



Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
9 / 10 AUGUST 2025
19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR C
VINNIES NEEDS NEW (MALE) MEMBERS

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Trust

Trust is a lot more difficult these days with terrorists waiting around the corner. Trust today can seem foolish. Which city has the latest massacre?

Yet human bonding is entirely dependent on trust.

Let us take a closer look.

In someways today, we have developed substitutes for trust and for human bonding. We overwork, overeat, over-celebrate parties, invent formulas such as “quality time” to fit family and children into our loaded schedules, etc. And we simply drop a husband or wife who no longer pleases us. It is expected that we will go get another one, isn't it?

Can such be a foundation for human bonding? Even bonding just for a little while?

There is a wonderful example of trust in the readings for Sunday. The second reading talks about risky deeds that God asked from Abraham. Travel to a land he did not know, pass through great deserts and villages full of strangers, dwell in temporary shelters all the way, and most difficult of all, believe that Sarah would at last conceive and give birth—even though, as Scripture says, their old age made them “as good as dead.”

And it got worse, not better. God ordered Abraham to make a bloody sacrifice of this promised son born to the aged selves. Kill him.

Remember, God had promised that Abraham and Sarah would have “descendants as numerous as the sands on the seashore.” Therefore, the question before Abraham was not one about obedience, as is often thought, *but whether to trust in God*. Could God's promise come true even if Abraham went through with the sacrifice of his son?

Sunday's second reading says what he decided. Abraham “thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy.” The terrible action could be taken because he believed in God's fidelity. Maybe God would raise their son from the dead!

How would you or I have responded? Wouldn't we say it was time to cancel the trust stuff and save whatever we can of our family?

Yes.

But notice: trust consists of more than just a generally sunny attitude. Trust means believing *in someone*. It means remembering the love that resides in that person, remembering the promises, the pacts made in fidelity. *It means taking the risk.*

Can you or I wait? In some kind of trust?

We are told that Abraham did. Perhaps he was being trained by God to rely on God's word. And of course, the Israelites were waiting, looking ahead to the coming of a Messiah in a future age. And Jesus worried about God's abandoning him as he was being crucified. Yes, he trusted, even though he was filled with the raw human fear that God might have rejected him (“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

But God had been with him even in the hardest patch of life, the cross, when no one could see any divine evidence. But human bonding is always subject to doubt. If we are lucky, we discern and pray and forgive, and then give it another try. All of us remain “strangers and aliens on earth” and we long for someone to trust.

We long to be able to trust.

Can we open our hearts to God and let Jesus' own trust be ours?

The central chapters of Luke's gospel, as we have seen, present the instructions of Jesus to his disciples, as he makes his final journey to Jerusalem. Luke preserves this teaching as a legacy for disciples of all ages. Our readings will be from this section until the Church's year has almost ended.

Today's gospel passage follows on from teaching concerning a right attitude to this world's possessions: ‘Get yourself treasure that will not fail you’. What has gone before serves as an introduction to the theme of hope. Christian hope is very fundamental in the lives of those who are true followers of Jesus. Hope – one of the ‘three theological virtues’ (fundamental to our relationship with God; cf. 1 Corinthians 13:13) – is little appreciated by many of our people, whose faith is often too individualistic. Because they are not familiar with the great story unfolding in the Scriptures, their faith awareness does not include an eager longing for the final achievement of God in the divine plan for the whole of creation. Christian hope is the certainty that, despite all appearance to the contrary, God's final reign will come: ‘Fear not, little flock, it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom’. This certainty is essential to a vital faith: ‘only faith can guarantee the blessings we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen’. Believing that God's final achievement had been realised in the Saviour's resurrection, the first Christians looked forward to his imminent return. With the passing of time, their faith had to adjust to an indefinite



✠ time of waiting. Luke's presentation of Christ's teaching reflects this. Faithful disciples will prepare for their final meeting with the Lord by giving themselves to the things of daily life. They will be judged according to their faithfulness and generosity in doing this. At the same time, however long the period of waiting may be, they must have an attitude of readiness and hope – in the 'third watch' the night is almost over, and the dawn is coming. When the Lord does come, the fulfilment of their hope will exceed all their expectations and imaginings: the Lord himself 'will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them' – a magnificent image, combining the eschatological banquet looked forward to by the prophets, and the 'Servant' theme of the late Isaian writings with which Jesus identified: 'the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many' (Matthew 20:28).

Today, we begin a series of reading from the concluding section of the letter to the Hebrews. The theme of hope is strong in this letter, written to encourage converts from Judaism who are nostalgic for their old ways. They are reminded of the great plan of God, and of faith's 'guarantee of realities that at present remain unseen' – reminded that Abraham himself lived as 'a stranger and nomad – longing for a better homeland, a heavenly homeland'.

Faith keeps our hearts and our souls tuned to God. When we notice Jesus' approach, when we hear him knocking, if we open the door he will come in and sit us down and serve us, for his deepest desire is our happiness. Once when Peter felt totally lost and he asked Jesus what to do, Jesus said to him: 'Have faith in God' (Mark 11:22). Peter remembered these words and in a letter written from Rome when his own life was about to be taken from him, he said to his community: 'It is through Jesus that you have come to place your trust in God, for it was God who raised Jesus from the dead and gave him glory. So now your faith and your hope are set on God' (1 Peter 1:21). 'May your love be upon us O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.'

Jesus makes the same point in today's Gospel. He reminds us that the only real treasure is the treasure for which our heart longs and it comes from heaven, from God. So, let us be alert, let our heart be awake for the whisper of God's Spirit. Let us fill our lungs with God's breath. Our deepest longing, says Jesus, is to share the love banquet that Jesus enjoys with his Father. That is exactly what God wants to share with us. God is always coming to us, knocking gently on the door of our soul. If we are listening for the knock and open our hearts to God, God promises to come in and eat with us – the intimacy of a meal, the love of family and friends.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading Wisdom 18:6-9

- ✠ Are you certain enough of God's covenant with us that you could carry out what Scripture calls a "leap of faith"? What gave the Israelites courage to begin their journey into the unknown? Do you make smaller leaps of faith, maybe of hope, in your everyday life?
- ✠ Does your faith in Jesus' promises give you the courage like an "inexhaustible treasure," promises like the one he makes in the Gospel to stand up against injustices—such as the inhuman treatment of immigrant children, human trafficking, the climate crisis or gun control? Do you need trust as well as courage?

Second Reading Hebrews 11:1-2,8-19

- ✠ Abraham was called to an unknown country. Do you sometimes feel you are on uncharted faith territory? Who helps you with certainty and responsibility in these unmapped areas of faith? What tests your faith? Would God ever call you to unknown places?
- ✠ God promised Abraham that he would have many descendants. What allowed Abraham to offer up his and Sarah's child? Can you relate to this story in any way? How is your trust? Does it remind you of God's offering up the only Son?

Gospel Luke 12:32-48

- ✠ Jesus says to be "vigilant" and "like servants who await their master's return, be ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks"? Do you "watch" for God in your everyday life? Where do you find him?
- ✠ How does Pope Francis describe pure joy in heaven through his analogy of the servant story?

We cannot truly understand in what this supreme joy consists. However, Jesus lets us sense it with the analogy of the master who, finding his servants still awake on his return: "will gird himself and have them sit at table, and he will come and serve them" (Luke 12:37ff). The eternal joy in heaven is manifested this way: the situation will be reversed, and it will no longer be the servants, it will be us, who will serve God—but God himself will place himself at our service. And Jesus does this as of now: Jesus prays for us, Jesus looks at us and prays to the Father for us. Jesus serves us now. He is our servant. And this will be the definitive joy. The thought of the final encounter with the Father, abundant in mercy, fills us with hope and stirs us to constant commitment, for our sanctification and for the building of a more just and fraternal world.

– Pope Francis, *Angelus*, 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, 11 August 2019

**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.
Thank you for your great generosity!

VINNIES THIRROUL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE – FOR NEW MALE MEMBERS

Vinnies Thirroul Conference thanks the two ladies who have responded to our appeal for new members. However, we do need to boost our **MALE membership**.

The Thirroul Conference is on call three times a week, (Monday, Wednesday, Friday). When we go out on a call, we do so in pairs. Our rule is that at least one caller is a male. Currently there are only three male members available to do visits. So, in the event of illness or holidays, one of the other two males will have to double up. Some new male members would certainly ease the pressure.

If you are thinking of joining or want more information, speak with a Vinnies member or phone me, **John Dening**, President of Vinnies Thirroul Conference: ☎ **0468 916 319**.

What is involved? There is a meeting every fortnight, 16:30 to 17:30, every second Tuesday. In addition, and depending on the local needs, members make visits in pairs to local people to offer support such as food, vouchers, referrals and advocacy. Training, support and encouragement from fellow members is provided so new members can approach situations confidently, non-judgmentally and willing to share and listen.

Are you a person who would like to help people in need in the local area here? Would you like to engage in meaningful service with others? Do you have a concern for the social inequities visible in Australia today? Then our Thirroul Vinnies Conference will welcome you with open arms as a new member.

Thinking about joining or want more information? Contact a Vinnies member or ☎ 0468 916 319.

From all parishioners, **thank you to members of our Thirroul Vinnies Conference.**

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN LECTURE 2025 – SATURDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER

The **Newman Lecture** is a yearly event hosted by the Bulli Branch of the Knights of the Southern Cross. This year, the topic is “**The Legacy of Pope Francis**” and the guest speaker is **Bishop Brian Mascord**, Bishop of Wollongong. The lecture will be on **Saturday, 6 September 2025**, commencing at **14:00**, at the **Xavier Centre**, next to **St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Harbour Street, Wollongong**. The lecture will be live streamed nationally.

There is a 40-minute presentation followed by a Q&A session. **All parishioners and friends** are warmly invited. The live stream link will be provided closer to the date. ☎ contact **John Tuckerman 0429 614 392** and for free bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1434517?embed>

JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE – ☎ links and resources <https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/jubilee-year-of-hope/>

WORDS OF POPE LEO TO YOUTH IN ROME FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

Dear young people, Jesus is the friend who always accompanies us in the formation of our conscience. If you truly want to encounter the Risen Lord, then listen to his word, which is the Gospel of salvation. Reflect on your way of living, seek justice in order to build a more humane world. Serve the poor, and so bear witness to the good that we would always like to receive from our neighbours. Be united with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Adore Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, the source of eternal life. Study, work, and love according to the example of Jesus, the good Teacher who always walks beside us.

We remember what Pope Francisco said in Lisbon, during the World Youth Day, to other young people like us: «Everyone is called to confront great questions that do not have [...] a simple or immediate response, until they invite you to learn a travel, to surpass one another, to go further [...], to a journey without the one you have seen. Let us not be alarmed, let us be enthralled, let us meet ourselves interiorly, restless, incomplete, longing for the feeling and the future [...]. We are not sick, we are alive!» (3 August 2023)

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.

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK: 3 TO 10 AUGUST

Are you experiencing a call to serve God and God's people? During this National Vocations Awareness Week, take time to reflect on God's plan for you. Pray for the courage to answer God's call and consider if the priesthood might be your path to fulfilling God's will. Our diocese and community need dedicated priests to lead us in faith and service. If you are discerning a vocation to the priesthood, there are people to support you on your journey.

This National Vocations Awareness Week, we celebrate those who have answered God's call to the priesthood or religious life. Their commitment and dedication inspire us all. If you feel God tugging at your heart to serve in this special way, don't ignore it. God may be inviting you to a life of deep fulfillment and purpose as a priest or religious. Pray for the courage to listen to God's voice and the wisdom to discern God's plan for you. Our parish community is here to support you as you explore this important decision.

If you would like any further support, please don't hesitate to contact **Fr Duane Fernandez**, Vocations Director for the Diocese of Wollongong at vocations@dow.org.au

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE MEETING – 10:30, WEDNESDAY, 13 AUGUST

The Thirroul CWL will meet in the McCarthy Centre, 10:30am, this Wednesday, 13 August, BYO lunch.

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Sundays Year C • Weekdays Year I

Monday	11 Aug	St Clare of Assisi, virgin	Deuteronomy 10:12-22	Matthew 17:22-27
Tuesday	12 Aug	Tuesday of Ordinary Week 19	Deuteronomy 31:1-8	Matthew 18:1-5,10+
Wednesday	13 Aug	Wednesday of Ordinary Week 19	Deuteronomy 34:1-12	Matthew 18:15-20
Thursday	14 Aug	St Maximilian Kolbe, friar priest, martyr	Joshua 3:7-11,13-17	Matthew 18:21-19:1
Friday	15 Aug	The Assumption of Mary	Revelation 11:19, 12:1-6	1 Corinthians 15:20-26
Saturday	16 Aug	Saturday of Ordinary Week 19	Joshua 24:13-29	Matthew 19:13-15
Sunday	17 Aug	20 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR C – <i>Scripture Readings are listed below.</i>		

FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- ✦ Saturday, 9 August 18:30 Dinner at Club Thirroul after 17:30 Mass
- ✦ Weekend, 9-10 August Blessing of August Wedding Anniversaries and Birthdays
- ✦ Monday, 11 August Feast of Saint Clare of Assisi, founder of the Poor Clare Sisters
- ✦ Wednesday, 13 August 10:30 Catholic Women's League Meeting, McCarthy Centre, BYO lunch
- ✦ Friday, 15 August 09:30 Feast of the Assumption of Mary – Special Mass
- ✦ Weekend, 16/17 August One Baptism on Saturday, 16 Aug and one Baptism on Sunday, 17 Aug

RECIPE: ONION, CORN AND ZUCCHINI MUFFINS – from Raymond

2 medium zucchinis; 1 brown onion, diced, plus extra to garnish; ½ cup corn; 1 cup tasty cheese; ½ cup milk; ¼ cup Greek yoghurt; 2 eggs, lightly beaten; 2 cups plain flour; 3 tbsp baking powder; pinch of paprika; salt and pepper to season.

Preheat the oven to 180°C. Grease a 12-hole muffin tray. Grate the zucchini and place in a large colander. Use your hands or a dry cloth to squeeze as much water out of the zucchini as possible. Too much water will result in stodgy muffins. Transfer zucchini to a large bowl and add the onion, corn, cheese, milk, yoghurt and eggs. Stir to combine. Gradually add the rest of the dry ingredients to the wet mix and gently fold all the ingredients together. Fill the muffin tray to ¾ full then add a small onion wedge on top of each muffin and press to indent slightly into the batter. Bake for 25–30 minutes until lightly golden and cooked through.

COMPASS: “BUSH” FAMILY CAMPING WEEKEND

Friday, 12 September – Sunday, 14 September 2025 at Guntawang–Wooglemai Catholic Camping Facility. We are excited to be returning for the second of our 2025 Catholic family camping weekends at Guntawang Catholic Youth Centre. This weekend is designed to bring together families of all ages, including couples with or without children, single parents with their children, and grandparents, to celebrate the incredible gift of family life. Mark your calendars for a wonderful opportunity to connect with families from across the diocese in a laid-back setting. Enjoy shared meals, games, music, prayer, and Mass together. To secure your spot, register now. Cost is \$50 per adult or \$100 per family. <https://www.dow.org.au/events/compass-bush-family-camping-weekend/> RSVP: Friday, 29 August 2025.

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG CATHOLIC SOCIETY

UOW Catholic Society invites all UOW students, staff, and friends to our start of semester BBQ! This is a great way to connect with other Catholics on campus and become involved with the many activities CathSoc hosts. Follow @uowcathsoc on Instagram for more details. 12:30 on Saturday, 23 August at Stuart Park, North Wollongong. Free! Register now: <http://tiny.cc/CathSocBBQ>

THIS Sunday's Readings – on website	NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website	SUNDAY
19 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ♦ YEAR C	20 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ♦ YEAR C	MASS TIMES
1 st Reading Wisdom 18:6-9	1 st Reading Jeremiah 38:4-6,8-10	Saturday 17:30
2 nd Reading Hebrews 11:1-2,8-19	2 nd Reading Hebrews 12:1-4	Sunday 08:00
Gospel Luke 12:32-48	Gospel Luke 12:49-53	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 • Parish Priest Andrew Granc ofm, Ken Cafe ofm • Assisting 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 James Bryce Principal 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>