



**Welcome to
the Parish of
Saint Michael
Thirroul**



PARISH BULLETIN
19 / 20 OCTOBER 2024
 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + YEAR B
THREE BAPTISMS – WELCOME

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Ask?

Often, we think of God as someone who helps us get everything we need. The great parent in the sky.

The Psalm says it well: “God keeps a loving eye on all who believe, to bring relief from famine, to rescue them from death.”

If so, then James and John are right to say the following to their teacher: “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.”

They rush up to Jesus with their petition. This seems a bit blunt, doesn't it, like children making deals. Jesus replies mildly, “What is it you want me to do for you?” “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.”

Is this a good request? Or maybe it is more a demand. And it comes immediately after—and I mean in the very next line—after he has predicted the passion. He says, “The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again.” (Mark 10:33-34)

Hearing this, the apostles do what you and I are tempted to do when we hear bad news. They change the subject!

Jesus responds that they too must drink the cup that he will drink, or in other words, also must undergo pain.

He himself begged God to take the cup of suffering away, and when he was asking, he used the term, “Abba,” a familiar form of “father” (Mark 14:36). And in another place, “In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.” (Hebrews 5:7)

He was heard?

What? God heard these fiery prayers and then sat by idly while the passion and cruel death went right along?

Such observations put us directly in front of the terrible question, the one that has plagued humankind since the beginning. Why does a trustworthy, loving, parental God allow suffering and catastrophe even when he has heard in detail the prayers of those about to be afflicted?

Loss, death and suffering certainly seem to be the worst that could happen to a human being. Maybe so, but still worse would be loss of love's groundwork, which is the never-ending relation to God.

“When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.”

Does suffering stretch and widen all human souls, even that of the Servant of God, Jesus? He calls it “the greatest love” there is: i.e., knowing God, acting on behalf of others, letting in that which is greater than death or life: love.

God's love stays even when life does not.

If this is true, then God's love is parental after all. God loves us through the worst in order to show what the best really is.

In Mark's telling of the story of his final journey to Jerusalem, Jesus three times warns the twelve of the fate that will overtake him in the Holy City. During this time, Jesus must have reflected frequently upon the Servant Songs of the Isaian writings, and their paradoxical anticipation of the way in which God would fulfil the hopes of Israel. Our first reading is a brief excerpt from the greatest of these Songs. The Servant who will bring to realisation the true destiny of Israel will know great ‘suffering ... offering his life as an atonement’; he will take the ‘faults’ of the people ‘upon himself’. But by doing so he will turn the nation's failure into God's final triumph, as he achieves ‘what the Lord wishes’. ‘By his suffering my servant shall justify many’.

With these things in his mind, Jesus has to contend with the naïve ambitions of James and John – and with the indignation of the ‘other ten’, resentful that the sons of Zebedee have tried to steal a march on them. Given the context we have described, it comes as no surprise that the response of Jesus refers to the ordeal that lies ahead of them. ‘You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, share in the ordeal in which I am soon to be plunged?’

Our Christian language often speaks of ‘conversion’. The incident we are considering points to the fact that true conversion is much more than a reform of personal morals. It is a revolution in our understanding of what



✠ ✠ our life 'in Christ' means; it is the starting point of true discipleship. Jesus now urges the twelve to be converted, to broaden their vision, change their values – by identifying with the paradoxical ways of God that are the subject of his reflections as he journeys to Jerusalem. If they are to be leaders and guides in the community of disciples, their exercise in authority must be more than the realisation of their ambitions for a place of prestige and power. If they want to be truly great, they must make themselves 'servants' – even 'slaves' – of all.

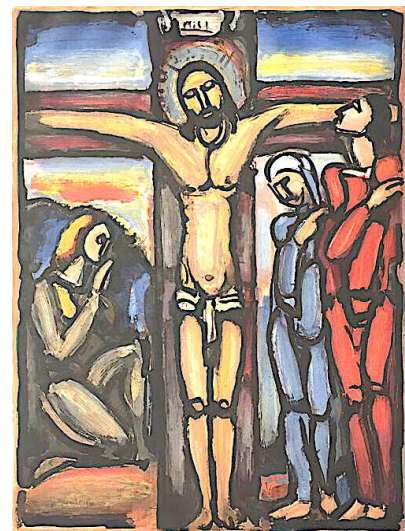
Jesus will teach us, not merely by his words, but also by the living witness of his example: 'For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve' – words that sum up the whole tenor of his life. The reading from Hebrews reminds us how truly he lowered himself to share our life: 'feeling our weaknesses with us ... tempted in every way that we are, though without sin'. These are amazing words; truly, God's Servant is also our brother. This reading introduces the great theme of Hebrews, Jesus 'the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven'. This theme will interpret the saving mission of Jesus to Jewish converts – for whom the temple observances meant so much – by a comparison with the role of the priests in temple worship.

We live in the time of fulfilment. The Spirit of Christ has been given to the Church; and great heroes down through the ages have followed Christ's example, making themselves servants of all. Genuine renewal is linked with such a conversion to God's ways making the Church a sign of hope in a world without hope, a true foreshadowing of the final Kingdom in which God's ways will shape all things.

In the concluding words of today's Gospel Jesus states that he was giving 'himself as a ransom for many'. The Greek word translated 'many' is *polloi*. These are the '*hoi polloi*', the ordinary folk, generally overlooked by those who exercise power and fancy themselves as important. Jesus wants to liberate us from everything that blocks our welcoming of grace, and this can include the power structures (church and state) that are unjust. Jesus calls his followers to opt out of such structures by living as 'slaves'. The word 'ransom' normally refers to liberating a person from the condition of a slave and making that person free. For Jesus, the only way to be free is to become a 'slave', giving one's life in the service of others. This is what Jesus did, even to dying the death of a slave.

In the Gospel we are asked if we are willing to drink the cup that Jesus drank? If we say Yes then we are saying that we want to follow Jesus in giving love even when we are being crucified, when we feel abandoned by God and unjustly treated by others. It is easy enough to pray today's psalm when things are going well: expressions like 'The Lord fills the earth with his love', and 'the Lord looks on those who hope in his love', and 'may your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place our hope in you'. What we need to learn is to pray like that when we, like Jesus, are in darkness and are tempted to despair.

We see Jesus stripped of everything and stretched out on the cross, but we see, too, his trust in God and his complete willingness to do God's will to the end. In his heart filled with trust and love the resurrection is already a reality, for God will never abandon us, but draws us into the divine embrace, even and especially when we are suffering.



QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading Isaiah 53:10-11

- ✠ Do you suffer with the loved one who is suffering? Would you take the person's place if you could? Might God act in this manner in the suffering of human beings?
- ✠ "Do this in memory of me." Could this now common saying be also an invitation to join Jesus' suffering, and participate in his redemption of the world? Can God use your actions or your suffering to accomplish God's work in the world today?

Second Reading Hebrews 4:14-16

- ✠ This reading says that Christ is able to "sympathize with our weaknesses." Does he completely understand your situation no matter how dense it is? Are you able to understand other people's weaknesses? Jesus "was tested in every way." Do you ever remember this when you are being tested and in need of grace?
- ✠ "... We have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God ..." Do you think he carries with him every member of the human race? Even to the throne of God?

Gospel Mark 10:35-45

- ✠ Jesus told the disciples that the way to rank first is by serving others. What does unselfish service look like in your parish, work or home? Could it change the world in some way? How?
- ✠ What does Pope Francis say happens to us when we serve others?

Our fidelity to the Lord depends on our willingness to serve. And we know this often costs, because 'it tastes like a cross.' But, as our care and availability toward others grow, we become freer inside, more like Jesus. The more we serve, the more we are aware of God's presence.

Above all, when we serve those who cannot give anything in return, the poor, embracing their difficulties and needs with tender compassion: and we in turn discover God's love and embrace there.

– Pope Francis, *Angelus*, 19 September 2021

THE SONG OF THE POOR

17 February 1994

– from *The Tablet*, 26 September 2024 ... (concludes)

As our departure day draws near, certain Franciscan friars in La Palma are telling our parishioners that, after we leave, they intend to come and “restore the faith” in our communities, because “faith is dead”.

On hearing these comments I shake my head and smile at clerical hubris. Why is it that we clergy think we possess faith and are going to donate some of it to dim, pagan yokels? The truth is that the people evangelise us with their sense of God and their simple goodness in day-to-day living, but we’re too proud to realise that.

Take old Purificación, for example. Every time I arrive in Los Llanitos, he comes to ask for prayer. He doesn’t ask for anything else, only prayer. He removes his old hat, bows his bare head and mutters, “¿Quién como Dios?” Who cares more tenderly for us than God? Who with God compares? “¿Quién como Dios?”

Fratres maiores, the people’s faith is alive. Learn from them.

Óscar Romero was canonised on 14 October 2018. Fr Greenan died peacefully on Sunday, 17 May 2020 at St Margaret’s Care Home in Edinburgh. He had been suffering from Alzheimer’s and was 64 years old.

CWL NEWS – THANK YOU – AND – LET’S CELEBRATE!

Thank you to all the parishioners for your support to our stall Saturday and Sunday. The winners of our raffle were “Kathy” – Maritime Museum Family Pass and box of chocolates; Brian Cummins – the Fruit Bowl. A thank you, too, to all the CWL ladies who helped in so many ways. A great success!

The Thirroul Catholic Women’s League **turns sixty (60) this year!** There will be a special Mass and light luncheon – **10:30am on Wednesday, 20 November 2024.** The Mass is in our Parish church and the luncheon in our Parish hall, the McCarthy Centre, in the grounds of our Parish school. All ladies of the parish are most welcome to attend. Please contact the President of Thirroul CWL, Maureen Heydon ☎ 0438 674 997 or mheydon50@gmail.com

BAPTISMS THIS SUNDAY

Congratulations and Welcome to **CALI HEFFERNAN, ELI DEVEZA** and **ARIYAH HEFFERNAN** baptised in our Parish this weekend. Thank you to their parents, godparents and families for bringing them for Baptism.



Baptism is the first Sacrament of Christian Initiation, followed by Confirmation and Eucharist. In most of the Eastern Catholic Churches, the three Sacraments are celebrated together as is done in the Latin Catholic Church with adults and children over the age of reason.

The next Baptisms to be held in our Parish will be during Masses on **Saturday or Sunday, 16/17 November 2024.** The next Baptism meeting for parents will be in the presbytery on **Thursday, 31 October 2024 at 19:15.** If you want your infant [under 7 years old] son or daughter to be baptised, call in to the Parish Office to collect the Baptism Enrolment Forms.

FAMILY MASS – 17:30, SATURDAY, 9 NOVEMBER

All parishioners and school families are invited to a special **Family Mass** at **17:30 on Saturday, 9 November.** This Mass, an initiative by the Pastoral Parish Council and St. Michael’s School Leadership Team, is a wonderful opportunity to deepen the connection between our beautiful parish and school.

Our parish and school are deeply linked, with each enriching the life and growth of the other. While many families are connected to our school, we’re excited to foster a stronger bond with our parish as well. The parish is a spiritual home for everyone, and through efforts like the Family Mass, we hope to nurture this connection, creating a lasting sense of belonging that extends beyond school years. Together, we can grow as one united spiritual family in Jesus. This Family Mass is the start of an ongoing program of initiatives to nurture this lifelong relationship, so that every family feels at home in our parish well into the future.

Our children will play an active role in the Mass, ensuring an uplifting celebration. Afterward, we will gather for a BBQ in the school grounds, offering a chance to connect, share, and strengthen our community ties.

Join us as we continue to grow together in faith and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!

– Joe Pye, Chair, Parish Pastoral Council

THANK YOU FROM THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

We would like to thank the Davis family for encouraging people attending Tony’s funeral to donate to the Thirroul Vinnies Conference. A sum of **\$550** was raised. Also, the **Austinmer/Thirroul Lions Club** donated **\$500** as a tribute to Tony’s longstanding membership and service to the club. Tony was a member for **48 years**, president on two separate occasions and also introduced **25** new members to the club. Thank you to all who donated!

– John Dening, President, St Vincent de Paul Conference, Thirroul

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Sundays Year B • Weekdays Year II

Monday	21 Oct	Monday, Ordinary Time Week 29	Ephesians 2:1-10	Luke 12:13-21
Tuesday	22 Oct	Tuesday, Ordinary Time Week 29	Ephesians 2:12-22	Luke 12:35-38
Wednesday	23 Oct	Wednesday, Ordinary Time Week 29	Ephesians 3:2-12	Luke 12:39-48
Thursday	24 Oct	Thursday, Ordinary Time Week 29	Ephesians 3:14-21	Luke 12:49-53
Friday	25 Oct	Friday, Ordinary Time Week 29	Ephesians 4:1-6	Luke 12:54-59
Saturday	26 Oct	Saturday, Ordinary Time Week 29	Ephesians 4:7-16	Luke 13:1-19
Sunday	27 Oct	30 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR B – <i>Scripture Readings are listed below.</i>		

FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- ✦ Tuesday, 22 October 15:45 Class #1 for First Penance
- ✦ Weekend, 26/27 October **WORLD MISSION SUNDAY – Annual Collection for the Missions**
- ✦ Wednesday, 30 October 19:00 Sacrament of First Penance
- ✦ **THURSDAY, 31 OCTOBER HALLOWEEN – THE EVE OF ALL SAINTS DAY**
- ✦ Friday, 1 November 09:30 All Saints Day Mass – with Anointing of the Sick
- ✦ Saturday, 2 November 09:30 All Souls Day – Special Mass
- ✦ Weekend, 2/3 November Blessing of Cars after Masses
- ✦ Saturday, 9 November 17:30 Family Mass followed by BBQ in the school grounds
- ✦ Wednesday, 20 November 10:30 CWL 60th Anniversary Mass followed by Lunch

RECIPE: BEC'S TABLE ROCK CAKES – FROM CHEF RAYMOND

30g sultanas (*I used a total of 90g of dried fruit, you can use anything you like*); 30g currants; 30g dried cherries; 300g plain flour; 2½ tsp baking powder; ½ tsp flaked salt or ¼ tsp fine salt; ½ tsp mixed spice or 1 tsp if you like the flavour; 90g caster sugar; 20g raw sugar or a courser sugar than caster for sprinkling on top; 100g unsalted butter cold cubes; 1 egg beaten; 125g milk.

Set oven to 200°C or 180°C fan. Boil the jug, weigh the dried fruit into a bowl, when the water has boiled pour the water over the dried fruit and set aside for 5 minutes. Once the fruit has plumped up a bit drain in a sieve or colander. Line a couple of cookies sheets with baking paper. No need if you're using good non-stick pans. Weigh the flour, baking powder and mixed spice into a bowl and mix with a whisk or fork to combine. Rub the butter into the flour with your fingertips. Add sugar and drained dried fruit along with the egg and milk, mix to form a stiff dough. Place spoonfuls of the dough mixture onto your prepared oven trays (I got 11 portions). Sprinkle with a little raw sugar then Bake until golden brown (around 20 mins). Cool on cake rack.

**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**

WORLD MISSION DAY APPEAL NEXT WEEKEND

Catholic Mission works hand in hand with local communities around the world to support life-giving projects and the missionaries who are on the ground to reach out further and provide a helping hand to our sisters and brothers most in need. *Every Christian is called to take part in this universal mission by offering his or her own witness to the Gospel in every context.* Thank you for your anticipated generosity next weekend.

THIS Sunday's Readings – on website

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR B

1 st Reading	Isaiah 53:10-11
2 nd Reading	Hebrews 4:14-16
Gospel	Mark 10:35-45

NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR B

1 st Reading	Jeremiah 31:7-9
2 nd Reading	Hebrews 5:1-6
Gospel	Mark 10:46-52

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

325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive

PO Box 44 • Thirroul 2515

4268 1910 4268 1976

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 1st Friday