

## Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN  
13/14 JULY 2024

15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR B

**NAIDOC WEEK CONCLUDES**

### THIS WEEK'S READINGS

*Thanks*

Appreciation of a gift is the springboard for giving back. To put it simply, “The primary motivation for giving is gratitude.”

See if it works for you. When you are grateful, do you therefore want to give back?

In the first reading, Amos the prophet, who was a shepherd and a “dresser of sycamores,” found that God wanted him for a new job. It was not watching the flock, not pruning trees; now he was to be a visionary—someone who would prophesy to the people. Most of us pray that no such thing would ever happen to us.

But Amos responded boldly. Perhaps the fierce, quiet landscape of his countryside had opened him up, and had let God give to him. If so, then Amos’ action was an act of gratitude! He went and prophesied to God’s people.

Same thing for the apostles in the Gospel. They were working men, and they probably did not notice that they were actually very grateful to Jesus. They did have a growing realization of what he was giving to them, and secretly they loved him more and more. Their gratitude was their reason for going where he sent them.

He told them to go out and preach and banish demons. They knew that such a mission was fitting for them. He had found a way that they could start to see with both eyes.

Let’s us keep our eyes open too. We are very much loved.

And ready to be sent?

Today’s gospel reading from Mark recalls a development in the mission of Jesus that concerns us all. He makes his disciples sharers in his mission. In Mark’s telling of the story of Jesus this comes immediately after his own townspeople have rejected him at the end of his Galilean ministry. If, during his earthly life, he is not to fulfil the great mission he has received from his Father in person, he will do so through his disciples. Initially he will employ the twelve collaborators who symbolise the New Israel through whose life the Saviour will be present in every age.

We who take part in this liturgy have all been called to share in Christ’s great mission to the whole world. As we ponder this we should recall that God’s call is mysterious, originating in the eternal designs of the Father – as Paul writes, ‘Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ’. God’s call does not match our human expectations. Amos, the 8<sup>th</sup> century prophet, was a farmer who found himself charged with the daunting task of challenging the hypocrisy evident in the worship of the northern shrine of Bethel. The Twelve Apostles called by Jesus were an unlikely group, with backgrounds as varied as fishing, tax collecting and terrorism. Jesus sends them out with instructions that make very clear the seriousness of the task he is sharing with them: absolute reliance upon the ‘authority’ they have received from him, and an unselfishness and single-mindedness that will commend them to their listeners. Their mission reflects the mission Jesus has been engaged in: the call to a ‘repentance’ which is open to what God is about to do, ‘casting out devils’ and healing the sick. (The modern reader should not be distracted by the gospels’ frequent references to exorcism. The culture of the society in which Jesus lived assumed – as many cultures do, even today – that ills and maladies, physical and psychological, are due to the influence of evil spirits. Jesus’ mission to triumph over all evil was inevitably seen as a conflict with evil powers.)

In today’s Gospel Jesus is sending the twelve on their first missionary journey. The number twelve reflects the twelve constellations of the zodiac and so is symbolic of the complete journey of the sun through the heavens. What is said of the twelve is said of every disciple. We are all sent out on a mission. The details, too, are symbolic. They are to wear sandals and carry a staff, just like the ancient Israelites when they left slavery in Egypt and struck out on the journey to freedom and the Promised Land. This is not a journey that they we can manage on our own resources. Jesus promises to nourish us and to supply what we need for the journey. Hence the instructions not to take our own bread or money. Jesus will be with us and we will have all the grace we need to do the will of God.

In November 2013 Pope Francis called us all to be missionaries when he exhorted us to experience the joy of living the Gospel and of sharing it with others. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church there is a quotation from Saint Cyril, a 5<sup>th</sup> century bishop of Alexandria. He speaks of the communion which we are meant to enjoy in the Church: ‘All of us who have received one and the same Spirit, that is, the Holy Spirit, are in a sense blended together with one another and with God. For if Christ, together with the Father’s and his own Spirit, comes to dwell in each of us, though we are many, still the Spirit is one and undivided. The Spirit binds together the spirits of each and every one of us ... and makes all appear as one in him. *For just as the power of Christ’s sacred flesh unites those in whom it dwells into one body, in the same way the one and undivided Spirit of God, who dwells in all, leads all into spiritual unity*’ (Catechism n.738). ✨



✠✠ Since every single person in this world is created by the one God, and since it is the same Spirit who breathes life into every one of us, and since Jesus came to draw everyone to himself (John 12:32) and so to God, the same Catechism reminds us that it is God's desire that everyone be united to Jesus in the one community of faith: 'The Church 'is the visible plan of God's love for humanity'[Paul VI, 22 June 1973], because God desires 'that the whole human race may become one People of God, form one Body of Christ, and be built up into one temple of the Holy Spirit' [*Ad Gentes* 7§2]' (Catholic Catechism n.776). 'The Church is the place where humanity must rediscover its unity and salvation' (Catechism n.845).

Cardinal Franz König, former Archbishop of Vienna, was one of the leading bishops of the Second Vatican Council and remained a staunch supporter of its central vision, especially its focus on ecumenism and the outreach of the Church to the world. He died in 2004 at the age of 98. The Cardinal: "The Church of Christ must be an inviting Church, a Church with open doors, a warming, motherly Church of all generations, a Church of the dead, the living and the unborn, a Church of those before us, those with us, and those after us, a Church of understanding and sympathy, thinking with us, sharing our joy and sorrow, a Church that laughs with the people and cries with the people, a Church that is not foreign and does not act that way, a human Church, a Church for us, a Church that, like a mother, can wait for her children, a Church who looks for her children and follows them, a Church that visits the people where they are, at work or at play, at the factory gate and at the football stadium, and within the four walls of the home, a Church of those in the shadow, of those who weep, of those who grieve, a Church of the worthy, but also of the unworthy, of the saints and the sinners, a Church not of pious pronouncements, but of silent helping action." Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel", invites us all to be missionaries of the Gospel. "In all the baptized, from first to last, the sanctifying power of the Spirit is at work, impelling us to evangelization. ... Today, as the Church seeks to experience a profound missionary renewal, there is a kind of preaching which falls to each of us as a daily responsibility. It has to do with bringing the Gospel to the people we meet, whether they be our neighbours or complete strangers." (n. 119,127)

It is enlightening to compare the second reading's summary of key themes of Paul's thought with the themes the Twelve took with them on the missions on which Jesus 'began to send them'. What Jesus promised as he announced the coming of God's Kingdom was far from clear to them. They were sustained by their admiration of Jesus and the authority with which he had inaugurated his mission. The Christians for whom the letter to the Ephesians was written knew the fulfilment of all that Jesus had promised. The blessings brought by the Paschal Mystery were beyond imagining for the Twelve as they told their hearers of the coming of God's Kingdom. Paul, on the other hand, can tell the world of the 'mystery', God's design from all eternity, as he 'chose us in Christ', and determined to bring the whole of creation 'together under Christ'. In our text are many of the great themes with which our faith gives expression to the blessings brought by the Paschal Mystery: 'grace', 'freedom', 'adoption', 'inheritance' and 'the seal of the Spirit'.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

### First Reading Amos 7:12-15

- ✠ They chased Amos out of Bethel. How do you feel about rejection? Can you think of any prophet who didn't experience rejection? What do you do when something needs to be done that makes everyone uncomfortable? What are some situations today that need prophets? Are you willing to take on the job?
- ✠ Amos points out to Amaziah that he was a shepherd and it wasn't his idea to be a prophet. Are education, occupation, eloquence, talent or intelligence prerequisites for a prophet? Then what is it that is necessary? If you were called to be a prophet, would you be as reluctant as Amos was? Would you probably have to leave your comfort zone?

### Second Reading Ephesians 1:3-14

- ✠ Can you accept St Paul's statement that we have been in the mind of God from all eternity, before the creation of the world? What is your response?
- ✠ "In him we also ... were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. ... " Has the Holy Spirit been active in your life, guiding, fixing, enlightening, giving courage, helping you trust. Has God lavished his grace on you through the Holy Spirit this year? This week? Today?

### Gospel Mark 6:7-13

- ✠ "Evangelizing" means to bring the Good News to all humanity, and through its influence to make humanity new, transform it from within. How can you transform humanity around you in your daily life? ... your care for the poor, the environment, for those suffering from discrimination?
- ✠ Jesus sends his disciples to carry on his mission throughout the world with nothing but a walking stick. But he also asks his Father that they be consecrated in the truth. (John 17:19) Will they need anything besides truth (Truth = God's love) for the journey? Can truth be perceived differently at different times?

Jesus asks the Father to consecrate his disciples in truth as they will be sent throughout the world to carry on his mission. Keeping the truth does not mean defending ideas, becoming guardians of a system of doctrines and dogmas, but remaining bound to Christ and being devoted to his Gospel. Truth, for the apostle John, is Christ himself, the revelation of the Father's love. ...

– Pope Francis, *Mass with the Myanmar Community in Rome*, 16 May 2021

## VINNIES WINTER APPEAL – THANK YOU!!

Right now, a staggering **1,600 people** are being forced into homelessness every single month in Australia. The most vulnerable people in our communities have been hit extremely hard by the spiralling cost of living in the last few years. Many families are only just holding on. They've had to cope with sharp rises in the price of food and fuel. And it's pushed them to the very edge. They have so little left; they just don't have the resources to deal with any more financial stress. Australia's ongoing housing crisis means they could lose their homes and everything they've worked so hard to build. The number of rental properties that a person earning minimum wage can afford has dropped below 1%.

It means that more and more people like Luke and many others simply can't find anywhere to live. They need your help.

Over the last two weeks, a total of **\$4,384** has been donated, online, via credit card and in cash. **THANK YOU!**

**There is still time for you to donate online to Thirroul Vinnies Conference:** go to this link to donate: <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way-conference/st-michael-thirroul-vinnies-winter-appeal>



## NATIONAL NAIDOC WEEK 7 TO 14 JULY 2024

This year's theme chosen by the National NAIDOC Committee, is **Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud.**

We gather as one community to honour and celebrate the rich cultural heritage and contributions of our First Nations Peoples to our Australian Catholic Church.

Many First Australians can often find that their voices go unheard and their contributions not embraced.

The recent Voice referendum highlighted the ongoing journey toward recognition and reconciliation. While the outcome was not what many hoped for, it has strengthened our resolve and commitment to working together for a better Australia for everyone. Like Jesus, who persevered in his mission despite the obstacles, we too remain committed to our Culture, our Land, our Church, and our communities with unwavering hope and determination.



As we gather on this sacred land, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians and honour our Elders past and present, and our young people. Our connection to the land, waters, and skies is deeply rooted in our identity and spirituality. We invite you to join us in respecting and cherishing this connection, as it is vital to our shared journey of faith.

As Pope Francis reminds us, we are called to be a Church that goes forth, embracing all cultures and peoples. Let us open our hearts to the wisdom and spirituality of our First Nations Peoples, recognizing the presence of Christ in our stories and traditions. May this celebration be a moment of grace, healing, and transformation for all of us.

May the Holy Spirit guide and bless each of us as we journey together in faith, hope, and love.

**Pentecost painting** by Magda Lee, Gracie Mosquito and Imelda Gugamen (Balgo Community): The four circles in the corners of painting represent the four communities: Wirrimanu, Mulan, Kurrurungku and Ringer Soak. The leaders are represented through the horse shoes located around the circle. The different colours represent different people. The stars represent the different flowers in our area. The dots represent people all over the world and the people coming together for Church. People are also represented through the horse shoes on the right of the painting. Wirrimanu is located in the top left hand corner, Mulan in the top right hand corner, Ringer Soak in the bottom right hand corner and Kurrurungku in the bottom left hand corner.

The Holy Spirit is located in the centre of the painting. It is the Spirit working in all of our communities.

The **Acknowledgment of Country** used in our Parish, usually on the third Sunday of each month, and on other special occasions: **We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional custodians, past and present, of this land of the Dharawal, the Wadi Wadi and the Yuin People, who, long before us, lived, loved and raised their children on this land. We also acknowledge all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in our community and acknowledge their deep physical and spiritual connections to their land. We pay our respects to Elders past and present. We gather together today to celebrate and to journey together.**

There are 135,681 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics in Australia. 10 dioceses in Australia have over one-fifth of their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population who identify as Catholic.




**KEEP THE FIRE  
BURNING!  
BLAK, LOUD  
AND PROUD**

**7-14 JULY 2024**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Sundays Year B • Weekdays Year II

Monday	15 Jul	St Bonaventure, friar bishop, doctor	Isaiah 1:10-17	Matthew 10:24–11:1
Tuesday 	16 Jul	Tuesday, Ordinary Time Week 15	Isaiah 7:1-9	Matthew 11:20-24
Wednesday	17 Jul	Wednesday, Ordinary Time Week 15	Isaiah 10:5-7,13-16	Matthew 11:25-27
Thursday	18 Jul	Thursday, Ordinary Time Week 15	Isaiah 26:7-9,12,16-19	Matthew 11:28-30
Friday	19 Jul	Friday, Ordinary Time Week 15	Isaiah 38:1-6,21-22,7-8	Matthew 12:1-8
Saturday	20 Jul	Saturday, Ordinary Time Week 15	Micah 2:1-5	Matthew 12:14-21
Sunday	21 Jul	16 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR B – <i>Scripture Readings are listed below.</i>		

## FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- ✦ Friday, 12 July **Ken returns from Suva**
- ✦ Weekend, 13/14 July **Blessing of those celebrating July Wedding Anniversaries, Birthdays**
- ✦ Saturday, 13 July **18:30 Dinner at Club Thirroul after 17:30 Mass**
- ✦ Tuesday, 16 July ... to ... **Thursday, 18 July – Wollongong Clergy Conference, Campbelltown**  
**Andrew and Ken at the Clergy Conference**  
**Liturgy of the Word on Tuesday, 16 July to Thursday, 18 July**
- ✦ Saturday, 20 July **17:30 One parishioner for Confirmation and two for First Communion**
- ✦ Monday, 22 July **09:00 School Term 3 begins**
- ✦ Thursday, 25 July **19:15 Baptism Preparation Meeting for August baptisms**
- ✦ Friday, 26 July **09:30 Mass for World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**

## WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

Grandparents Sunday will be celebrated in the Church throughout the world on 28 July 2024. Recalling the words of Psalm 71:9, “Do not cast me off in my old age”, Pope Francis has provided the Church with a moving and heartfelt message urging the Church to remember the “infinite dignity of each person” regardless of their “circumstance, state or situation”. The **09:30 Mass on Friday, 26 July** is the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, parents of Mary.

## RECIPE: RAYMOND’S HEALTHY OAT AND DATE SLICE

300g pitted dates roughly chopped; 500g (2 cups) water; 1½ tsp bi-carb soda; 180g (2 cups) rolled oats or quick oats; 2 tablespoons chia seeds; 2 tablespoons LSA ground linseed, almond and sunflower seeds (optional); 2 tablespoons honey; 50g dark chocolate to drizzle.

Preheat the oven to 160°C fan forced (or 180°C conventional). Grease and line a 18cm x 28cm rectangular slice tin and set aside. Place the chopped dates into a saucepan with the water. Simmer for approximately 15 minutes or until softened and the consistency has started to thicken. Add the bi-carb soda and stir to combine (it will froth up). Add the rolled oats, chia seeds, LSA and honey and stir to combine. If the slice is a little too dry or wet, simply add more oats or water. Press the mixture firmly into the slice tin. Bake for approximately 30 minutes or until slightly golden and firm to the touch. Allow to cool in the tray. Drizzle over the dark chocolate.

**PLEASE BRING IN ... ONE NON-PERISHABLE ITEM PER FAMILY EACH WEEK**  
**TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE LOCAL ILLAWARRA AREA**  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

### THIS Sunday’s Readings – on website

15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR B  
**1st Reading** Amos 7:12-15  
**2nd Reading** Ephesians 1:3-14  
**Gospel** Mark 6:7-13

### NEXT Sunday’s Readings – on website

16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR B  
**1st Reading** Jeremiah 23:1-6  
**2nd Reading** Ephesians 2:13-18  
**Gospel** Mark 6:30-34

### SUNDAY

#### MASS TIMES

**Saturday**  **17:30**  
**Sunday** **08:00**  
 Saturday Mass is 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*

**Kerry Fabon • Parish Secretary**

**Tues, Wed 09:00–15:00; Fri 08:30–15:00**

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

 325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive

 PO Box 44 • Thirroul 2515


 4268 1910  4268 1976

 [thirroul@dow.org.au](mailto:thirroul@dow.org.au)

Parish School of St Michael

 4267 2560

### THIS WEEK’S LITURGIES

**Monday** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Tuesday**  **17:30**  
**Wednesday** **09:00**  
**Thursday** **09:00**  
**Friday** **09:30**  
*Anointing of the Sick 1<sup>st</sup> Friday*