



Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
12/13 NOVEMBER 2022
33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + YEAR C
NOVEMBER: REMEMBERING THE DEAD

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Listen to this consoling sentence from Sunday's first reading: "But for you who revere my [God's] name, the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings." Righteousness = right relationships! Healing wings! We have wanted this for a long time now! But what about revering God's name, as in the first line? A lot of us have fear. Especially now, with Ukraine and other world-wide issues. You and I are supposed to take in God's grandeur in its awesome and fear-invoking greatness.

Well, Scripture is not talking about the fear we experience in horror films. Not that strange noise when you are alone in the house (fears, as well-motivated, especially in the present time). No, the Hebrew text uses an older meaning of "fear": there it refers to a "reverential wonder", an awe before that which is very much bigger than us. This kind of "fear" is crucial for you and me. Only then when we have it can we begin relating to God, to start maturing in our relation with the Most High. Only then do we begin to suspect what it really means to say that God is Love.

Saying that God is Love requires a continuing revolution in our lives, like the one Copernicus brought about. Remember? He showed that the sun does not revolve around the earth but that the earth revolves around the sun. Well, spiritually, most of us are pre-Copernican. We think God's job is to circle around us, as if we, who are small asteroids, were at the centre of the universe. We often declare that God is just someone to assist us, to answer our prayers, to make us peaceful, to make our side win the ball game, and so on. Nothing is really wrong with any of these. Yet we stand in terrible need of a Copernican revolution. God does not exist to serve me. Just the opposite. God is centre of the universe! God quietly maintains all that is: stars, galaxies, lands, oceans, cities, humans hearts, butterfly wings, and so on. We owe reverence to God. It takes a spiritual transformation to think in this way. What would happen if you or I tried it?

First, we would be living truth instead of pretence. What truth? That human beings are created to welcome this true God within each of them as the source and goal of who they are. If God is greatest, why would we make something else the centre of our life? Second, the "sun of justice with its healing rays" would shine upon us. God's love would appear to us as truth instead of as just a bauble to play with, or just a way to find a parking place. We would begin to see God as the gentle source of life and the affectionate mother of the entire universe. Third—believe it or not—since Advent is coming very soon, we will be preparing to receive our tender invitation shown forth in a child. In pre-Advent (now) we are supposed to be receiving God's grandeur in an awe filled and fear-invoking stage ... in order that soon we will be humble enough to prepare for the baby. This is why the first reading and the Gospel thunder on about the day of reckoning when "nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom," etc. Isn't that what we are experiencing today? Can we climb down from our thrones and pray in hope for those unjust wars!

The Church's year is drawing to a close. During the coming weeks, the liturgies invite us to look forward in hope to the glorious fulfilment of God's plan for creation.

At the time of Jesus' ministry, the Jewish nation was full of restless expectations – giving rise at times to uprisings seeking to throw off the yoke of Roman occupation. The Jerusalem Temple not only symbolised the nation's life and hopes; it was one of the wonders of the ancient world, filling God's people with joy and pride each time they saw it. The disciples of Jesus would have been shocked, therefore, when Jesus interrupted their buzz of admiration to foretell the Temple's destruction. This prediction was well known – at the trial of Jesus, outrage was expressed that he had spoken of the destruction of the Temple. Today's scholarship sees his dramatic disrupting of the life of the Temple, at this same time, as an act pointing to the end of the era symbolised by the old Temple.

The restless expectations of Israel – that were the explosive background to Jesus teaching – recalled the words of the great prophets, and anticipated a turning point in history, confronting the nations of the world with Israel's special place in the designs of God. It is important to appreciate these expectations as we interpret the message of Jesus. The Jewish people did not look forward to the end of history, but to an intervention of God that would inaugurate a new era of human history. In this new era, all the institutions of Israel, such as the Temple worship, would be even more glorious. Jesus certainly brings the message that the hopes of Israel are to be realised; but it will be a realisation that shows such things as the Temple as only a pale foreshadowing of God's final blessings – 'the hour is coming when you will worship the Father, neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem' (John 4:21). The dismayed reaction of the disciples reminds us how attached old Israel was to their venerable institutions; and the history of the early Church shows how difficult it was for them to accept that the new order of things brought by the Saviour was the fulfilment of their hopes. In what Jesus has to say after the prediction of the destruction of the Temple, he anticipates the turmoil that will follow, as people struggle to understand the designs of God. About to experience a violent rejection by his own people, he prepares his disciples for the persecutions they will experience as they bring his message to the world.

A Copernican Revolution



QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading Malachi 4:1-2

↳ What will conquer the arrogant and the evildoers?

↳ What righteousness – right relationships – do you need to attend to in your life? What is “revering” God’s name?

Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

↳ If Jesus has saved us, why do we have to work – why not just be idle?

↳ What is a good work ethic?

Gospel Luke 21:5-19

↳ What “temples” need to be torn down in your life? How can we be protected against wars, famines, plagues, imprisonment, false accusations?

↳ How do you cope with the doom and gloom of the media news? What tends to lead you astray?

The world does not like to think about the ultimate reality, but this is part of human existence. And if we live in fidelity to the Lord, after our bodily death we will not be afraid to present ourselves before Jesus for his judgment. It is a topic which might sadden someone’s day, because he does not like to think about these things or to take account of the fact that when one of us is gone, the years will pass by and after a long time hardly anyone will remember us. However, it is the truth. This is what the Church tells us: we will all have an end. It is a truth which we are called to confront. In this regard, I have a list, a diary which I write in when someone dies – a friend, a relative – I write their name there, and every day I see, on that day, the anniversary of their death: ‘He has been dead for twenty years! Time passes so quickly! And this other person thirty years; how quickly time has passed!’. This reality is common to everyone, and it obliges us to think about what we leave behind, about the mark our lives leave behind. We are therefore faced with a real and true call from the Lord to think seriously about the end: about my end, the judgment, about my judgment. Today it will be good for us to think about this: what will my end be like? How will it be when I find myself before the Lord? Here is the solution to our fears: “fidelity to the Lord: this does not disappoint”. Indeed, “if each one of us is faithful to the Lord, when our death comes, as shall we say what St Francis said: ‘sister death, come’. It will not frighten us”. And even on the day of judgment, “we will look to the Lord” and we can say: “Lord I have many sins, but I tried to be faithful”. And since “the Lord is good”, the Pope assured, “we will not be afraid”. – Pope Francis, Homily, 22 November 2016

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. If you are unable to attend Mass, email or phone the Parish Office with details you wish placed in the Book of the Dead (name of the deceased and date of death) A special violet candle will be lit during every Mass in November. *May they rest in peace.*

POPE FRANCIS IN BAHRAIN

Last Saturday, 5 November, Pope Francis celebrated Mass for Catholics in Bahrain, telling attendees of the liturgy to always act with love and fraternity, even amid difficult and oppressive situations, as this is the only real path to peace. The Pope said Jesus suffers when he looks at the world and sees ways of exercising power “that feed on oppression and violence, seeking to expand their own space by restricting that of others, imposing their own domination and restricting basic freedoms, and in this way oppressing the weak.” Conflict, disagreement, and oppression will always be present, Pope Francis said, saying Jesus’s own response to these situations is to ask his disciples to “remain always, faithfully, in love, despite everything, even in the face of evil and our enemy.” While a human reaction seeks revenge, Jesus shows a different and seemingly “unthinkable” way, which is to turn the other cheek, he said, adding, “That is what the Lord asks of us.” “Not to dream idealistically of a world of fraternity,” he said, “but to choose, starting with ourselves, to practice universal fraternity, concretely and courageously, persevering in good even when evil is done to us, breaking the spiral of vengeance, disarming violence, demilitarizing the heart.” Pope Francis celebrated Mass at Bahrain National Stadium in Awali on his third day in Bahrain, offering special greetings to faithful who came from the four countries that make up the Apostolic Vicariate of Northern Arabia – Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia – as well as those who came from other Gulf countries, and elsewhere. In his homily, Francis, who is the first pope to visit Bahrain, said the secret to Jesus’s power does not come from “the force of violence, but from the weakness of love.” Jesus’s strategy in any situation, even conflict, is “To love always and to love everyone,” he said. “Not only when things are going well and we feel like loving, but always. Not only towards our friends and neighbours, but towards everyone, including our enemies.”

FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- ✦ **Tuesday, 15 November, 3:45pm:** Preparation for First Communion Class #2
- ✦ **Weekend, 19/20 November:** **Feast of Christ the King**
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
- ✦ **Friday, 2 December:** Anointing of the Sick during 9:30am Mass
- ✦ **Weekend, 3/4 December:** Vinnies Christmas Appeal continues
- ✦ **Monday, 5 December:** Year 6 Graduation Liturgy, 7:00pm
- ✦ **Friday, 9 December:** End of Year School Mass, 9:30am

SWIM BETWEEN THE FLAGS

Already, since 1 July 2022, surf lifesavers have performed **290** rescues [*last week 230*], and **1,125** first aids [*last week, 895*]. 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 are available for purchase **\$6**. They feature the message of the Birth of the Christ-Child, rather than a snow-covered Santa invented by Coca-Cola! Support our local Vinnies.

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.**

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2022–2023

Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse [the 2022–2023 Social Justice Statement of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference] 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”. We know that most often those who suffer violence and abuse in homes and families, in workplaces, and in communities, are women and children while the perpetrators are most often men. We support women in calling for respect in relationships; their lives and those of their children are sacred.

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 – AND A FRANCISCAN BONUS

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. As a bonus this year, there is a special booklet (also free of charge), “**Daily Reflections with Saint Francis during Advent**”. This booklet has been sent out by email, and printed copies are available in the church or from the Parish Office.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Weekday readings are from **Year II**

Monday	14 Nov	Monday of Ordinary Time Week 33	Revelation 1:1-4, 2:1-5	Luke 18:35-43
Tuesday	15 Nov	Tuesday of Ordinary Time Week 33 3:45pm: Class #2 for First Communion	Revelation 3:1-6,14-22	Luke 19:1-10
Wednesday	16 Nov	Wednesday of Ordinary Time Week 33	Revelation 4:1-11	Luke 19:11-28
Thursday	17 Nov	Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, religious	Revelation 5:1-10	Luke 19:41-44
Friday	18 Nov	Friday of Ordinary Time Week 33	Revelation 10:8-11	Luke 19:45-48
Saturday	19 Nov	Saturday of Ordinary Time Week 33	Revelation 11:4-12	Luke 20:27-40
Sunday	20 Nov	JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, Year C - Scripture Readings see below Baptisms on Saturday evening (3) and Sunday morning (3)		

THIS WEEK'S RECIPE: Apricot Oat Slice from Raymond Cummins

1 cup (90g) rolled oats (or quick oats); 1 cup (125g) plain flour; 2/3 cup (135g) brown sugar; 2/3 cup (65g) desiccated coconut; 125 g butter chopped; 2 tbs golden syrup; 2 tbs water; 1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda; 100 g dried apricots chopped; 100 g white chocolate chips (optional but highly recommended for that extra bite of sweetness).

Preheat oven to 160°C (fan-forced). Grease and line a 17cm x 28cm rectangular baking tray with baking paper and set aside. Combine the rolled oats, plain flour, brown sugar and coconut in a bowl. Place the butter, golden syrup and water in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave in 30 second bursts, stirring each time, until melted. Stir through the bicarb-soda. Stir the butter mixture through the oat mixture. Allow to cool slightly. Fold through the chopped dried apricots and chocolate chips. Place the mixture into the tray and press down firmly. Bake for approximately 25 minutes or until lightly golden brown. Leave in the baking tray to cool for 10 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely. When the slice has cooled completely, cut into slices. For perfectly cut slices, place the slice in the fridge for a minimum of 2 hours. Use a very sharp serrated knife to cut through the slice.

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.

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.

FRANCISCAN CALENDARS 2023 STILL AVAILABLE – FREE

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

CANDIDATES FOR FIRST COMMUNION

This Tuesday, 15 November, the thirty (30) Candidates for First Communion complete their second class in preparation for receiving First Communion. **Please remember them and their families before the Lord.** The Candidates will receive the Body of Christ for the first time at weekend Masses as follows: **9** Candidates on Saturday, 26 November; **4** on Sunday, 27 November; **9** on Saturday, 3 December; **4** on Sunday, 4 December; **1** on Sunday, 11 December; **1** on Saturday, 7 January; and **2** on Sunday, 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.*

THIS Sunday's Readings – on website

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • Year C

1st Reading Malachi 3:19-20

2nd Reading 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Gospel Luke 21:5-19

NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website

CHRIST THE KING • Year C

1st Reading 2 Samuel 5:1-3

2nd Reading Colossians 1:12-20

Gospel Luke 23:35-43

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

 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

Anointing of the Sick 1st Friday