



Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
28 / 29 JUNE 2025
SAINTS PETER AND PAUL
VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Put Love First

There is a song that poses the oldest Church doctrine in a new way.

It is composed and sung beautifully by Cyprian Consiglio, with a text by Gary Jon Denk based on I Corinthians, chapter 13. Its message may tell us what lay behind Peter's words in Sunday's Gospel.

Verse one goes this way: "I may know every hidden truth. I may have faith strong enough to move the mountains. But if I have no love I am nothing."

What if we took this seriously? Stop now and review your day for a few moments. Were there times of competition? Vanity? Were you in a great rush to get many things done? Were you discouraged or even depressed? How did you treat people who crossed your path?

Imagine going to an x-ray department once and found out that you had fractured a bone in your left foot in a fall a week and a half ago, and have been walking around on it all this time. Would you have loved this situation, or would it have been mainly pain and disappointment? Take a guess.

But we are not supposed to be perfect, are we? Daily life is something we have to endure, at least most days. There are many, many motivations in our lives and they must not be shut down in favour of some pious emotion.

"And now I will show you the best way of all," says St. Paul through Gary Denk; "love will never come to an end. So put love, put love first."

What would it mean to do this throughout our day? You might be angry when a guy pulls through a small gap in traffic and swerves in front of you. You would have been troubled if you had to walk on a fractured foot all the way from the doctor's room to the x-ray machine. You would have similar examples.

How would it be to "put love first" in these situations? Wouldn't it mean delving a bit deeper into our soul and seeing that earlier you too had pulled over in front of someone on the highway? Can we see that my misdeeds are forgiven, not only often by other people, but always by God? Can I therefore back off just a bit and let kindness poke its head up amidst the outrage?

This is what Peter saw, however unclearly, when he said at last to Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Gospel). He saw in Jesus someone who did in fact put love first—in everything and at all times. Maybe this is what motivated Paul to be "poured out as a libation" in his preaching of the Word of love (second reading). Certainly, it was the reason Peter was released from prison miraculously. Then he went to help the Word of love to spread across the world (first reading).

Does putting love first seem impossible? The second verse of Cyprian's song says, "I know there is nothing that love cannot face." There is a lot that we ourselves cannot face, but what if God did put love into our hearts and we let it overcome fear?

Let's try it.

On Pentecost Day we celebrated the birth of the Church through the gift of the Spirit in the Paschal Mystery. That Church is built 'upon the foundation of the Apostles' (Ephesians 2: 20) – the followers of the Lord must do the 'planting' and 'watering', knowing that it is only 'God who gives the growth' (1 Corinthians 3: 6). Jesus called together a group of twelve – the new Israel he was inaugurating would realise the destiny of the old Israel and its twelve tribes. The subsequent fate of many of the Twelve after they had given their testimony to the Paschal Mystery is lost in the mists of history. Peter and Paul, however, live on in our Catholic memory. Today's readings call up for us this awareness of them as our constant companions in our journey of faith.

Peter, the bluff, hearty fisherman became the leader among the disciples, even during the life of Jesus. To him it was given by the Father to recognise and confess faith in Jesus as the one who would realise all the hopes of Israel. Failing tragically, he soon became the courageous leader and spokesman of the infant Church. Paul, the conscientious Pharisee and lover of the ways of old Israel, was also a man of passion. At first determined to destroy the Christian movement, he became, the fearless champion and interpreter of the faith, despite incredible hardships and betrayals. They were so different. Their work in establishing the Church reminds us of the challenging ways of God, calling us all – though so different – to take up our responsibilities as disciples. The collaboration to which Peter and Paul were called was not without its difficulties and misunderstandings; their faith-filled response, however, made that collaboration a foundation that will be remembered until the end of time. So different in temperament and



✚✚ and background, their discipleship led them to share a great deal: each underwent a humiliating conversion; each embraced the Saviour Cross – as their lives were ‘poured out as a libation (i.e. a precious liquid poured into the ground as a sacrifice)’; each of them was sustained by the certain hope that they would share in the power of the Lord’s resurrection. Both were to end their days as they gave their witness – in their teaching and the shedding of their blood – in Rome, the centre of their world.

The commission given to Peter in today’s gospel implies a great authority – ‘binding and loosing’ was an effective authority in the life of Israel. Jesus’ words refer to the final ‘Kingdom’; the authority given to Peter concerns the ‘Church’, or ‘Assembly’, called together by God as a foreshadowing of the Kingdom. With the passing of time, as the steadfast faith of the Roman Church, nurtured by the Apostles, became a rallying point for the Church’s unity, this was seen as a fulfilment of the promise of Jesus to Peter. In 1995, in a remarkable gesture, Pope John Paul II – in the encyclical, ‘*Ut unum sint*’ – called upon Christians of all traditions to assist the Holy See to understand how it should carry out its mission as the Church’s principle of unity. Let us pray today that this desire will be fulfilled.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading Acts 12:1-11

- ✚ In Peter’s rescue from prison, how important was “prayer by the Church was fervently being made to God on his behalf”? What is Luke telling us about praying for each other?
- ✚ How much do you think the whole Church was praying for the intercession of the Holy Spirit in the selection of the new pope?

Second Reading 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

- ✚ “The Lord stood by me and gave me strength.” Is Paul telling us that the Lord is our constant companion, giving us what we need? Does that bring with it a certain peace?
- ✚ Paul said he was “being poured out as a libation.” Peter had to escape from prison. Did God give them some hard tasks? Was God with them the whole time? Do you think he was with Pope Francis? Will he be with Pope Leo XIV?

Gospel Matthew 16:13-19

- ✚ “You are Peter and upon this rock I shall build my church.” Do you think Pope Leo XIV will be listening for revelations from the Father, as Peter did when he said Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God?
- ✚ Jesus asked Peter “Who am I for you?” He asks each of us the same question. Is Jesus a figure from the past or is he alive today?

Today in the Gospel (cf. Matthew 16:13-20), Jesus asks the disciples a good question: “Who do people say that the Son of man is?” (v.13).

... Many see him as a great teacher, as a special person: good, righteous, consistent, courageous. ... But is this enough to understand who he is, and above all, is it enough for Jesus? It seems not. If he were simply a person from the past—just as the figures cited in the same Gospel, John the Baptist, Moses, Elijah and the great prophets were for the people—he would merely be a good memory of a bygone time. And for Jesus, this will not do. Therefore, immediately afterwards, the Lord asks the disciples the decisive question: “But who do you—you!—say that I am?” (v. 15). Who am I for you, now? Jesus does not want to be a key figure from the past; He wants to be an important person for you today, of my today; not a distant prophet: Jesus wants to be the God who is close to us!

Christ, brothers and sisters, is not a memory of the past, but the God of the present. ... Jesus is alive: let us remember this. Jesus is alive, Jesus lives in the Church, he lives in the world, Jesus accompanies us, Jesus is by our side, He offers us his Word, he offers us his grace, which enlighten and refresh us on the journey. He, an expert and wise guide, is happy to accompany us on the most difficult paths and the steepest slopes.

– Pope Francis, “Who do people say that I am?”, 27 August 2023

MUSIC & PEACE BY EKLEKTIKA – SUNDAY, 29 JUNE @ THIRROUL

Eklektika is a vocal ensemble directed by composer and founding member, Dr Judy Stubbs. Eklektika have been performing for over a decade – exploring a range of themes and musical genres including cabaret, Celtic, folk, classical, contemporary, alternative, and original scores. Eklektika are bringing their sublime concert, **Music & Peace**, to the **Thirroul Community Centre** on **Sunday, 29 June at 17:00** as part of a national tour to raise funds for the humanitarian work of **Médecins Sans Frontières** in Gaza and the Middle East. Tickets \$35/\$25 at the door or at <https://www.eklektika.com.au> – all proceeds to **Médecins Sans Frontières** – great entertainment is in store!

CONFIRMATION – TWENTY-FIVE CANDIDATES IN 2025

Please remember before the Lord our young parishioners, the **twenty-five Candidates** from Year 6 (and their families) who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Brian on Thursday, 3 July at 19:00.

MENALIVE DIOCESAN WEEKEND, SATURDAY–SUNDAY, 9–10 AUGUST 2025

menALIVE Diocesan Weekend 9–10 August 2025, Xavier Conference Centre, Wollongong: Come along to our menALIVE weekend and be impacted by an encounter with the Gospel: <https://menalive-weekend-2025>

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL 2025 – 28/29 JUNE AND 5/6 JULY

The St Vincent de Paul Society NSW has launched its annual Vinnies Winter Appeal with a focus on the fact that “**Homelessness is Never a Choice**”.

Young sisters Abigail and Isabella (*nor their real names*) have never known a stable, safe and loving home. All they have known is a life of instability, neglect and abuse. A life of constant moves, and periods of homelessness, including times living in a cold and crowded caravan or their mother's car.



As children, they had no choice in their situation and no one to turn to. Now, as young adults, they finally have the chance to break free from the impacts of homelessness to create a stable and caring home of their own. With your help and support, they can look forward to a brighter future that's full of possibility they could never imagine before.

This winter, Vinnies volunteer members across Australia are seeing an unprecedented demand for homelessness services and support. Your generous support can help vulnerable people in our communities at risk of or experiencing homelessness with the urgent help they need to break free from the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

You can help give them food so they are not going hungry and clothes so they are not cold. A helping hand with essential bills or the rent could be all that's standing between people and homelessness. Sadly, domestic and family violence is one of the key drivers of homelessness. You can help ensure that people who are no longer safe at home have somewhere to turn. You can help them find safety and support.

The appeal will be held in our Parish on the weekends of **28/29 June and 5/6 July. Help end homelessness.**

There will be a special collection at both Masses those two weekends. You can donate cash or use your credit/debit card. **You can also 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>

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
Winter Items: soup; noodles; scarves; beanies; jackets; gloves; warm socks.

MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIV TO YOUNG PEOPLE, CHICAGO, 14 JUNE 2025

My dear friends: It's a pleasure for me to greet all of you gathered together at White Sox Park on this great celebration as a community of faith in the Archdiocese of Chicago. A special greeting to Cardinal Cupich, to the auxiliary bishops, to all my friends who are gathered today on this: the feast of the Most Holy Trinity.

And I begin with that because the Trinity is a model of God's love for us. God: Father, Son and Spirit. Three persons in one God live united in the depth of love, in community, sharing that communion with all of us.

So, as you gather today in this great celebration, I want to both express my gratitude to you and also an encouragement to continue to build up community, friendship, as brothers and sisters in your daily lives, in your families, in your parishes, in the Archdiocese and throughout our world.

I'd like to send a special word of greeting to all the young people – those of you gathered together today, and many of you who are perhaps watching this greeting through technological means, on the internet. As you grow up together, you may realise, especially having lived through the time of the pandemic – times of isolation, great difficulty, sometimes even difficulties in your families, or in our world today. Sometimes it may be that the context of your life has not given you the opportunity to live the faith, to live as participants in a faith community, and I'd like to take this opportunity to invite each one of you to look into your own hearts, to recognise that God is present and that, perhaps in many different ways, God is reaching out to you, calling you, inviting you to know his Son Jesus Christ, through the Scriptures, perhaps through a friend or a relative... a grandparent, who might be a person of faith. But to discover how important it is for each one of us to pay attention to the presence of God in our own hearts, to that longing for love in our lives, for ... searching, a true searching, for finding the ways that we may be able to do something with our own lives to serve others.

And in that service to others we may find that coming together in friendship, building up community, we too can find true meaning in our lives. Moments of anxiety, of loneliness. So many people who suffer from different experiences of depression or sadness – they can discover that the love of God is truly healing, that it brings hope, and that actually, coming together as friends, as brothers and sisters, in community, in a parish, in an experience of living our faith together, we can find that the Lord's grace, that the love of God can truly heal us, can give us the strength that we need, can be the source of that hope that we all need in our lives.

To share that message of hope with one another – in outreach, in service, in looking for ways to make our world a better place – gives true life to all of us, and is a sign of hope for the whole world.

To, once again, the young people who are gathered here, I'd like to say that you are the promise of hope for so many of us. The world looks to you as you look around yourselves and say: we need you, we want you to come together to share with us in this common mission, as Church and in society, of announcing a message of true hope and of promoting peace, promoting harmony, among all peoples.

→ continued next weekend.

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Sundays Year C • Weekdays Year I

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|-----------|--------|---|------------------------|-----------------|
| Monday | 30 Jun | Monday of Ordinary Week 13 | Genesis 18:16-33 | Matthew 8:18-22 |
| Tuesday | 1 Jul | Tuesday of Ordinary Week 13 | Genesis 19:15-29 | Matthew 8:23-27 |
| Wednesday | 2 Jul | Wednesday of Ordinary Week 13 | Genesis 21:5,8-20 | Matthew 8:28-34 |
| Thursday | 3 Jul | St Thomas, apostle | Ephesians 2:19-22 | John 20:24-29 |
| Friday | 4 Jul | Saturday of Ordinary Week 13 | Genesis 23:1-4, 24:1-8 | Matthew 9:9-13 |
| Saturday | 5 Jul | Saturday of Ordinary Week 13 | Genesis 27:1-5,15-29 | Matthew 9:14-17 |
| Sunday | 6 Jul | 14 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR C – <i>Scripture Readings are listed below.</i> | | |

FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- ✦ Thursday, 3 July 19:00 Sacrament of Confirmation – Bishop Brian
- ✦ Friday, 4 July 09:30 Anointing of the Sick during 09:30 Mass
- ✦ Sunday, 6 July to 13 July NAIDOC Week — <https://www.naidoc.org.au/>

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

RECIPE: MULLED WINE II – TO WARM YOU DURING THE WINTER COLD

2 small oranges or 1 large; 1 bottle of affordable red wine – Shiraz or Merlot; ¼ cup brandy (optional to add an extra kick but not needed); sugar to taste or maple syrup/honey for healthier alternative; 2 whole cinnamon sticks (or ground cinnamon will suffice but not ideal); 3 star anise; 4 whole cloves.

To prepare the oranges, if using two small, slice one orange into rounds and slice the other in half. If using 1 large orange, slice it in half through the round middle, then slice one of the halves into rounds. Place the rounds into a medium heavy-bottomed pot. Squeeze the juice from the remaining oranges into the pot. Pour the wine into the pot, followed by the brandy (if using). Add 1 tablespoon of the sugar or sweetener for now. Add the cinnamon sticks, star anise and cloves. Warm the mixture over medium heat until steaming (about 5 minutes), and keep an eye on it. When you start seeing the tiniest of bubbles at the surface, reduce the heat to the lowest of low. Carefully taste and add another tablespoon of sweetener if it's not sweet enough for your liking. If it's not spicy enough to suit your preferences, continue cooking over very low heat for 5 to 10 more minutes. Serve in mugs!

If you expect to polish off the mulled wine within 20 minutes or so, you can keep it on the stove over extra-low heat (it will become spicier with time). Otherwise, remove it from the heat, cover, and rewarm over low heat if necessary.

SLOW COOKER OPTION: Combine the mixture in your slow cooker, cover, and cook over low heat until steaming, about 30 minutes to 1 hour. It will be ready for you after a hard day's work! **Leftovers will keep in the refrigerator for a couple of days, covered (*pour it through a strainer if you don't want it to become any more spicy than it already is*).

CHRISTMAS DAY COLLECTION 2024

On Christmas Eve and Day 2024, the collection during the three Masses totalled **-\$4,117.60**. **Thank you for your generosity.** Given the recent floods in northern NSW, the Pastoral Council decided to send the whole of the Christmas Day collection to support the people affected by the floods. The money was sent through Vinnies.

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE DIOCESE?

Check out upcoming formation courses, youth events, walks, camping and jubilee events – too many to list in one place. Subscribe here and we will keep you in the loop dow.sh/stayingconnected or visit dow.sh/weeklybulletin to see everything that is on around our Diocese.

THIS Sunday's Readings – on website

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ♦ YEAR C

1st Reading Acts 12:1-11
2nd Reading 2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18
Gospel Matthew 16:13-19

NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ♦ YEAR C

1st Reading Isaiah 66:10-14
2nd Reading Galatians 6:14-18
Gospel Luke 10:1-12,17-20

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

James Bryce Principal 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