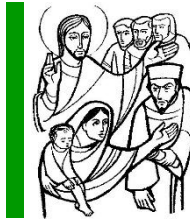


Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
18 / 19 OCTOBER 2025
29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR C
TWO BAPTISMS – WELCOME

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

The Everlasting Arms

There are two sides to Sunday's readings. One theme is "Do not get tired when you are praying." The other is, of course you will, but there will be support.

Most of us have experienced drowsiness when we try to pray. Even Moses gets fatigued as he is doing the equivalent of prayer in the first Reading. He stands on the top of a hill where he can see a fight going on below, one he has ordered. To give his general, Joshua, victory over enemy forces, he holds out what our reading calls "the staff of God" over the battle. He has to continue holding it out, straight-armed, until the combat is completely done because whenever he lowers his arms the enemy starts to win. This goes on for a long time and Moses' arms do grow exceedingly weary.

Did you ever have to hold a heavy book for someone to read from? "Please, please, please read faster," your arms might be saying. Moses did have people to support his arms, Aaron and Hur. They even found a rock for him to sit on.

The theme: go ahead and get tired, someone will help you.

But in the Gospel, in order to illustrate why we should keep praying (asking for things) and not grow tired, Jesus tells a parable about the unjust judge and a widow who does not stop asking. Notice that Jesus' real name was **Joshua**, just like Moses' General above. The name "Jesus" is a Greek translation.

The widow, with very little to lose, comes to public court every single day and demands justice from the admittedly bored judge. Much like today's scene! After a while the judge thinks to himself, if I don't do something this woman will humiliate me in front of everyone. I give up. I will rule in her favour, even though widows in that society had a very weak status.

The point we are given for this parable is: how much more God—who certainly is not bored—will make sure we have what we need, even if it is only a very basic need. The widow's persistence is therefore an example for all of us.

Persistence.

But did Jesus have someone supporting his arms as he spread them wide upon the cross?

No?

Even though Jesus was weary unto death and was no longer able to sense any presence of God whatsoever, he still prayed without ceasing. "Father, why have you abandoned me?" is one of the most riveting prayers in history. It set the stage for Mother Teresa's persistence and fortitude throughout a life devoid of consolation.

God's love was strong enough to bring Jesus (and Mother Teresa) through, when every assurance had been taken away. Jesus stretched out his arms in a position that came to be the medieval position of prayer (arms lifted to God), and won a great victory, just as the Old Testament Moses and Joshua had done. He opened his arms to us so that we can fall into them when we ourselves are so very weary and discouraged.

"The eternal God is your refuge," Moses said. "Underneath are the everlasting arms."

A very typical human situation: a corrupt judge, pestered by a persistent widow, finally gives in to her, not because he is won over to acting justly, but because she is going to 'worry him to death'. We see an unfamiliar side of Jesus in this parable; he is not long faced – he can speak of human foibles with an ironical humour. The story was all too common in the world that Jesus knew. The widow who cannot get a fair hearing, probably concerning her inheritance, represents 'the poor' with whom Jesus identifies. He is certainly not likening his Father to the judge of the parable, but using the parable as the basis of an 'even more so' argument, such as we find in other parables. Having caught their attention with his ironical little story, Jesus is presented by Luke as emphasising the trust in God that should motivate the prayer of his disciples.

The sequence of Luke's compilation leading to this text helps us to understand the implications of Jesus' teaching. Between the teaching on 'faith' that we have considered on the last two Sundays, and today's reading, is a passage concerning 'the coming of the kingdom of God' and the day of 'the Son of Man's return'. Faith, we have seen, is an expectant openness to God's action in our midst. Our Opening Prayer this Sunday is linked with the openness we should have, as we look forward to the day 'when the Son of Man comes'.

If the first concern of a lively faith is being alive to God's action in our lives, our prayer should begin and end in recognition that our lives have their real meaning in the unfolding of the plan conceived before all ages in the 



✠✠ loving designs of God. This plan – the great virtue of Christian hope assures us – will certainly be realised; and in its realisation, all things will be turned to good. Of course, our personal needs and the concerns of those dear to us should be brought constantly before God in our prayer; but this should be done in the knowledge that these things are part of the plan of God, revealed in all its mercy and generosity in the coming of the Saviour, and realised through a providence that touches every detail of our lives and those who are dear to us. Prayer, Jesus is teaching us, is a living out of our faith; and, at the same time, our faith grows and matures through our life of prayer.

Our reading from the letter to Timothy is a good complement to the lesson of the gospel – urging us to a greater familiarity with the Scriptures. The whole story of the ‘inspired Scriptures’ is the unfolding of God’s plan and the great promise it brings to Christian hope. This story of the Scriptures is important in the life of the Church ‘for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people’s lives and teaching them to be holy’.

Scholars assure us that the last words of the gospel are not pessimistic. Jesus knows that he will find faith when he comes – in ‘the chosen ones who cry out to God day and night’ – but his words are a warning for those who need it.

God is likened to a guard keeping watch at his post on the city wall, guarding the city while its inhabitants sleep. We might also imagine a mother or father keeping a protective eye on a child. The words ‘The Lord is your guard’ (which, incidentally, is the meaning of the name ‘Samaria’) is at the exact centre of today’s psalm. We might think of the beautiful words spoken to Jacob by God: ‘Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you’ (Genesis 28:15).

QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading **Exodus 17:8-13**

- ✠ Could Moses have kept his hands raised (or “prayed constantly”) without the help of his companions? Can you relate to this story in any way? Can you let friends help you when you can’t manage it by yourself? And whom do you support spiritually?
- ✠ In this reading some people were at battle and some—Moses, Aaron and Hur—were at intercessory prayer and action. The outcome of the battle was determined by the prayer. How important do you think prayer is to the success of your ministry? How important is prayer to anything you do?

Second Reading **2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:2**

- ✠ What task does Paul lay on you in this reading? What instruction book does he give you to carry out the task? Is it “inconvenient” sometimes to proclaim the word of God by being patient and encouraging?
- ✠ Is proclaiming the Word of God central to all the activities of the Church? To your parish? To your life? How do you proclaim the Word of God in your work? In your life?

Gospel **Luke 18:1-8**

- ✠ What does Jesus’ injunction, “Pray always ... ” mean to you? Do you think Jesus wants only prayers of petition? What does Jesus want to make clear to you about petitioning God? Discuss this statement: “When you pray for rain, take an umbrella.”
- ✠ “Jesus told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always. ...” What does Pope Leo say can happen in our desperate situations with one whisper to God?

Never underestimate the power of prayer. One Whisper to God can change everything.

– Pope Leo, 1 June 2025

In his address for the “Angeles,” Pope Francis asks, “Why does God want us ‘to cry out day and night’ to the Lord? Doesn’t he already know our needs?”

And this is a good question, that leads us to deepen a very important aspect of the Faith: God invites us to pray with insistence, not because he doesn’t know what we need, or because he doesn’t listen to us. On the contrary, he always hears and knows all of us, with love. In our daily journey, especially in difficulties, in the fight against evil outside of ourselves and within us, the Lord is not far away, he is at our side; we fight, with him beside us, and our weapon is prayer, which makes us feel his presence alongside of us, his mercy, even his help.

– Pope Francis, Angelus, 20 October 2013

DIOCESAN ANNUAL CATECHIST MASS

All active and retired SRE Catechists and those involved in the Sacramental preparation of children are warmly invited to the Annual Catechist Mass and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, 22 November at 09:30 at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong. Join Bishop Brian Mascord, for this celebration, followed by a light refreshment. RSVP contact Helen Bennett at helen.bennett@dow.org.au for more information.

JUBILEE WEBSITE

The Diocesan Jubilee Website is continually being updated about jubilee events, and has a wealth of information, links and resources to this Holy Year as **Pilgrims of Hope** at <https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/jubilee-year-of-hope/>

MASS COUNT

This weekend and the next three weekends, there will be the annual Mass Count.

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND – WELCOME TO IVY AND FLORENCE

WELCOME to **IVY PEARL CORNISH** and **FLORENCE RAYN DUFFY** baptised in our Parish this Sunday, baptised this Sunday: *welcome and thank you to parents, godparents, family and friends from our Parish.*

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, 15 November / Sunday, 16 November**. The next Baptism preparation meeting for parents will be in the presbytery on **Thursday, 30 October 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.



ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER ON SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Italian Prime Minister, **Giorgia Meloni** visited Assisi on Saturday, 4 October 2025, the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi and gave this address:

Christ came into the world to teach us forgiveness and even love for one's enemies. However, Saint Francis was not a dreamy troubadour, but a man of action, quick to the point of being hasty in the tasks he took on and in the commitments he made. He did not like compromises, half-truths or subterfuge. He was demanding, as saints are demanding – men and women who were as normal as they were radical in the courage of their choices. Saint Francis was an extreme man, but not an extremist. He gave an example of poverty, but not of the misery that he and his brothers always fought against. And in the name of that poverty, he reminded us all that nothing, ultimately, is truly ours. In our children, in the people we love, in our possessions or our bodies, everything is a gift – the precious inheritance of a God who loves us in our imperfections. He reminded all people that we are the guardian of creation and that life in all its forms is entrusted in a special way to the responsibility and care of all people. Because, as Pope Leo recently reminded us, we are nothing more than caring stewards of that house, so that no one irresponsibly destroys the natural goods that speak of the goodness and beauty of the Creator, nor submits to them as a slave or worshipper of nature.

In his letter to the rulers of peoples, Saint Francis exhorts those responsible for government, not to measure themselves solely by consensus, but to take into account the broader horizon of meaning in their actions. It is an invitation that shakes and unsettles, but does not give political direction but stirs hearts and does not leave us indifferent. Saint Francis was a man of peace, dialogue and discussion. He brought about peace within and beyond the borders of Assisi by taking his message where no one else had dared. Disarmed of everything except his faith and his kindness, he did not hesitate to risk his very life, just to meet the Sultan and promote with him that dialogue in truth and mutual respect that still represents a model today. Because Saint Francis teaches us that we must try to speak with everyone, even with those who may seem like adversaries or even enemies. Where dialogue ends and patience runs out in relationships with those who are different, who you don't like, or who don't think like you, that's the seeds of violence and the virus of war sprout. A very timely message today.

Saint Francis lived in tormented times, just as ours are.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE – WORLD FAMOUS CAKES/CRAFT STALL

NEXT WEEKEND, 25/26 October, before and after both Masses, the CWL World Famous October Cakes and Craft Stall will take place. On sale will be cakes and slices, reduced second-hand books, knitted coat hangers, plants and jars of raw honey. Cash only.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

NEXT WEEKEND, 25/26 October, our Parish will celebrate World Mission Sunday. Pope Francis: "On World Mission Sunday every year, the whole Church prays, united, particularly for missionaries and the fruitfulness of their apostolic labours. When I served as a missionary priest and then bishop in Peru, I saw first-hand how the faith, the prayer and the generosity shown on World Mission Sunday can transform entire communities. I urge every Catholic parish in the world to take part in World Mission Sunday. Your prayers, your support will help spread the Gospel, provide for pastoral and catechetical programs, help to build new churches, and care for the health and educational needs of our brothers and sisters in mission territories. As we reflect together on our baptismal call to be 'missionaries of hope among the peoples,' let us commit ourselves anew to the sweet and joyful task of bringing Christ Jesus, our Hope, to the ends of the earth. Thank you." *There will be a special appeal collection next weekend.*

MASS COUNT

This weekend and the next three weekends, there will be the annual Mass Count.

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: <https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/staying-connected/> or to see everything that's on in or around the Diocese, visit: <https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/weekly-bulletin-notices/>

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Monday	20 Oct	Monday of Ordinary Week 29
Tuesday	21 Oct	Tuesday of Ordinary Week 29
Wednesday	22 Oct	Wednesday of Ordinary Week 29
Thursday	23 Oct	Thursday of Ordinary Week 29
Friday	24 Oct	Friday of Ordinary Week 29
Saturday	25 Oct	Saturday of Ordinary Week 29
Sunday	26 Oct	30 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C – <i>Scripture Readings are listed below</i>

Sundays Year C • Weekdays Year I

Romans 4:20-25	Luke 12:13-21
Romans 5:12,15,17-21	Luke 11:35-38
Romans 6:12-18	Luke 12:39-48
Romans 6:19-23	Luke 12:49-53
Romans 7:18-25	Luke 12:54-59
Romans 8:1-11	Luke 13:1-9

FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

✦ Saturday, 18 October	17:30	Saturday Mass is NOT recorded this week
✦ Sunday, 19 October	08:00	Two Baptisms during Mass; this Mass WILL be recorded
✦ Tuesday, 21 October	15:45	First Penance Class #1
✦ Weekend, 25/26 October		Catholic Women's League World Famous October Cakes and Craft Stall Catechists Sunday – those who teach Special Religious Education WORLD MISSION SUNDAY – MISSION APPEAL AND COLLECTION
✦ Tuesday, 28 October	15:45	First Penance Class #2
✦ Wednesday, 29 October	17:00	Sacrament of First Penance
✦ Saturday, 1 November	09:30	Special Mass for ALL SAINTS DAY
✦ Weekend 1/2 November		Blessing of Cars after Weekend Masses

RECIPE: ANNE'S CHILLI CON CARNE

440g tin 4 Bean Mix (drained); 440g tin Sweet Corn (drained); 440g tin Baked Beans; 440g or 500g tin Condensed Tomato Soup; 300-400g beef mince; ½ onion diced; ¼ red capsicum diced; chili powder (note below); 1 tsp minced garlic (optional).

Fry mince, onion and capsicum until cooked, breaking up mince as it cooks. Drain off any excess oil. Fry garlic and chili powder into meat mixture. Turn down heat to medium. Add soup, baked beans, 4 bean mix and corn. Swirl ½ cup water into soup and baked bean cans to loosen remaining amount and add to dish. Simmer 10 to 15 minutes. Serve on its own or with rice. (Chilli can be omitted from a children's version.)

Note: There is a big variation of chilli strengths available. I use strong chilli powder with a sprinkler top and use between 6-10 shakes. Mexican chilli is much weaker and can be measured by teaspoon. Like all curry powders, chili (and garlic) should be cooked during the frying stage before the liquid ingredients are added. Homemade chilli jam can be used.

PLEASE BRING IN ... ONE NON-PERISHABLE ITEM PER FAMILY EACH WEEK
TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE LOCAL ILLAWARRA AREA – FOOD ITEMS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED
Thank you for your great generosity!

SEASON OF SURFING – SWIM BETWEEN THE FLAGS

Go to this website for some great tips about surf safety, the right gear to wear in or on the water, marine creatures, and marine stingers, rip currents and more: <https://beachsafe.org.au/surf-safety> Try these tips: swim between the flags; swim with a friend; if you need help, stay calm, raise your arm to attract attention.

THIS Sunday's Readings – on website	NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website	SUNDAY
29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ♦ YEAR C	30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ♦ YEAR C	MASS TIMES
1 st Reading Exodus 17:8-13	1 st Reading Sirach 35:12-14,16-19	Saturday 17:30
2 nd Reading 2 Timothy 3:14- 4:2	2 nd Reading 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18	Sunday 08:00
Gospel Luke 18:1-8	Gospel Luke 18:9-14	 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 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>