lined pans, tapping out the excess flour. In a medium bowl, whisk the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, salt, ginger and nutmeg. In the bowl of an electric mixer, beat the butter and sugars together on medium speed until pale and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add in eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Scraped down the bowl and beat on medium speed for 3 minutes. Add in vanilla, water and carrot, and beat until well combined, scraping down the bowl as needed. With the mixer on a low speed, slowly add in the flour mixture and then the finely chopped pecans. Divide the batter evenly between the two pans and bake until golden brown and a tester comes out clean, about 30 minutes. Cool in pans on wire rack for 15 minutes, then run a sharp knife around the edge of the pans and remove cakes from pans. Completely cool cakes on wire racks. To frost the cakes, trim the top of one cake and spread one cup of cream cheese frosting on the cut side of the cake. Top with second cake and frost completely. Carefully press coarsely chopped pecans onto the sides of the cake. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour before serving.

**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.

### 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.

<p><b>THIS Sunday's Readings</b> – on website</p> <p><b>31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • Year C</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Reading Wisdom 11:22–12:2</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 2 Thessalonians 1:11–2:2</p> <p>Gospel Luke 19:1-10</p>	<p><b>NEXT Sunday's Readings</b> – on website</p> <p><b>32<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • Year C</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Reading 2 Maccabees 7:1-2,9-14</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 2 Thessalonians 2:16–3:5</p> <p>Gospel Luke 20:27-38</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>Lauren Faulks • <i>Parish Secretary</i></p> <p>Tues, Wed 9am–3:30pm; Fri 9:30am–2:30pm</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>