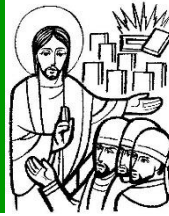


Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
5/6 NOVEMBER 2022
32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + YEAR C
NOVEMBER: REMEMBERING THE DEAD

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

The Real Thing

In the gospel reading, the Sadducees come to show Jesus up. Here is their case: if there were a resurrection and a life with God in heaven, as Jesus teaches, then what a mess there would be for people who had married more than once!

The problem with the Sadducees is that they can't imagine anything bigger or better than the small world they know. In that world, a man needs a wife and gets a wife and certainly hopes not to share her with anybody. But, they think, if there were a resurrection of the dead, then any man whose wife outlived him and remarried would find that in heaven his wife had another husband in addition to him. Since that is plainly an intolerable thought, there can't be any such thing as heaven.



When you see their view this way, it seems so childish. They are like a child who reacts with dismay when he is told that he won't be sucking his thumb when he grows up.

But, of course, we have our own version of this sort of Sadducee position; and Jesus' answer to the Sadducees prompts it. People aren't married in heaven, Jesus tells them; they are like the angels of God, who also don't marry. What?! some people say. Is there no sex in heaven? Then how could it be heaven? Obviously, our contemporary Sadducees think, there can't be any such thing as heaven since the best things in life couldn't happen there!

These contemporary Sadducees must pity the angels. The angels never had bodies. So, they were never able to have what these people think of as the best things in life—sex or even marriage.

When it is spelled out in this way, the childishness of this contemporary Sadducee-like position is clear. It supposes that the little goods of embodied creatures are as good as things ever get. But God created the angels much bigger than human beings. They unite with each other not in the limited way that bodies can unite but with their whole selves, in an intimate and joyful way, through their union with the mind of God.

By comparison with the power of that union, sex, even sex in happy marriage, is small. And that is why human beings don't marry, or have sex, in heaven. In heaven, they finally have the real thing.

Jesus has completed his journey. Having arrived in Jerusalem, he teaches boldly in the Temple, aware that his enemies, 'the chief priests and the scribes, with leading citizens' want to 'do away with him' (Luke 19:47). At this point, Luke includes several incidents of ugly confrontation. That chosen for today's gospel reading – concerned with resurrection – has intimations of the tragic drama that lies ahead. Jesus is confronted by 'some Sadducees', members of a conservative priestly establishment, who saw popular movements as a threat to their interests. Seeing Jesus as a dangerous trouble maker, they set out to discredit him in the eyes of the people by making a fool of him. The Sadducees rejected the belief in a future resurrection that had emerged in the final period of Old Testament times – as unfaithful to the original traditions of God's people. The Old Testament was a time of preparation, a time in which the awareness that made it possible to recognise God's decisive intervention in creation – in the life, death and resurrection of our Saviour – developed gradually. The faith of the Old Testament engendered immense hopes; and with the passing of time these hopes cast a new light on the full implications of the astounding intimacy to which the God of the covenant called his people, and the generosity of God's great promises – so evident in the Psalms, the popular prayer songs that gave expression to Israel's faith. The Sadducees, like many religious conservatives, were too shut in by their comfortable ways to be open to the blessings of an expanded faith – for their outlook, so identified with worldly benefits, a future life could only be a resumption of the affairs of this present life. If our faith and hope have not matured, we too can have very distorted and inadequate notions of what our eternal life with God will be. For this reason, the teaching of Jesus for the Sadducees, is worth pondering.

Jesus points out that there is a unity in God's designs from the beginning. From the first, God has been the Lord of life, not of death. The unending life we will have, in God – the source and origin of all that we admire and hold dear – will certainly be a new existence, beyond all adequate imagining in this life. But this unimaginable fullness will also be the realisation of all the realistic hopes and longings we have ever known. Life in God will be, not the negation, but the affirmation of all that makes us human – a full human existence, in a new heaven and a new earth. In the Risen Lord, and his teaching concerning the life-giving 'reign' of God, we catch a precious glimpse what lies ahead of us.

Devoted spouses will be prompted to ask how what Jesus says affects their marriage union. Properly understood, what Jesus affirms is that they will have all the joy of their most special intimacy, and infinitely more – the immediacy to the reality and life of God that will shape our very existence will bring an intuitive presence in love to all who share in God's life, a presence that includes and goes far beyond the benefits of the union with their beloved they have known in their married life. Because of the resurrection of Jesus, we hope that we too will enjoy an eternity of love with our risen bodies. We cannot imagine what this will be like – this renewal and transformation.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

- ✚ Who are “resurrection people” for you? Jesus, of course. Archbishop Romero? All the martyrs in El Salvador? Rev Jacques Hamel, 85 year-old French priest, killed by ISIS on 26 July 2016? The ones who died to bring social justice to their country like Rev Gregorio Lopez Gorostieta of southern Mexico, whose death is one of the latest in a series of abductions, attacks and highway robberies against Roman Catholic clerics in the state which is dominated by drug cartels? Who else?
- ✚ What are some burdensome earthly trials besides martyrdom that people might be able to endure because of the hope of the resurrection? What suffering could such hope allow you to endure?

Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 2:6–3:5

- ✚ Does Paul pray that his ministry and that of his friends speeds forward or that the *Word of the Lord* does the same through their efforts? Discuss. What is the difference?
- ✚ Are you saving the world in your ministry? Are you part of God's plan to save the world? How might this happen?

Gospel Luke 20:27-38

- ✚ When you encounter Christ in the Sacraments, in your fellow human beings, in community, might you get a taste of eternity? If God is love, when you experience real love might you get a taste of the risen life?
- ✚ The Sadducees thought the present life was the standard for eternity. What does Pope Francis say God has in store for us, that turns the Sadducees' way of looking at eternity on its head?

This is why Jesus affirms: “he is not the God of the dead, but of the living: for all live to him” (Luke 20:38). And the most important tie is with Jesus: he is the alliance, he is the Life and the Resurrection, because with his crucified love he defeated death. In Jesus God gives us eternal life: he gives it to everyone, and everyone can, thanks to him, hope to live a life even more real than this one. The life that God has in store for us is not simply a better version of this one: it goes beyond our imagination, because God continually surprises us with His love and mercy.

– Pope Francis, Angelus, 10 November 2013

OUR PARISH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Belinda Hughes first joined the staff at our Parish School of Saint Michael in 2013 – she was **Deputy Principal** from 2013 to 2018. Belinda became **Principal** in 2019. On Thursday, 3 November, it was announced that Belinda has been appointed Principal of Stella Maris Primary School in All Saints Parish, Shellharbour City. **Congratulations Belinda!** You have contributed much to our Parish School over the years, and have been an outstanding leader. We are truly sorry to see you move on – you will definitely be missed! Thank you for your ministry in our Parish – and we look forward to continuing to see you and your husband Paul, regular parishioners here.



The Catholic Education Office will now begin the process of appointing a new Principal for our Parish School for 2023 onwards.

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. Next to the altar, the **Book of the Dead** will be displayed, and each day a new month will be open – as well as those pages listing names for whom no date of death is known. **Please check if your deceased relative or friend is listed in the Book of the Dead** – either on the date of their death, or towards the end of the Book, if their date has not been listed in the Parish records. If you would like the name of someone who has died placed in the **Book of the Dead**, there are 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 the basket next to the baptism font, and the name(s) will be added after November. A special violet candle will be lit during every Mass in November. May they rest in peace.

CANDIDATES FOR FIRST COMMUNION

This Tuesday, 8 November, the thirty (30) Candidates for First Communion complete the first of their two classes in preparation for receiving First Communion. **Please remember them and their families before the Lord.** The Candidates will receive the Sacrament at weekend Masses as follows: **8** Candidates on Saturday, 26 November; **4** on Sunday, 27 November; **9** on Saturday, 3 December; **6** on Sunday, 4 December; **1** on Saturday, 7 January; and **2** on Saturday, 5 February. On **Wednesday, 14 December**, Mass will be at **9:30am** instead of 9am, and the Candidates from our Parish School will be present, as most, by then, will have received First Communion. All parishioners are welcome to attend that Mass and celebrate with our young parishioners.

FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- ✦ **Tuesday, 8 November, 3:45pm:** Preparation for First Communion Class #1
- ✦ **Friday, 11 November, Remembrance Day:** 9:30am Mass and 10:30am Thirroul Cenotaph Service
- ✦ **Saturday/Sunday during 5:30pm and 8:00am Masses:** Blessing of Wedding Anniversaries and Birthdays
- ✦ **Saturday, 12 November, after 5:30pm Mass:** Dinner at Club Thirroul
- ✦ **Weekend, 19/20 November:** Feast of Christ the King, Blessing of Christmas Tree
3 baptisms during 5:30pm Mass, Saturday, 19 November
3 baptisms during 8:00am Mass, Sunday, 20 November and Morning Tea
- ✦ **Weekend, 26/27 November:** First Sunday of Advent with Blessing of the Christmas Tree
Vinnies Christmas Appeal begins and continues 3/4 December

SWIM BETWEEN THE FLAGS

Already, since 1 July 2022, surf lifesavers have performed **230** rescues [*last week 180*], and **895** first aids [*last week, 727*]. Please be safe on our beaches and waterways.

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>



VINNIES CHRISTMAS

From this weekend, Vinnies Christmas Cards will be available for purchase. They feature the message of the Birth of the Christ-Child, rather than snow-covered Santas invented by Coca-Cola! Support our local Vinnies.

FRANCISCAN CALENDARS 2023 STILL AVAILABLE – FREE

There are still more 2023 Franciscan Calendars available – free of charge – in the church or the Parish Office.

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

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

As usual, there will be the annual Vinnies Christmas Appeal – for cash donations, for toys, for hampers. The Appeal will be launched on Saturday/Sunday, 26/27 November, the First Sunday of Advent, the same weekend First Communions begin. Now is the time to do some planning and preparation – items for the hampers, toys, other presents. Thank you for your anticipated generosity.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS

From the CWL members, thanks to everyone who supported in any way the CWL stall and raffle held last weekend. Your generosity is very much appreciated. A total profit of \$813 was made. Many thanks to Pat and Ray Mirabito who generously donated the huge fruit basket raffle – the lucky winner was Liz Hatton.

The Catholic Women's League will be meeting this Wednesday, 9 November, in the McCarthy Centre at 10:30am. Pat Hazel will be doing a Christmas table setting and will demonstrate making Christmas decorations. Pat would like everyone to bring a small knife or nail file. This should be a great demonstration! Everyone is welcome.

RCIA AND RCIC

RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, and RCIC is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children. If you know of any adult or child over 7 years who has not been baptized and wishes to become a Catholic, they need to contact the Parish Office this week in order to enrol for the RCIA or RCIC to prepare for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist – to be received at the Easter Vigil 2023. The preparation involves some classes and reading, as well as participation in the Sunday liturgies. Please contact the Parish Office this week.

ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKS

Our Diocese produces an excellent Advent and Christmas Daily Reflection Book. These are now available FREE OF CHARGE – from the church. If you cannot make it to church, please contact the Parish Office so that a copy can be sent to you. Advent begins on 26/27 November and the Christmas Season ends on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, 9 January 2023. Daily Reflections have been provided by eleven lay, religious and clergy, mostly from our Diocese. Well worthy picking up a copy for the busy season ahead.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Weekday readings are from **Year II**

Monday	7 Nov	Monday of Ordinary Time Week 32	Titus 1:1-9	Luke 17:1-6
Tuesday	8 Nov	Tuesday of Ordinary Time Week 32 3:45pm: Class #1 for First Communion	Titus 2:1-8,11-14	Luke 17:7-10
Wednesday	9 Nov	The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	Ezekiel 47:1-2,8-9,12	John 2:13-22
Thursday	10 Nov	Saint Leo the Great , pope, doctor	Philemon 7-20	Luke 17:20-25
Friday	11 Nov	Saint Martin of Tours , bishop Special Remembrance Day Prayers during 9:30am Mass Remembrance Day: Thirroul Cenotaph Service 10:30am	2 John 4-9	Luke 17:26-37
Saturday	12 Nov	Saint Josaphat , bishop, martyr	3 John 5-8	Luke 18:1-8
Sunday	13 Nov	33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C ... <i>Scripture Readings are listed below</i> Blessing of those celebrating November Wedding Anniversaries and Birthdays		

THIS WEEK'S RECIPE: Creamy Lemon Buttercrust Slice

250g pkt sweet plain biscuits; 125g butter, melted; 1 tsp gelatine powder; 500g cream cheese, chopped, at room temperature; 395g can Nestlé Sweetened Condensed Milk; 60ml (¼ cup) fresh lemon juice; 1 tbsp finely grated lemon rind, plus extra finely shredded lemon zest, to serve.

Grease a 16 x 26cm slice pan and line with baking paper, allowing the paper to extend up all sides. Break up the biscuits into a food processor and process until coarsely crushed. Add the butter and process until combined. Transfer to the prepared pan. Use a flat-bottomed glass to press the biscuit mixture into the base and up sides. Place in the fridge for 20 minutes or until firm. Place 1 tablespoon water in a small microwave-safe bowl and sprinkle with the gelatine. Set aside for 2-3 minutes to soften. Microwave on High for 10 seconds or until hot. Use a fork to gently whisk until gelatine dissolves. Set aside to cool slightly. Wipe the food processor clean then add the cream cheese. Process until nearly smooth. Add the condensed milk, lemon juice and rind. Process until combined. Add the gelatine mixture and process again until combined. Pour over the biscuit mixture and smooth the surface. Place in the fridge for 3 hours or until set. Use the paper to lift the slice from the pan. Sprinkle with zest and cut into bars to serve.

*Do you have a favourite **CHRISTMAS** 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.

MASS COUNT FOR THREE WEEKENDS

A Diocesan-wide Mass count will take place on three weekends in November: 12/13; 19/20; and 26/27. The Office of the Bishop will undertake a full analysis of the results.

Commencing the weekend of 29/30 October 2022 (31st Sunday in Ordinary Time) the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation will be reinstated. However, out of proper self-care and responsible love for their fellow worshippers, the faithful should not attend Mass or other gatherings when ill. The Catechism, when speaking of our Sunday obligation states, "the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor" (No. 2181).

THIS Sunday's Readings – on website	NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website	SUNDAY MASS TIMES
32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • Year C	33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • Year C	Saturday 5:30pm
1st Reading 2 Maccabees 7:1-2,9-14	1st Reading Malachi 3:19-20	Sunday 8:00am
2nd Reading 2 Thessalonians 2:16–3:5	2nd Reading 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12	 Saturday Mass recorded
Gospel Luke 20:27-38	Gospel Luke 21:5-19	
Parish of St Michael – Thirroul <i>One of the four Northern Illawarra Parishes</i> <i>Moving forward as a Parish Family</i> Patrick Vaughan • <i>Parish Priest</i> Andrew Granc ofm, Ken Cafe ofm • <i>Assisting</i> Lauren Faulks • <i>Parish Secretary</i> Tues, Wed 9am–3:30pm; Fri 9:30am–2:30pm	 www.thirroulcatholic.org.au  325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive  PO Box 44 • Thirroul 2515  4268 1910  4268 1976  thirroul@dow.org.au Parish School of St Michael  4267 2560	WEEKDAY MASSES Monday _____ Tuesday  5:30pm Wednesday 9:00am Thursday 9:00am Friday 9:30am <i>Anointing of the Sick 1st Friday</i>