

Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
21 / 22 JUNE 2025
THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST • YEAR C
SEVEN BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Many people today, especially young people, say that they do in fact believe in God. They are on a spiritual quest, yes, but they do not need an organized religion to help them.

Sunday's Mass will make the question especially poignant. To put it in the worst light, why would you Catholics go each week to be given a flat wafer called a "host," and perhaps a small sip of wine? It seems like a lot of trouble and would appear to have very little to do with the spiritual quest.

As Catholics we answer that the host is no longer "bread" but has undergone a "transubstantiation." In simple words, even though it has the appearance of a flat piece of bread, its substance has been transformed from that of bread to that of the risen Christ's body. The same goes for the wine and Christ's Blood.

The non-church folks might reply, "aren't God and spirituality something interior, something private? If the point is that we should help each other, why can't we do it without all the paraphernalia, without all this 'Body and Blood' business?"

Let us attempt an answer. Skip this, if you are bored with it.

- (1) Jesus is the speaking-out of God's love. He and the Father are one. The Scriptures attest to this.
- (2) Jesus died on the cross in a showdown between goodness and the forces of selfishness and greed.
- (3) Evil won. But at his depths, Christ was deeper than evil. He was made of something stronger than either life or death. This something endured in him, even though he was dead and buried. What was it? God's love. Love founded the life of Jesus. He was the direct expression of God-love. Jesus emerged from the tomb because he was rooted in love.
- (4) He ascended into heaven, apparently leaving us behind without him. *But* he sent the Holy Spirit into the hearts of those who believe, so that he would still be present to us. Pentecost had been the full expression of this fact.
- (5) Fine so far: our churchless brothers and sisters would agree. The Holy Spirit of God dwells deep in the wordless depths of a person. *You have proved our point.* We do not need ceremonies and ritual.
- (6) Oh, oh. Maybe they are right!
- (7) Not quite.

Think of it this way. When you are hungry and you want, say, a hamburger, does thinking about a burger do the job? Or picturing it in your mind? Since your hunger is internal, should it just stay there, with no answer in the material world?

We human beings do have an insides, and it is very important, but we have an outside too. We are not built to just stay there within ourselves but also to let our spirits walk, play, and suffer in the material world. The Holy Spirit's presence at the depths of our being makes us desire to find Jesus with our eyes, ears, nose, tongue, hands and self-reflections.

So, that is why we go to Church. We want to find a reply to our spiritual quest, now in a fleshly presence—of Christ. At the Eucharist, which is a ritual, we find that presence given to our senses in Communion, and it fulfills our Spiritual and physical yearning.

So, that is the answer. Are you hungry for Christ? Come and eat; come and drink. You are what you eat, you know. Today's liturgy, like that of last Sunday, invites us to a deeper appreciation of the Paschal Mystery we have just celebrated. Today we renew our faith in the great sacrament in which the Saviour's Paschal Mystery gives life to the Church age after age.

The "*Paschal Mystery*" in Christianity refers to the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, viewed as the central act of salvation and the ultimate fulfillment of God's plan for humanity. It's not just a historical event, but a living reality that Christians participate in through sacraments like Baptism and the Eucharist. The term "*Paschal*" comes from the Greek word "*Pasch*," which means Passover, connecting it to the Jewish Passover celebration.

The gospel reading from Luke makes clear the central place given to the Eucharist in the community for which the gospel was written. In Luke's narrative, Jesus, after completing his Galilean ministry, turns his attention to the formation of the apostles. He has them share in his mission by sending them to preach the good news and to heal the sick. Confronted by a crowd that has neglected to provide themselves with nourishment in their eagerness to stay in his company, Jesus has a new lesson for The Twelve. 'Give them something to eat yourselves', he tells them. There can be no doubt, as the narrative continues, that Luke sees these words as pointing to the Eucharist, the nourishing of the people of God that will be the centrepiece of the apostolic ministry. Taking the loaves

Why Go To Church?

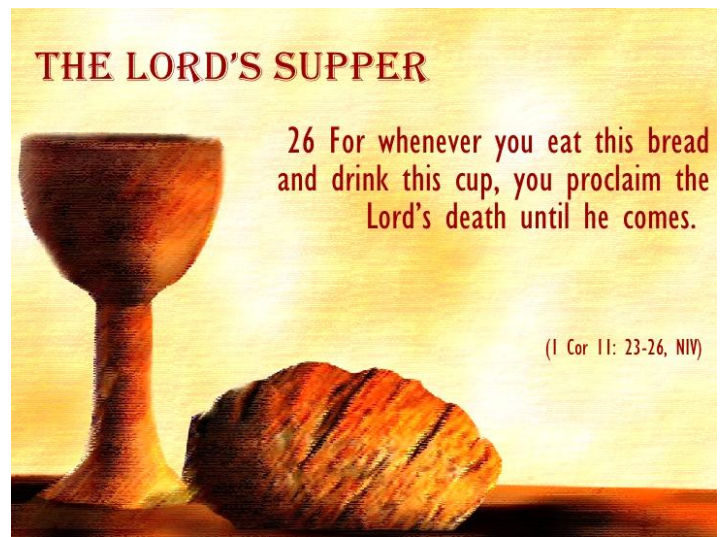


✠ and fish, Jesus ‘raises his eyes to heaven’, pronounces ‘the blessing’ over the loaves, and then ‘breaks them’. Though provided by Jesus, the nourishment is given to the people through the ministry of the apostles – who are instructed to organise the people ‘in parties’, to distribute the loaves and fish, and to collect the scraps.

St Paul’s letter to the Corinthians gives us the oldest extant account of the institution of the Eucharist. Paul writes barely twenty years after the crucifixion; but he makes it clear – using the technical language of the rabbinical tradition in which he was formed – that he is handing on an authentic and sacred tradition of the Christian community. This is independently confirmed by the fact that Paul’s narrative of what happened at the Last Supper shows clear evidence of having been modified by repetition in liturgical celebrations. The implications of Paul’s brief account are momentous. ‘This is my body, which is for you’ (with manuscript variations, ‘given for you’, ‘broken for you’). In the Church’s central act of worship, Jesus makes himself the nourishment of the world, perpetuating the last act of his earthly life – in which he gave himself into the hands of his Father, for the life of the world. The words, ‘This is the new covenant in my blood’, echo the declaration of Moses as he inaugurated the first covenant (Exodus 24:8); but this is the ‘new’ covenant in which humanity’s final bonding with God replaces the shadows and types of the Old Testament. The celebration is a ‘memorial’ that ‘proclaims the Lord’s death until he comes’ – the constant faith of the Church since the beginning, that the Lord and his Paschal Mystery are present in the celebration of the Eucharist, finds strong support in the biblical overtones of these words.

The context of Paul’s words has great practical significance. Immediately prior to this passage, Paul rebukes the Corinthians for forming selfish and exclusive factions – as they gather to celebrate the sacrament that should awaken in them a love that is selfless, one with that of the Saviour!

Today, as we receive his body and blood in communion, let our hearts fill with gratitude for this amazing gift from the heart of the risen Jesus who wants not only to be close to us, but to fill our veins, to dwell within us as in a temple and to bring with him his Father and the Spirit who unites them in love.



QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading Genesis 14:18-20

- ✠ In what ways does Melchizedek prefigure Jesus?
- ✠ Discuss the properties of bread and wine and their benefits to the body when consumed. Why do you think Melchizedek chose them for offerings? Do you know why Jesus chose them?

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

- ✠ What do we believe Jesus meant when he said, “do this in remembrance of me”? To what does “this” refer? Could it mean more than one thing? Is it “remember me when you do this”? Or, in remembrance of me, do also what I did for others?
- ✠ Explain “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” Is the gift of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection a one-time thing that happened in the past, or is the gift on-going and always newly present?

Gospel Luke 9:11-17

- ✠ The crowd had been listening all day, in a deserted area, away from villages. How are the 5,000 like the Church today? Are we starving for divine inspiration on questions, spellbound by Jesus’ words like ecojustice, incarceration, immigration, bias, gun control?
- ✠ Pope Francis said that Jesus “calls us to be citizens of heaven, but at the same time he takes into account the journey we have to face here on earth ...” How does the Eucharist help us on our earthly journey?

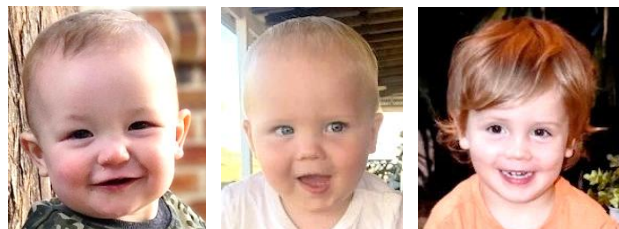
The miracle of the loaves and fish does not happen in a spectacular way, but almost discreetly. ... The bread increases as it passes from hand to hand. And as the crowd eats, they realize that Jesus is taking care of everything. ...

In addition to eating, however, we cannot forget being satisfied. The crowd is satisfied because of the abundance of food and also because of the joy and amazement of having received it from Jesus! We certainly need to nourish ourselves, but we also need to be satisfied, to know that the nourishment is given to us out of love. In the Body and Blood of Christ, we find his presence, his life given for each of us. He not only gives us help to go forward, but he gives us himself—he makes himself our travelling companion; he enters into our affairs, he visits us when we are lonely, giving us back a sense of enthusiasm. This satisfies us, when the Lord gives meaning to our life, to our darkness, our doubts.

– Pope Francis, Homily, Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, 23 June 2019

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND – WELCOME!

WELCOME to **CECILIA MCCORMICK, PARKER WARD, OLIVIA ADAMS, MATILDA WARD** baptised in our Parish this Saturday and **TYLER JONES, BYRON JONES-ROODENRYS, ALFIE JONES-ROODENRYS** baptised in our Parish this Sunday: welcome and thank you to parents, godparents, family and friends from our Parish community.



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 – that is 7 years or older.

If you want your infant son or daughter (under 7 years) to receive Baptism, the next Baptisms to be held in our Parish will be during Masses on **Saturday, 19 July** and **Sunday, 20 July**. The next

Baptism preparation meetings for parents will be in the presbytery on **Thursday, 26 June** at **19:15**. Call in to the Parish Office to collect the Baptism Enrolment Forms. Baptism is the first Sacrament of Christian Initiation, followed by Confirmation and Eucharist.

CANONIZATION OF BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS – 3 MAY 1991 TO 12 OCT 2006

Carlo Acutis was a British born teenager, primarily of Italian ancestry, known for his devotion to the Eucharist, with him creating a website documenting Eucharistic miracles prior to his death from leukemia at the age of fifteen. His canonization was scheduled earlier this year, but Pope Francis died just prior to that date. However, Pope Leo has set a new date, **Sunday, 7 September 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>



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!

WINTER SOLSTICE – THE SHORTEST DAY – THE SUN IS “FURTHEST NORTH”

The Winter Solstice is at **12:42** on **Saturday, 21 June 2024** – in the northern hemisphere, it’s the summer solstice. For us, on 21 June, the sun will rise at 07:03, and will set at 16:53. The length of daytime will be 9h 50m. *See the email with Saturday’s Mass for the times down to the last second for Thirroul.* Summer is on the way back – the days will lengthen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Monday	23 Jun	Monday of Ordinary Week 12	Genesis 12:1-9	Matthew 7:1-5	
Tuesday	24 Jun	The Birth of John the Baptist	Isaiah 49:1-6	Acts 13:22-26	Luke 1:57-66
Wednesday	25 Jun	Wednesday of Ordinary Week 12	Genesis 15:1-12,17-18	Matthew 7:15-20	
Thursday	26 Jun	Thursday of Ordinary Week 12	Genesis 16:1-12,15-16	Matthew 7:21-29	
Friday	27 Jun	Sacred Heart of Jesus	Ezekiel 34:11-16	Romans 5:5-11	Luke 15:3-7
Saturday	28 Jun	Saturday of Ordinary Week 12	Genesis 18:1-15	Matthew 8:5-17	
Sunday	29 Jun	SAINTS PETER AND PAUL • YEAR C — <i>Scripture Readings are listed below.</i>			

FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

✦ Saturday, 21 June	12:42	Winter Solstice (the shortest day of the year)
✦ Tuesday, 24 June	15:45	Class #1 for the Sacrament of Confirmation
✦ Thursday, 26 June	19:15	Baptism Preparation Meeting for July Baptisms
✦ Thursday, 3 July	19:00	Sacrament of Confirmation – Bishop Brian

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 – IN TIME TO WARM YOU DURING WINTER COLD

750ml red wine [your choice!]; 150g castor sugar; ½ cup orange juice; peel of one lemon; peel of one orange; 1 star anise; 1 cinnamon stick; 5 cloves; 1 teaspoon fresh nutmeg; pinch of fresh ginger. [*Vary to your own taste*]

Place all the ingredients, except the wine, into a large saucepan and place on medium heat. Add just a small glug of red wine to the saucepan to ensure the sugar is covered. Let it cook for 4-5 min until it becomes thick and sticky. This should let all the spices infuse well. Once the mixture has become sticky enough, add the rest of the wine and turn down the heat. You don't want the wine to boil otherwise all the alcohol will evaporate! Let cook for 5 minutes and serve hot with slices of fresh orange. It is best strained for serving to obtain a clear liquid – but always to be served hot to keep away the winter cold.

CONFIRMATION – TWENTY-TWO CANDIDATES IN 2025

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

LASER PRINTER – AVAILABLE FREE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE










A laser printer in working order, now surplus to requirements, is available from the Parish Office – first come, first served ... available for taking away.

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>

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	NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website	SUNDAY
THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST ♦ YEAR C	SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ♦ YEAR C	MASS TIMES
1st Reading Genesis 14:18-20	1st Reading Acts 12:1-11	Saturday  17:30
2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 11:23-26	2nd Reading 2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18	Sunday 08:00
Gospel Luke 9:11-17	Gospel Matthew 16:13-19	 Saturday Mass is recorded.
Parish of St Michael – Thirroul <i>One of the four Northern Illawarra Parishes</i> <i>Moving forward as a Parish Family</i> Patrick Vaughan • <i>Parish Priest</i> Andrew Granc ofm, Ken Cafe ofm • <i>Assisting</i> 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  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 <i>Anointing of the Sick 1st Friday</i>