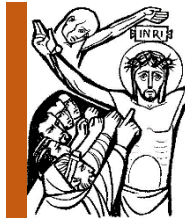




## Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN  
19/20 NOVEMBER 2022  
CHRIST THE KING + YEAR C  
NOVEMBER: REMEMBERING THE DEAD

### THIS WEEK'S READINGS

In the gospel reading, Christ is crucified. The rulers who caused this crucifixion feel no compassion. They add to his misery by mocking his mission: he saved others; himself he cannot save. One of the two thieves crucified with him mocks him too: hey, Christ, save yourself and us!

Christ the King says nothing. He just hangs there, nailed to the wood of the cross. What the other thief says is astonishing. He rebukes the first thief, the one mocking Jesus, in the strongest possible way. "Have you no fear of God?" he says.

If you leaned over the edge of your chair and saw a giant python inching its way across your floor, you would leap sky high, wouldn't you? You wouldn't be making any mocking jokes right then, would you? The good thief wants to get the same reaction out of the bad mocking thief. Only it isn't a python that is meant to give the bad thief a reality check. It's the awesome power of the living God.

But how about a reality check for the good thief? Look at where Christ the King is! What's to fear about the God who lets his King be killed this way?

The whole earth is soaked with the tears of the suffering; and broken humanity is like the flotsam and jetsam everywhere on the ocean of history. What's to fear about God? Where is he?

On the cross—that is the answer.

God is love and all the power of God is there in the love shown by Christ's painful death. To save us, and to bring us to himself in heaven, God will suffer even the torment of death on the cross. Love that is willing to suffer is greater than power that is able to coerce, and that powerful love is there on the cross.

Someone habituated to mockery should fear this power. Sooner or later, the consuming fire of God's love will burn away his mockery's pretence at indifference.

But someone who fears God because God loves them will find Christ in the way the good thief did. Sooner or later, that person will hear Christ say, "This day you will be with me in paradise." Then that person will know the victory of Christ the King, and will be victorious with Christ.

The Church's year is closing; and we look towards the glorious consummation of God's plan for creation – when the Saviour will 'hand over the kingdom to God the Father', having triumphed over all evil, and (as our second reading puts it) 'made peace by the blood of his cross'.

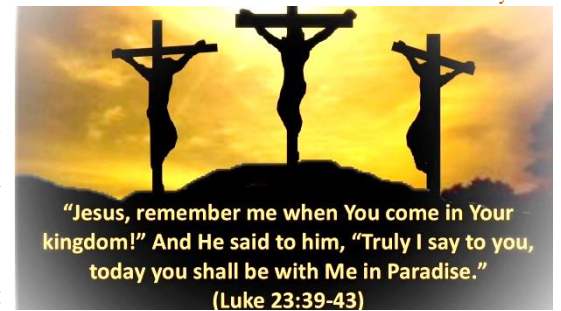
Let us not be put off by the fact that in today's world, 'kings and queens' are no more than symbolic figures. Today we are invited to rejoice in the fact that we have the one 'in whom all things were made' as our leader. The incident remembered in our first reading – when the tribal chiefs of old Israel proclaimed David to be their leader – reminds us how important leadership is in our life. All the best things of life, we achieve together. Good leadership makes this possible; bad leadership creates most of the world's greatest problems. Our Saviour is far more than a symbolic figure, we know; and our faith will be greatly strengthened, if we own him as the leader who can bring fulfilment to all our hopes.

'Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection; for the sake of the joy which lay ahead of him, he endured the cross, disregarding the shame of it, and has taken his seat at the right of God's throne'. This text, like our gospel reading from Luke, reminds us that all our human expectations are overturned as we come to understand how Christ the King establishes and exercises his reign. Luke's portrayal of Jesus crucified shows how well the community for which he wrote his gospel had come to appreciate this. Jesus (proclaimed 'The King of the Jews', in the inscription attached to the cross) has made himself powerless; he is rejected by 'the leaders' of the people (while 'the people', foreshadowing those who are to find faith, stand watching in silent awe); he is mocked and ridiculed by the leaders, by the brutal soldiers, and even by one of the criminals crucified with him. Ironically, their jeers give expression to what the crucified one really is – 'the Christ of God', 'the Chosen One', the 'king' the nation longs for, the one who 'saves'.

And then, as if to reduce them all to silence, the other criminal crucified with him makes his submission of faith in Jesus crucified – as the one who would fulfil the hopes of Israel: 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom'. And Jesus responds with the first pronouncement of an everlasting reign that will be shaped by the generous and merciful ways of his Father: 'I promise you, today you will be with me in paradise'.

The first Christians were to glory in the reign of Christ – so different from the ruthless regimes of their familiar world. In today's reading from the letter to the Colossians, we have a hymn from their early liturgies, celebrating the Saviour whose leadership 'holds all things in unity'.

### *A Copernican Revolution*



# QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

## First Reading 2 Samuel 5:1-3

- ↪ Compare Jesus and David as shepherds, anointed ones, and kings. What is the difference between their kingships?
- ↪ On the cross Jesus was publicly proclaimed King, in the three spoken languages of the area (Hebrew, Latin and Greek). Does this relate to God's plan to bring all nations together in Jesus?

## Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

- ↪ "For him all the fullness was pleased to dwell." What does fullness mean to you in this context? Do you see part of such a fullness in this or that neighbour? What part do you want to dwell in you? Think of all the places you find goodness. Are they sacred? What is the goodness and beauty in your life saying to you about God?
- ↪ He is the image of the invisible God. All things in heaven and earth were created in him, through him and for him." How can we heal, in him, the wounds of the environment?

## Gospel Luke 21:5-19

- ↪ According to Pope Francis, from the beginning of his life to his last act, Jesus revealed himself as Mercy. What does that mean to you? What does his assurance to the good thief confirm?  
The good thief finally addresses Jesus directly, invoking his help: "Jesus, remember me ... " There is so much tenderness in this expression, so much humanity! is the need of the human being not to be forsaken; that God may be always near. On the Cross, [Jesus'] last act confirms the fulfillment of this plan of salvation. From beginning to end, he revealed himself as Mercy, he revealed himself as the definitive and unrepeatable incarnation of the Father's love. Jesus is truly the face of the Father's mercy. And the good thief called him by name: "Jesus." It is a short invocation, and we can all make it several times during the day: "Jesus." Simply, "Jesus." Let us do so throughout the day. – Pope Francis, General Audience, 28 September 2016
- ↪ The good thief reached out to Jesus. How is he a model for us? Is anyone reaching out to you in any way, at work, at home, in your parish, in the local community, in the world community? How will you heal these wounds and/or warm these hearts?

## 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.*

## BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND – CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME

**WELCOME** to **ZOE HOOD**, and **MONROE HOLT** baptised in our Parish this Saturday during the 5:30pm Mass and to **VALE PALMER**, **MYLES HOPKINS**, **INTI PALMER** and **ELKA PALMER** 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. The three Sacraments of Christian Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. 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, **17/18 December 2022** and the Baptism preparation meeting will be in the presbytery on **Thursday, 24 November** at **7:15pm**. Baptisms in February will be held on 18/19 February – *no baptisms in January*.

## FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- ✦ 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 **338** rescues [*last week 290*], and **1,245** first aids [*last week, 1,125*]. Please be safe on our beaches and waterways.



## VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Help families survive the cost-of-living crisis this Christmas. Your generosity can provide urgent relief for a family who is doing it tough this Christmas and give them a better future. 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 of food and other necessary items, toys, other presents**. **Thank you for your anticipated generosity.**



## WORLD-FIRST ONLINE CONFERENCE ADDRESSING CARE OF OCEANS

The future of nations and people in the Oceania region will be at the forefront of a world-first global online conference being held next week. The Federation of Catholic Bishops' Conferences of Oceania (FCBCO) – Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands – is holding this Conference, entitled “***Our Ocean Home***”. *Our Ocean Home* has been designed for the purpose of: (a) listening to diverse voices of creation and cultures of people in Oceania by offering a platform to share stories and amplify vulnerable voices, which can be heard by decision-makers at local, regional and global levels both in and outside of the church; and (b) generating dialogical pathways in Oceania to cohere with synodal processes of transformation and generate voluntary commitments for care and action.

Three natural and spiritual themes will be explored to experience a biogeographic and spiritual journey in Oceania. The gifts of the shores and coasts will be explored on the first day, the deep sea on day two, and island life of Oceania on the third day. Each day will open with a welcome message from spiritual leaders in the church in Oceania on the theme for the day. *Our Ocean Home* will be held from **Monday, 28 November to Wednesday, 30 November, 3pm to 5pm each day**. The Conference is **free** and open to all. **To register, email [oceania@acu.edu.au](mailto:oceania@acu.edu.au)**

After registration, you will receive an email containing a Zoom link for participation in all three online sessions. Held over three days and through consecutive online sessions, registered participants will have the opportunity to hear from varying diverse experts each day, before joining break-out groups of up to 10 people for reflection and dialogue with a guiding question.

*Our Ocean Home* offers an integral ecological synodal process for the region of Oceania, designed to catalyse an ecclesial movement of care for our ocean home. Expert storytellers have been invited to contribute from their unique lived experience in Oceania. The process begins with stories from First Nations people, scientific knowledge holders and practitioners in the Pacific. Voices from the Pacific will lead us into moments of prayerful reflection about the diverse beauty of life in the biome of Oceania, with the beautiful iconography of vulnerable aquatic species by New York-based artist Angela Manno. Practical theologians from within Oceania will share their deep understanding of the gifts we have received in the region. Dialogue in small groups will be encouraged to help generate insights, wisdom and recommendations for pathways into the future.

The nations and peoples of the Oceania region are facing some of the world's greatest inequities and uncertainties. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, security and extractive economic agendas have fashioned an inflection point on future survival. The decisions we make today will determine the region's tomorrow. This conference will bring together the church in Oceania with a regional assembly of experts for dialogue as envisaged by the global synodal process. *The oceans cover 70% of Earth's surface and are home to up to 80% of all life in the world. The oceans capture 90% of additional heat generated from greenhouse gas emissions and are a vital buffer against the impacts of climate change.*

## 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)

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Weekday readings are from **Year II**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>21 Nov</b>	<b>The Presentation of Mary</b>	Revelation 14:1-5	Luke 21:1-4
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>22 Nov</b>	<b>Saint Cecilia, virgin, martyr</b>	Revelation 14:14-19	Luke 21:5-11
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>23 Nov</b>	Wednesday of Ordinary Time Week 34	Revelation 25:1-4	Luke 21:12-19
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>24 Nov</b>	<b>Saints Andrew Dung-Lac, priests and companions, Vietnamese martyrs</b> <b>7:15pm Baptism Preparation Meeting</b>	Revelation 18:1-2,21-23	Luke 21:20-28
<b>Friday</b>	<b>25 Nov</b>	Friday of Ordinary Time Week 34	Revelation 20:1-4,11	Luke 21:29-33
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>26 Nov</b>	Saturday of Ordinary Time Week 34	Revelation 22:1-7	Luke 21:34-36
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>27 Nov</b>	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year A - Scripture Readings see below</b> <b>Candidates receive First Communion – 9 on Saturday, 4 on Sunday</b>		

## THIS WEEK'S RECIPE: Perfect Lemon Butter in a Slow Cooker

8 eggs (whisked); 1½ cups of white sugar; 3-4 teaspoons finely grated lemon rind; 1 cup lemon juice (about 7-8 lemons); 250g butter.

Grate the lemon rind first then cut and juice the lemons (make sure there are no pips!). Crack 8 eggs into a bowl and whisk them. Pour **all** ingredients into the slow cooker. Turn on high and constantly keep stirring until the butter has completely melted. Once melted, turn the slow cooker onto low with a tea towel under the lid and leave for 1½ to 2 hours or until fairly thick. Stir every 20 minutes or so. Once the lemon butter is done, take the jars out of the oven and pour it in and put on the lids. Let the jars cool on the bench first – **do not** put straight into the fridge or they will crack/explode. Once completely cool, put into fridge and you're all done!!

**Sterilising Jars:** Get some jars (about 3-4 for this recipe) and wash them in boiling water, dry them, and put them in the oven at 100°C for 10 minutes. The lids of the jars you put in a pot of boiling water for 10 minutes are not in the oven. Make sure this is the 10 minutes before serving so that the jars are still very hot when you pour in the lemon butter. You can put lemon butter on anything like toast, cakes, muffins, bread or just eat it out of the jar! Good luck everyone! Hope you enjoy giving it a go!! You can halve all ingredients if you are not wanting to make as much.

*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 is taking 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.

## CANDIDATES FOR FIRST COMMUNION

There are thirty (30) Candidates for First Communion this year. **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

#### CHRIST THE KING • Year C

<b>1st Reading</b>	2 Samuel 5:1-3
<b>2nd Reading</b>	Colossians 1:12-20
<b>Gospel</b>	Luke 23:35-43

### 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**

### NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website

#### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT • Year A

<b>1st Reading</b>	Isaiah 2:1-5
<b>2nd Reading</b>	Romans 13:11-14
<b>Gospel</b>	Matthew 24:37-44

[www.thirroulcatholic.org.au](http://www.thirroulcatholic.org.au)

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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 1<sup>st</sup> Friday*