



Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
16 / 17 NOVEMBER 2024
33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + YEAR B
BAPTISMS – WELCOME

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Getting Ready for Getting Ready

Jagged and dark.

These are the kind of images we find in the main readings for Sunday: “A time of anguish, such as has never occurred”; “Some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt”; “The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.”

Such readings are included in what are called “apocalyptic literature.” [*Apocalyptic writings are thought to be a distinctive branch of literature. Some think that this kind of writing took place in times of persecution when straightforward writing would be penalized. They usually feature visions or dreams revealed to the writer, predictions of the future, fantastic imagery, mystical symbols, and predictions of the end of the age. The first reading, from the Book of Daniel, and the Gospel passage from Mark for this week are two of the most important examples of apocalyptic writings in the bible.*]

Why such horrible imagery, especially now with beautiful Advent just a few weeks away?

One reason is so that we might find within us a need for relief from all the turmoil. In other words, for the coming of the simple Christ child.

Recall that in our 21st century we find just the opposite of this: competing ideologies striving to take over. Look at the advertising world: “Shampooing your hair will make you ecstatic (with a corn-cob-eating grin on your face as you use the product). A car can ‘save your soul’! Casual sex without commitment is taken for granted. Free cable movie channels practicing the blasphemous use of God’s and Jesus’ name, censoring out only—sometimes—words referring to bodily functions.” Then, of course, there’s “deportation” of “illegals”.

Of course, in addition to such dehumanizing media forces, the world is faced with crises every bit as bad as what apocalyptic literature might suggest. The pandemic, which we hope is now over with. Economic crises that more than wreck people’s lives; toxic wastes, holes in the ozone layer, tsunami and hurricanes, major climate changes. And, do not forget the wars, the genocide ... You can certainly add more. What shall we do?

Our readings do contain a few grains of hope.

At the end of the first reading we find a beautiful promise of rescue: “Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

Such a passage can give us peace, but also a problem.

Should we be nourished by these lovely words, at a time when the greatest tribulations in human history are staring us in the face? An awareness of our tribulations is not wrong; it is right. But how can you or I have any effect on the enormity of our situation?

Maybe we should get hyper-active instead, reforming television, recordings, movies, video games, and so on.

Or, better:

First, let us get smart. Examine carefully what we are able to do and with what effect. We are not helpless, no matter what we feel.

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference.”
(From the *Serenity Prayer*)

Second, let our courage rest in divine help: “I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope. When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you and bring you back.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

That is what Advent will aim towards.

Use Sunday to wait for Advent waiting.

Give it a try!

The cycle of the Church’s year is coming to an end. The ‘end of the world’ – when God’s great plan for creation will be realized – will be one of the themes of the liturgy during the coming weeks. In the time of Jesus, centuries of frustration under occupying powers had given rise among the Jewish people to a form of literature (today called ‘apocalyptic’) that expressed a confidence that, despite all appearance to the contrary, God’s promises – so



✠ ✠ important in the faith of old Israel – would be fulfilled in ‘a new heaven and a new earth’. Some of this literature is included in the Scriptures – the prophecy of Daniel, from which our first reading comes, is an example. This literature has often been misunderstood by ‘fundamentalist’ interpreters. Its startling images of the passing away of the present world were not intended to describe how the end will come; its essential message was an assurance that God’s designs will be fulfilled, despite all appearances to the contrary. Jesus preached the coming of the final reign of God; it is not surprising, therefore, that he used some of the images and expression of this literature – as he does in today’s gospel, the final section of a long passage that gathers together recollections of this teaching of Jesus.

The title, ‘Son of Man’ – adopted by Jesus as a subtle intimation of his role in the designs of God – comes from the prophecy of Daniel. Coming from God, the ‘Son of Man’ will fulfill the great destiny of Israel, bringing all the peoples of the world under God’s reign (see Daniel 7:13-14). The community that gave us Mark’s gospel rejoices in the knowledge that the Son of Man has truly come – Israel’s hopes have been realized. For the early Christians, this confidence raised challenging questions, that took some time to resolve (see St Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2) – if, in the Saviour’s Paschal Mystery, God’s final achievement in creation has been realized, what are we to make of our life in a world that seems to go on as before? In the face of this problem, today’s gospel reflects the outlook of a community that is finding a healthy balance. Though it speaks with certainty of the coming of the end, it acknowledges that ‘nobody knows’ when it will be fully manifest ‘but the Father’. Echoing the language of literature such as the prophecy of Daniel about the signs of the end, it nevertheless urges constant vigilance, lest believers be taken unawares – one of the themes of the preaching of Jesus. We know God’s final achievement has been realized in the Christ’s risen greatness; but we wait in faith and hope for our full sharing in all that Christ has promised. With Mark’s community, we place our trust – whatever lies ahead of us – in the one who said: ‘Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away’.

In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of the end of *his* world, the world of his contemporaries. He could see that it was about to collapse. His disciples had asked him a larger question: they wanted to know about the end of *the* world. Jesus has nothing to say about that. It is a question that lies beyond human reckoning. His reply, however, does emphasize the importance of how we live. So, as another liturgical year draws to a close, let us pause and take stock. Are we following our deepest desires, or are we allowing ourselves to be distracted from our heart, laughing half our laughter and crying half our tears. Jesus came that we may live to the full. Is that how things are for us.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading Daniel 12:1-3

- ✠ “Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky ...” Can you think of people you have known or known about who have died and shine brightly for you? If so, which of their qualities would you like to emulate in your life? Did their concern for others start out small and then expand to wider and wider circles?
- ✠ Name some people who have led “many to righteousness” [= “right relationships”] and are now “like the stars forever and ever.” Since stars are used for navigation, how can people like Oscar Romero, Mary MacKillop, Martin Luther King and St Teresa of Calcutta show us the way?

Second Reading Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

- ✠ Compare and contrast old covenant priests and their repeated sacrifices with Jesus and his one sacrifice? How do the many celebrations of the Eucharist fit into the one-sacrificial event?
- ✠ Sr Dianne Bergant CSA says that “Jesus was able to expiate all transgressions of all people of all times.” Jesus did this through his unselfish sacrifice. Does this say anything to us about making sacrifices to help others?

Gospel Mark 13:24-32

- ✠ “The Word of God will not pass away.” What do you take along with you when you die? Is there any correlation between love and the Word of God that does not pass away? Is there anything you can you do to stretch your capacity to love?
- ✠ “The sun will be darkened.” How does Pope Francis say we can help bring light back to the darkened sun? And what can we learn from the fig tree?

Dear brothers and sisters, that is the word that makes hope blossom in the world and relieves the suffering of the poor: tenderness. Compassion that leads you to tenderness. We need to overcome our self-absorption, interior rigidity, which is the temptation nowadays, that of the “restorationists”, who want a Church completely orderly, completely rigid: this is not of the Holy Spirit.

We have to overcome this, in order to make hope blossom amid this rigidity. It is up to us to overcome the temptation to be concerned only about our own problems; we need to grow tender before the tragedies of our world, to share its pain. Like the tender leaves of a tree, we are called to absorb the pollution all around us and turn it into goodness.

It is useless to keep talking about problems, to argue and to be scandalized – all of us can do that. What we need to do is imitate the leaves that daily, imperceptibly, turn dirty air into clean air. Jesus wants us to be “converters” of goodness: people who breathe the same heavy air as everyone else, but respond to evil with good (cf. Romans 12:21). People who act: by breaking bread with the hungry, working for justice, lifting up the poor and restoring their dignity. As the Samaritan did.

– Pope Francis, *Homily for 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B and World Day of the Poor*, 14 Nov 2021

ELECTION OF THE 2025 LEADERS OF VISION AT OUR PARISH SCHOOL

On Monday, the results of the election of the Year 5 students who will be the three **Leaders of Vision** for 2025. The **INSPIRED BY CHRIST** leader is **Ayden Duggan**. The **EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING** leader is **Oska McCarthy**, and the **LIVING FULLY IN COMMUNITY** leader is **Hugo Rees**.

Congratulations to these students, and to the students in Years 3, 4 and 5 and the teachers who voted using the Preferential System – and, again, **not one informal vote!**

On Friday, the votes will have taken place for the eight House Captains – see next week's Bulletin for the results.

Thank you to the six Year 6 students who were the electoral officers for the conduct of all the elections.



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 this Wednesday, 20 November 2024 – All are welcome!** *There will be no 09:00 Mass this Wednesday.* 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 FLYNN O'CONNOR and MYLES PADUCH baptised in our Parish this Sunday.



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, 14/15 December 2024**. The next Baptism meeting for parents will be in the presbytery on **Thursday**,

28 November 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.

NOVEMBER – PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

During November especially, we pray for our relatives and friends who have died. The **BOOK OF LIFE** is placed next to the altar: if you wish to have a relative's or friend's name placed in that Book, complete the form on the front seat.

DISABLED SURFERS ASSOCIATION – THIRROUL, 30 NOVEMBER

The annual Disabled Surfers Association event will take place a **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	18 Nov	Monday, Ordinary Time Week 33
Tuesday	19 Nov	Tuesday, Ordinary Time Week 33
Wednesday	20 Nov	Wednesday, Ordinary Time Week 33
Thursday	21 Nov	Presentation of the Virgin Mary
Friday	22 Nov	St Cecilia, virgin, martyr
Saturday	23 Nov	Saturday, Ordinary Time Week 33
Sunday	17 Nov	SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING • YEAR B – <i>Scripture Readings are listed below.</i>

Sundays Year B • Weekdays Year II

Revelation 1:1-4, 2:1-5	Luke 18:35-43
Revelation 3:1-6,14-22	Luke 19:1-10
Revelation 4:1-11	Luke 19:11-28
Revelation 5:1-10	Luke 19:41-44
Revelation 10:8-11	Luke 19:45-48
Revelation 11:4-12	Luke 20:27-40

FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

✦ Sunday, 17 November	08:00	Two Baptisms during the 08:00 Mass
✦ Wednesday, 20 November	09:00	No Mass at 9am
	10:30	CWL 60 th Anniversary Mass followed by Lunch
✦ Saturday, 30 November	08:30	Disabled Surfers Association, Thirroul – volunteers needed
✦ Weekend 30 Nov / 1 Dec		Lauch of the Vinnies Christmas Appeal at both Masses First Communion begins Blessing of the Christmas Tree
✦ Friday, 6 December	09:30	Anointing of the Sick during Mass
	14:00	Year 6 Graduation Liturgy
✦ Weekend, 7/8 December		Vinnies Christmas Appeal continues at both Masses Blessing of December Wedding Anniversaries and Birthdays
✦ Thursday, 12 December	16:45	School and Parish Christmas Concert and Dinner
✦ Friday, 13 December	09:30	End of Year School Mass

DAILY ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKS

The season of Advent begins on 30 November/1 December. Our Diocese has again produced a daily reflection book. Embark on a spiritual journey of illumination this Advent and Christmas with **The Light**: Advent and Christmas Daily Reflections 2024—a comprehensive 88-page book of daily reflections designed to deepen your spiritual journey from the beginning of Advent through to the Baptism of the Lord (12 January 2025), offering profound insights and contemplative thoughts that invite you to explore the depths of your faith and anticipate the joy of God's presence in the world. **Books are available FREE OF CHARGE – from the church, or contact the Parish Office and one will be sent to you.**



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

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/>

THIS 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

NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website

CHRIST THE KING • YEAR B	
1 st Reading	Daniel 7:13-14
2 nd Reading	Revelation 1:5-8
Gospel	John 18:33-37

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

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THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

Monday	—
Tuesday	17:30
Wednesday	10:30
Thursday	09:00
Friday	09:30
Anointing of the Sick 1 st Friday	