

Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
9 / 10 NOVEMBER 2024
32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + YEAR B
REMEMBRANCE DAY

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Hungry?

God had sent the prophet Elijah to deal with a starving widow. The trouble was that she dwelt in a foreign land instead of with the many Jewish widows in his own country.

Jesus rubs this fact in. "Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon." (Luke 4:25-26)

Jesus was referring to the story we have in our first reading. There, Elijah sets out not to help the Zarephath widow and her tiny son but to demand food for himself!

The widow says that she has in her jar "only a handful of flour" and "a little oil." She had been collecting wood to cook the very last meal she and her young son would ever eat before they would die of starvation and thirst. In effect, Elijah was demanding their last meal for himself.

But he was following God's own instructions in issuing this imperative. God had told him to go to a certain town in Sidon where God had designated a widow to provide for Elijah in the famine and drought (See I Kings 17:1-9)!

So, Elijah got everything he wanted?

He asked first—politely, we hope—for water. The widow turned on her heel to get the last little bit of water she had saved. She must have been a great spirit. As she went, Elijah shouted after her to bring him bread too!

In a famine!

But the widow went to do his will. Did God have a trick up the sleeve?

Elijah called out again, almost as an afterthought, "the God of Israel says, 'the jar of flour shall not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry, until the day when the Lord sends rain upon the earth.'" Wasn't God saying that (s)he would keep the vessels full until the drought was over?

Maybe, but the widow had only those puzzling words to rely on. Rely on them she did. She baked her tiny scraps of bread, in front of the wide eyes of her son, and took all of it, every bit of it, plus the water, to Elijah.

Does this story make sense?

No.

Is there an explanation?

Yes.

This widow knew God so well that she trusted in his goodness even in the face of impending death. Her last act would be one of trust.


And this is the real meaning of trust, to release our own control of things. When the chips are down, to let go and let God. Even in one's last extremity. God had sent Elijah to help the widow, not rob her. But she first had to trust. So, she did.

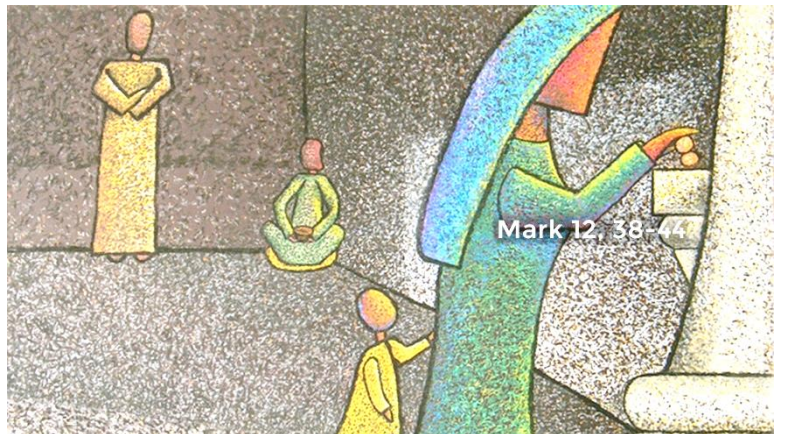
In the Gospel, another widow illustrates the same kind of trust, putting the last two pennies that she has in the world into the collection box. Jesus sees this happen and understands the depth of her faith.

I guess the question then turns to you and me. How much trust do we have? Do we do it in fear?

Alternately, how much do we trust God?

Today's reading from Mark's gospel reminds us what a great teacher Jesus was. The object lesson he gives, as he watches people making their donations, is one of the best remembered stories of the world's religious traditions – the 'widow's mite' has become proverbial. Mark sharpens the lesson by linking this incident with what Jesus has to say about 'scribes' who 'swallow the property of widows while making a show of lengthy prayers'. The situation of widows was insecure. The 'scribes', so often mentioned in the gospels, were interpreters of the Law of old Israel – the lawyers of the day. They benefited as trustees for the estates of widows, and a reputation for piety could be good for business. Jesus' words, of course, have a lesson for all of us – people who make a selfish show of their piety, instead of making it a 'secret' they share with their heavenly Father (Matthew 5:6), give Christianity a bad name.

Mark gives the little widow a privileged place in his telling of the story of Jesus. Having entered Jerusalem to meet his fate, Jesus is giving his final instructions concerning the discipleship to which he is calling those who wish to follow him. Using the widow's example, he goes to the very heart of the matter – a giving that counts. Is there any more telling way of expressing the fundamental truth, that as responsible persons we are made in the image 



✠ of God, than by unselfish giving to others? The most precious things in life – in our family, in the community in which we live – come through the selfless generosity with which we give to others. We know from experience that it is a giving that costs us something that brings real happiness to ourselves and to those around us.

Mark is linking the generous giving of the widow with the great drama of God's generosity soon to take place – as Jesus gives himself into the hands of his Father for the sake of the whole human family. Our liturgy takes up Mark's lesson. Today's reading from Hebrews – a central passage in this great treatise – explains how the ritual of old Israel was only a foreshadowing of the Saviour's Paschal Mystery. The old sacrifices, offered time and again – in a 'man-made' temple that was only a model of God's dwelling place, and making use of the blood of animals – have now given way to the world's final act of worship. The Saviour enters 'the actual presence of God on our behalf', making a gift of himself 'once and for all'. He shows us how true it is that a giving that really counts brings true blessings – in his total gift of himself he has become the source of all the blessings that will fill our eternity.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading 1 Kings 17:10-16

- ✠ Elijah asks the widow to give away the last bits of flour reserved for her final meal. As a result, she receives a jar of flour that doesn't ever go empty. Was it a leap of faith for her? Can you trust that you will always receive the grace you need to do the things God asks, for example, to feed the hungry, care for creation, end anti-racism??
- ✠ Does God reward the widow in this reading? What are the rewards for helping others? On a scale of one to ten, how do you rate your ability to give?

Second Reading Hebrews 9:24-28

- ✠ Compare Christ's sacrifice with those of the two widows, the one in the first reading and the other in the Gospel.
- ✠ What did God the Father give away?

Gospel Mark 12:38-44

- ✠ How do you develop a magnanimous heart? Do you think it happens little by little or all at once? Is grace needed?
- ✠ According to Pope Francis, what happens to the widow in the Gospel when she gives everything away?

She has nothing left, but finds her everything in God. She is not afraid of losing the little she has because she trusts in God's abundance, and God's abundance multiplies the joy of those who give. This also makes us think of that other widow, the one of the prophet Elijah, who was about to make a flatbread with the last of her flour and the last of her oil; Elijah says to her: "Feed me" and she gives; and the flour never runs out, it is a miracle (cf. 1 Kings 17:9-16).

In the face of people's generosity, the Lord always goes further, is more generous. ... This is why Jesus proposes her as a teacher of faith, this woman: she does not go to the Temple to clear her conscience, she does not pray to make herself seen, she does not show off her faith, but she gives from her heart generously and freely. The sound of her few coins is more beautiful than the grandiose offerings of the rich, since they express a life sincerely dedicated to God, a faith that does not live by appearances but by unconditional trust. Let us learn from her: a faith without external frills, but interiorly sincere; a faith composed of humble love for God and for our brothers and sisters.

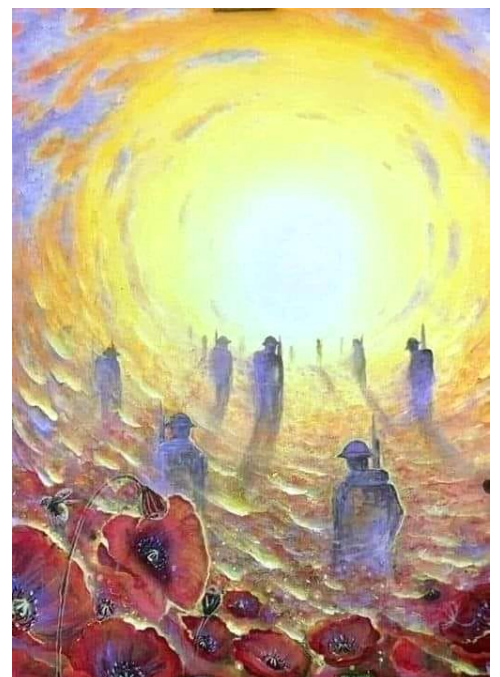
– Pope Francis, *Angelus for 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B*, 7 November 2021

REMEMBRANCE DAY - MONDAY, 11 NOVEMBER

Joshua Dyer (aged 14) was tasked at school to write a poem for Remembrance Day. An hour later (without any help) he produced this:

ONE THOUSAND MEN ARE WALKING

One thousand men are walking / Walking side by side /
Singing songs from home / The spirit as their guide / They
walk toward the light milord, / they walk towards the sun /
they smoke and laugh and smile together / no foes to outrun.
/ These men live on forever / in the hearts of those they
saved / a nation truly grateful / for the path of peace they
paved. / They march as friends and comrades / but they do
not march for war / step closer to salvation / a tranquil steady
corps / the meadows lit with golden beams / a beacon for
the brave / the emerald grass untrampled / a reward for what
they gave. / They dream of those they left behind / and know
they dream of them / forever in those poppy fields / there
walks one thousand men. Lest we forget.



REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE – 10:40, MONDAY, 11 NOVEMBER

All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend the special Remembrance Day Service which will be held in the grounds of our Parish School, commencing at 10:40, with the observance of one minute's silence at 11:00.

As there is no Mass on Monday, 11 November, as many parishioners as possible are asked to attend the special Remembrance Day Service in the school grounds.

Remembrance Day (also known as Poppy Day owing to the tradition of wearing a remembrance poppy) is a memorial day observed in Commonwealth member states since the end of the First World War to honour armed forces members who have died in the line of duty. The day is also marked by war remembrances in several other non-Commonwealth countries. In most countries, Remembrance Day is observed on 11 November to recall the end of First World War hostilities. Hostilities ended "at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month" of 1918, in accordance with the armistice signed by representatives of Germany and the Entente between 05:12 and 05:20 that morning. ("At the 11th hour" refers to the passing of the 11th hour, or 11:00am.) The First World War formally ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919.

ELECTION OF THE 2025 SCHOOL CAPTAINS AT OUR PARISH SCHOOL

This year, the teachers of our Parish School and the students of Years 3, 4 and 5 voted to elect the two School Captains. The Year 5 students who were the candidates had to be nominated by two other Year 5 students. Ten boy and nine girl students were nominated, and voting took place on Friday, 1 November during lunch hour. Voting was by the preferential system as used in Commonwealth Government elections for the House of Representatives – number every square.

Of all the ballots cast, **there was not one informal vote!** Maybe the general population could learn something!

The results of the election were announced last Monday at the school morning assembly.

The two School Captains for 2025 are **Sienna Paduch** and **Darcy Foran**. **Congratulations!**



On Friday, 8 November, voting takes place for the three "Vision Leaders" – "Inspired by Christ"; "Excellence in Learning"; and "Living in Fully Community". Results of that election will be announced on this Monday.

FORMER NAMES OF FAMOUS CITIES

Melbourne was formerly known as **BEARBRASS** ... while **BOMBAY** is now called **Mumbai**. The **City of Kings** – **CIUDAD DE LOS REYES** – is now Peru's capital city, **Lima**, while **CONSTANTINOPLE** is now known as **Istanbul**. **EDO** is now known as **Tokyo**. **GRANVILLE** is now called **Vancouver**, and **HANYANG** is today called **Seoul**. If the siege of **LENINGRAD** was to happen today, it would be the siege of **St Petersburg**. **LEOPOLDVILLE** in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is now **Kinshasa**. **LUTETIA** is now **Paris**, while **MONKCHESTER** is now **Newcastle upon Tyne**. **PORT NATAL** is now **Durban**, while **RANGOON** is now **Yangon**, and, last of all, a small settlement called **YERBA BUENA** has today grown into a huge city we all know as **San Francisco**.

DISABLED SURFERS ASSOCIATION – THIRROUL, 30 NOVEMBER

The annual Disabled Surfers Association event will take place at **Thirroul Beach** on **Saturday, 30 November**, commencing at **08:30 and continuing until 13:00**. The Disabled Surfers Association provides an environment for individuals with a disability, the opportunity to experience the freedom of surfing with friends, using up to date equipment to get individuals over the sand and into the water with dignity. The organisation on the South Coast and Illawarra has been established for over 30 Years and prides itself on their achievements and advancements in the area of disability.

The organisation operates on a volunteer basis and requires volunteers to provide the necessary numbers to establish the safety requirements, that we as an organisation hold. The event is designed to ensure the safety of all individuals, be they participants or volunteers. The core role is to ensure that the participants have an exciting day on the beach. The organisation does not have any restrictions in relation to the individuals who attend and participate. We strive to ensure that all participants get the opportunity to experience the day at the beach. Age is no barrier to volunteer and there is no requirement to know how to swim but it does help at times. No surfing experience required as there is supervision on the beach for all activities. **All participants and volunteers will receive a sausage sandwich on the day of the event.**



Just turn up on Saturday, 30 November at Thirroul or to register as a participant or as a volunteer, go to <https://events.humanitix.com/disabled-surfers-association-hands-on-surf-day-thirroul-2024/tickets?hxchl=hex-pfl>

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Monday	11 Nov	St Martin of Tours, bishop
Tuesday	12 Nov	St Josaphat, bishop, martyr
Wednesday	13 Nov	Wednesday, Ordinary Time Week 32
Thursday	14 Nov	Thursday, Ordinary Time Week 32
Friday	15 Nov	Friday, Ordinary Time Week 32
Saturday	16 Nov	Saturday, Ordinary Time Week 32
Sunday	17 Nov	33 RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR B – <i>Scripture Readings are listed below.</i>

Sundays Year B • Weekdays Year II

Titus 1:1-9	Luke 17:1-6
Titus 2:1-8,11-14	Luke 17:7-10
Titus 3:1-7	Luke 17:11-19
Philemon 7-20	Luke 17:20-25
2 John 4-9	Luke 17:26-37
3 John 5-8	Luke 18:1-8

FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

✦	Saturday, 9 November	17:30	Family Mass then BBQ in the school grounds – BYO drinks
✦	Monday, 11 November	10:40	Remembrance Day Service in the School Grounds All Parishioners are encouraged and welcome to attend
✦	Sunday, 17 November	08:00	Two Baptisms during the 08:00 Mass
✦	Wednesday, 20 November	10:30	CWL 60 th Anniversary Mass followed by Lunch
✦	Saturday, 30 November	08:30	Disabled Surfers Association, Thirroul – volunteers needed

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE – SIXTY YEARS YOUNG!

The Thirroul Catholic Women's League turns sixty (60) this year! There will be a special Mass and light luncheon – 10:30 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

THE LESSON OF HISTORY

At the opening of Vatican Council II, Pope John XXIII said, "History is the teacher of life, and we neglect our history to our own detriment. In 1933, the people of Germany conveniently forgot about Hitler's moral values and his diatribes against foreigners, and opted for pie-in-the-sky economic gain when they voted Hitler in as Chancellor. A few years later, the world suffered the consequences of their choice. Let us pray for the future of our world.

WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND THE DIOCESE?

Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith. Stay informed by subscribing at <https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/staying-connected/> or visit <https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/weekly-bulletin-notice/>

**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**

NEW DONATION TAP DEVICE – NOW WORKING

A new "Donation Tap Device" has been installed by the Catholic Develop Fund. You may now choose to donate \$5, \$10, \$20 or \$50, or you may use the Custom Donation Amount button to enter any whole dollar amount from \$1 to \$99. Thank you for your generosity to our Parish. Money donated on the "Tap Device" goes to support the running of our Parish.

THIS Sunday's Readings – on website

32 ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR B	
1 st Reading	1 Kings 17:10-16
2 nd Reading	Hebrews 9:24-28
Gospel	Mark 12:38-44

NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website

33 RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR B	
1 st Reading	Daniel 12:1-3
2 nd Reading	Hebrews 10:11-14
Gospel	Mark 13:24-32

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

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Parish School of St Michael

4267 2560

THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

Monday	_____
Tuesday	17:30
Wednesday	09:00
Thursday	09:00
Friday	09:30
<i>Anointing of the Sick 1st Friday</i>	