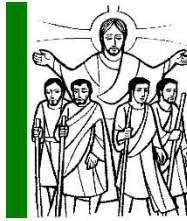


Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
5 / 6 JULY 2025
14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR C
VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Being Loved and Sent

Jesus is now on the road to Jerusalem. Now we hear him sending disciples out to each town that he intends to visit. And he gives his famous instructions about them shaking the dust from their feet (Gospel).

Today we too are sent out to spread news of the kingdom, just like the disciples. Not a duty imposed by guilt or command, but by gratitude for the great goodness of God to each of us and all of us—as liturgical spirituality would say—especially in this time of world and individual troubles.

Last week in the Gospel, Jesus was recruiting followers, in tough language (“Let the dead bury their dead!”), and now he is giving army-like instructions as to how the seventy-two disciples are to act when they go journeying to the towns (“Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals”). In light of what we saw during Holy Week, are you and I ready to be recruited to this kind of life? Jesus must have been loved a lot, since he acted with much gratitude and self-surrender on the cross. When a person is cared for, gratefulness is the obvious response.



We are to imitate him. So, let us look more closely and find what he was responding to. One answer could be a theoretical one about the Trinity, about Jesus being the Christ, close to the Father. Gratitude surely is at the heart of the Trinity. But on Sunday we will have very earthy images. Take a look at the first reading. It is a beautiful “welcome home” for people who had been exiled from Jerusalem, who had hung up their harps because their broken hearts could not sing in captivity.

The Lord tells them: “that you may nurse and be satisfied from her (Jerusalem’s) consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom... you shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.”

These are Godly, mothering images, immediate, compelling. It is the peace given by God’s motherhood. It is the peace that our wild and woolly lives emerge from and can journey back to!

Surely this is what gave Jesus courage on the cross. As a man, he was comforted at the breast of the Holy Spirit. And notice that he would ask that most terrible question, “why have you forsaken me”? His hope-against-hope, his memory of love gave him bravery, even enmeshed in sin and danger and death.

Such fullness is what we also receive or at least remember, one in which we are loved, one which sends us into the world even when we cannot recall the fond love that God had for our wriggling, snotty, childish selves. We can still call to mind what we knew of it in the past, and maybe in our adulthood at this very moment. Real love, once truly given and accepted, you know, cannot be erased. The comfort that fondled us as babies still nestles near the very centre of our selves.

We need to look for it.

If we do have to search for it, as Jesus seemed to, then we must wait and hope and pray, and not give up. Jesus did not give up, on the cross or on the road to it.

In Luke’s account of the life of Jesus, we are at a turning point. Jesus is beginning his journey to Jerusalem to meet his fate; and he is instructing the followers who must carry on his mission. He has already sent his chosen twelve out on mission. Now he sends out ‘seventy-two others’. The numbers are symbolic. The mission of the apostles is to the twelve tribes of Israel – since the immediate concern of Jesus was to call the nation back to faithfulness. Seventy-two was the number of the pagan nations, according to the traditions of the Old Testament – ultimately the mission of Jesus is universal. The ‘seventy-two others’ represent all of us, his followers in every age, called to share in his mission to bring the Good News of God to all people. ‘Evangelisation’, being bearers of the Good News, is a basic theme in the Church’s teaching today. ‘The labourers are few’, Jesus tells us, and we tend to think he is referring to the ‘professionals’, clergy and religious. But today’s gospel tells us that it is that not only those who carry on a leadership role like that of the apostles, but all followers of Jesus who are called to carry forward the Church’s mission in the name of Christ.

The Lord’s instructions to the seventy-two are for us too. He invites us to learn what it is to be an evangeliser. The first requirement is that we have truly found joy in the meaning faith gives to our lives. These disciples ‘came back rejoicing’; and today’s liturgy, in its choice of the reading from Isaiah, underlines this first characteristic of authentic bearers of the gospel message – with its expressions of boundless joy in the blessings of God. True evangelisers must have a faith commitment that is strong: the disciples are told that they must be single-minded – their greatest treasure should be the message they bear; it will be this personal conviction that leads others to share in what they have found. True evangelisers are bearers of peace: the disciples are told to be aware of the healing and reconciliation their message should bring to their hearers. Jesus sends the disciples out ‘two by two’: because the example of a community that lives by Christ’s teaching is an essential part of authentic evangelisation. And finally, Jesus warns against

✠✠ the spirit of self-importance that can spoil the work of the evangelist: all that should matter is their own relationship with God.

Clearly, it is not clever presentation, or anything of that order, that will make us good evangelisers, but the quality of our own response to the call of Jesus, to share in all that he stands for – especially in the ordinary situations of our lives, in the midst of our families and our ordinary life relationships.

Scholars who have studied Luke's mind tell us that the program he sets out here is realised in the life of the early Church as he describes it in the Acts of the Apostles. And today's reading from Paul to the Galatians reminds us of that great evangeliser, whose labours, as he spread the Good News, are a magnificent illustration of the message of today's gospel.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading **Isaiah 66:10-14**

- ✠ Salvation history started in the Hebrew Testament, moved through the Christian Testament and continues today. Do you think God's love changed over time??
- ✠ Christ's peace "spreads like a river" throughout the Church. If there is a whole world that needs Christ's peace what is the Church's job?

Second Reading **Galatians 6:14-18**

- ✠ "For neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision." Some people wanted to follow the ancient practices. Paul did not. Are there be discussions today in the synodality meetings, concerning some practices now?
- ✠ St Paul looks at the circumcision situation from the perspective of "the cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ." Can you envision problems in today's Church from the same perspective? How does Jesus look at the fact that people in certain parts of the world can only go to Mass a few times a year because there are no priests?

Gospel **Luke 10:1-12,17-20**

- ✠ in what ways are you a labourer in the abundant harvest? If you are a "lamb", do you think God will protect you from the "wolves"?
- ✠ "The Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town ... " In his apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis says the evangelist needs to "enter fully into the fabric of society." Why is that? Who did that first?

268. To be evangelizers of souls, we need to develop a spiritual taste for being close to people's lives and to discover that this is itself a source of greater joy. ...

269. Jesus himself is the model of this method of evangelization which brings us to the very heart of his people. ... If he speaks to someone, he looks into their eyes with deep love and concern: "Jesus, looking upon him, loved him" (Mark 10:21). We see how accessible he is, as he draws near the blind man (cf. Mark 10:46-52) and eats and drinks with sinners (cf. Mark 2:16) without worrying about being thought a glutton and a drunkard himself (cf. Matthew 11:19).

We see his sensitivity in allowing a sinful woman to anoint his feet (cf. Luke 7:36-50) and in receiving Nicodemus by night (cf. John 3:1-15). Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is nothing else than the culmination of the way he lived his entire life. Moved by his example, we want to enter fully into the fabric of society, sharing the lives of all, listening to their concerns, helping them materially and spiritually in their needs, rejoicing with those who rejoice, weeping with those who weep; arm in arm with others, we are committed to building a new world ... as the result of a personal decision which brings us joy and gives meaning to our lives.

– Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 24 November 2013

NAIDOC WEEK – 6 TO 13 JULY 2025 – <https://www.naidoc.org.au/>

This year's National NAIDOC Week marks **50 years** of the week-long celebrations, and the theme, The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy, celebrates achievements of the past and the bright future ahead.

"Over the decades, NAIDOC Week has grown into a powerful national celebration that continues to honour and elevate Indigenous voices, culture and resilience 50 years on. Guided by the wisdom of our Elders and the groundwork laid by our forebears, each NAIDOC Week reinforces our vision for an Australia where Indigenous voices are not only heard but lead the way. As we celebrate this milestone, we look toward the next 50 years of NAIDOC Week celebrations, with excitement and confidence, while ensuring that NAIDOC remains a movement grounded in community-led vision and integrity."

– Professor Lynette Riley

Some prayer resources for you: <https://www.natsicc.org.au/2025-atsi-sunday.html>

**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.**

TWENTY-FOUR CANDIDATES CONFIRMED ON THURSDAY, 3 JULY

Confirmation Candidates 2025



Please remember before the Lord our young parishioners, the **twenty-four Candidates** from Year 6, who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, 3 July: **Oska McCarthy; Hugo Rees; Eliza Brain; Jack Piggott; Alistair Forte; Grace Bolton; Maia Villanti; Hunter O'Connor; Oscar Squires; Lachlan Kirkwood; Ava Trimboli; Jaxson Cavanough; Ethan Zondag; Piper Dale; Sienna Paduch; Darcy Foran; Sofia Gveric; Aariah Curran; Tye Fitzgerald; Ayden Duggan; Oliver Dalla Pozza; Talita Woods; John Wigan ... and ... Eliza Douglas (Year 7).** Two other Candidates who are currently away will received Confirmation on Saturday, 26 July during the 17:30 Mass.

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 conclude in our Parish this weekend 5/6 July. **Help end homelessness.**



Last weekend you donated an incredible \$5,716.00 – Thank you for your generosity!

There will be a special collection at Masses this weekend. 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>

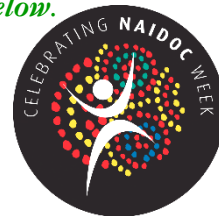
SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Sundays Year C • Weekdays Year I

Monday	7 Jul	Monday of Ordinary Week 14	Genesis 28:10-22	Matthew 9:18-26
Tuesday	6 Jul	Tuesday of Ordinary Week 14	Genesis 32:23-33	Matthew 9:32-38
Wednesday	9 Jul	Wednesday of Ordinary Week 14	Genesis 41:55-57 +	Matthew 10:1-7
Thursday	10 Jul	Thursday of Ordinary Week 14	Genesis 44:18-21 +	Matthew 10:7-15
Friday	11 Jul	St Benedict, abbot	Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30	Matthew 10:16-23
Saturday	12 Jul	Saturday of Ordinary Week 14	Genesis 49:29-33 +	Matthew 10:24-33
Sunday	13 Jul	15 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR C – <i>Scripture Readings are listed below.</i>		

FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- ✦ Sunday, 6 July to 13 July NAIDOC Week — <https://www.naidoc.org.au/>
 ✦ Saturday, 12 July 18:30 Dinner at Club Thirroul after 17:30 Mass



RECIPE: COB LOAF SPINACH DIP

450g cob loaf; 250g frozen spinach, thawed; 250g creamed cheese, softened; 300ml light sour cream; 40g packet French onion soup mix; crackers to serve.

Preheat oven to 180°C (160° fan forced). Line a large baking tray with baking paper. Cut 4cm off top of cob loaf to form lid. Scoop bread from centre of loaf, leaving 1.5cm edge. Tear or roughly chop bread pieces. Squeeze out any excess moisture from spinach, discarding any liquid. Combine spinach, cheese, sour cream and soup mix in a large bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Spoon mixture into loaf. Top with lid. Place on prepared tray. Arrange bread pieces in a single layer around loaf. Bake for 20 minutes or until golden. Serve with cut vegetables and crackers.

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

We have to look beyond our own – if you will – egotistical ways. We have to look for ways of coming together and promoting a message of hope. Saint Augustine says to us that if we want the world to be a better place, we have to begin with ourselves, we have to begin with our own lives, our own hearts (cf. Speech 311; Comment on St John's Gospel, Homily 77).

And so, in this sense, as you gather together as a faith community, as you celebrate in the Archdiocese of Chicago, as you offer your own experience of joy and of hope, you can find out, you can discover that you, too, are indeed beacons of hope. That light, that perhaps on the horizon is not very easy to see, and yet, as we grow in our unity, as we come together in communion, we can discover that that light will grow brighter and brighter. That light which is indeed our faith in Jesus Christ. And we can become that message of hope, to promote peace and unity throughout our world.

We all live with many questions in our hearts. Saint Augustine speaks so often of our “restless” hearts and says: “our hearts are restless until they rest in you, O God” (Confessions 1,1,1). That restlessness is not a bad thing, and we shouldn't look for ways to put out the fire, to eliminate or even numb ourselves to the tensions that we feel, the difficulties that we experience. We should rather get in touch with our own hearts and recognise that God can work in our lives, through our lives, and through us reach out to other people.

And so. I'd like to conclude this brief message to all of you with an invitation to be, indeed, that light of hope. “Hope does not disappoint”, Saint Paul tells us in his letter to the Romans (5,5). When I see each and every one of you, when I see how people gather together to celebrate their faith, I discover myself how much hope there is in the world.

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE DIOCESE?

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

14 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ♦ YEAR C	
1 st Reading	Isaiah 66:10-14
2 nd Reading	Galatians 6:14-18
Gospel	Luke 10:1-12,17-20

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

NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website

15 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ♦ YEAR C	
1 st Reading	Deuteronomy 30:10-14
2 nd Reading	Colossians 1:15-20
Gospel	Luke 10:25-37

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James Bryce Principal ☎ 4267 2560

SUNDAY

MASS TIMES

Saturday 17:30

Sunday 08:00

Saturday Mass is recorded.

THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

Monday

Tuesday 17:30

Wednesday 09:00

Thursday 09:00

Friday 09:30

Anointing of the Sick 1st Friday