

Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
15 / 16 NOVEMBER 2025
33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR C
SIX BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Listen to this consoling sentence from Sunday's first Reading: for you who respect my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

Righteousness – right relationships = God's justice. Healing in its wings! We have wanted this for a long time now! But what about respecting God's name? A lot of us have fear. Especially now, with Ukraine, Gaza and multiple other places of unrest and war, etc.

You and I are supposed to take in God's grandeur in its awesome and total respect-invoking greatness, like fear.

Well, Scripture is not talking about the fear we experience in horror films. Not that strange noise when you are alone in the house (fears, as well-motivated, especially in the present time). No, the Hebrew text uses an older meaning of "fear": there it refers to a "reverential wonder," an "utterly total respect," – awe before that which is very much bigger than us. This kind of "fear" / "respect" / "reverence" is crucial for you and me.

Only then when we have it can we begin relating to God, to start maturing in our relation with the Most High. *Only then do we begin to suspect what it really means to say that God is Love.*

Saying that God is Love requires a continuing revolution in our lives, like the one Copernicus (1473 to 1543) brought about. Remember? He showed that the sun does not revolve around the earth but that the earth revolves around the sun. Well, spiritually, most of us are pre-Copernican. We think God's job is to circle around us, as if we, who are small asteroids, were at the centre of the universe. We often declare that God is just someone to assist us, to answer our prayers, to make us peaceful, to make our side win the ball game, and so on.

Nothing is really wrong with any of these.

Yet we stand in terrible need of a Copernican revolution. God does not exist to serve me. Just the opposite. God is centre of the universe! God quietly maintains all that is: stars, galaxies, lands, oceans, cities, human hearts, butterfly wings, and so on. We owe reverence to God. It takes a spiritual transformation to think in this way.

What would happen if you or I tried it?

First, we would be living truth instead of pretence. What truth? That human beings are created to welcome this true God within each of them as the source and goal of who they are. If God is greatest, why would we make something else the centre of our life?

Second, the "sun of righteousness with healing in its wings" would shine upon us. God's love would appear to us as truth instead of as just a bauble to play with, or just a way to find a parking place. We would begin to see God as the gentle source of life and the affectionate mother of the entire universe.

Third—believe it or not—since Advent is coming very soon, we will be preparing to receive our tender invitation shown forth in a child. In pre-Advent (now) we are supposed to be receiving God's grandeur in an awe filled and fear-invoking stage ... in order that soon we will be humble enough to prepare for the baby.

This is why the first Reading and the Gospel thunder on about the day of reckoning when "nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom," etc. Isn't that what we are experiencing today?

Can we climb down from our thrones and pray in hope for those unjust wars, genocide ... !

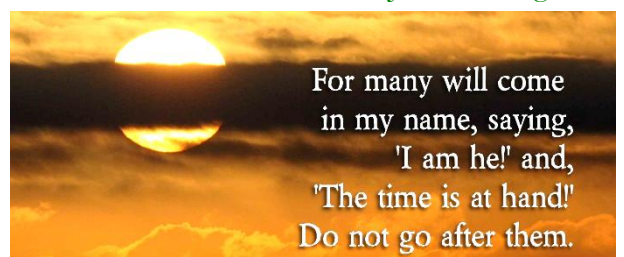
The Church's year is drawing to a close. During the coming weeks, the liturgies invite us to look forward in hope to the glorious fulfilment of God's plan for creation.

At the time of Jesus' ministry, the Jewish nation was full of restless expectations – giving rise at times to uprisings seeking to throw off the yoke of Roman invasion and occupation. The Jerusalem Temple not only symbolised the nation's life and hopes; it was one of the wonders of the ancient world, filling God's people with joy and pride each time they saw it. The disciples of Jesus would have been shocked, therefore, when Jesus interrupted their buzz of admiration to foretell the Temple's destruction. This prediction was well known – at the trial of Jesus, outrage was expressed that he had spoken of the destruction of the Temple. Today's scholarship sees his dramatic disrupting of the life of the Temple, at this same time, as an act pointing to the end of the era symbolised by the old Temple.

The restless expectations of Israel – that were the explosive background to Jesus teaching – recalled the words of the great prophets, and anticipated a turning point in history, confronting the nations of the world with Israel's special place in the



A Copernican Revolution



For many will come
in my name, saying,
'I am he!' and,
'The time is at hand!'
Do not go after them.

✠✠ designs of God. It is important to appreciate these expectations as we interpret the message of Jesus. The Jewish people did not look forward to the end of history, but to an intervention of God that would inaugurate a new era of human history. In this new era, all the institutions of Israel, such as the Temple worship, would be even more glorious. Jesus certainly brings the message that the hopes of Israel are to be realised; but it will be a realisation that shows such things as the Temple as only a pale foreshadowing of God's final blessings – *'the hour is coming when you will worship the Father, neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem'* (John 4:21). The dismayed reaction of the disciples reminds us how attached old Israel was to their venerable institutions; and the history of the early Church shows how difficult it was for them to accept that the new order of things brought by the Saviour was the fulfilment of their hopes. In what Jesus has to say after the prediction of the destruction of the Temple, he anticipates the turmoil that will follow, as people struggle to understand the designs of God. About to experience a violent rejection by his own people, he prepares his disciples for the persecutions they will experience as they bring his message to the world.

The first Christians tended to link the new era inaugurated by the death and resurrection of Jesus with the end of the world. Some Thessalonians (second Reading) had even given themselves to a 'life of idleness', as they await the end! Luke, however, warns against such an outlook; he does not interpret the prediction of Jesus and what follows as referring to the end of the world. In a separate passage (Luke 17: 20-37) he has given the teaching of Jesus concerning the end of human history. Clearly, in today's passage, he warns against interpreting the disasters of human history as signs of the coming the end.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading Malachi 3:19-20

✠ What will conquer the arrogant and the evildoers?

✠ What righteousness – right relationships – do you need to attend to in your life? What is "revering" God's name?

Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

✠ If Jesus has saved us, why do we have to work – why not just be idle?

✠ What is a good work ethic?

Gospel Luke 21:5-19

✠ What "temples" need to be torn down in your life? How can we be protected against wars, famines, plagues, imprisonment, false accusations?

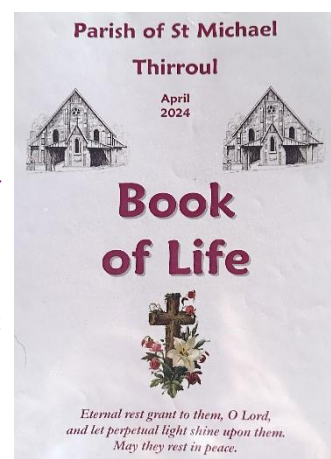
✠ How do you cope with the doom and gloom of the media news? What tends to lead you astray?

The world does not like to think about the ultimate reality, but this is part of human existence. And if we live in fidelity to the Lord, after our bodily death we will not be afraid to present ourselves before Jesus for his judgment. It is a topic which might sadden someone's day, because he does not like to think about these things or to take account of the fact that when one of us is gone, the years will pass by and after a long time hardly anyone will remember us. However, it is the truth. This is what the Church tells us: we will all have an end. It is a truth which we are called to confront. In this regard, I have a list, a diary which I write in when someone dies – a friend, a relative – I write their name there, and every day I see, on that day, the anniversary of their death: 'He has been dead for twenty years! Time passes so quickly! And this other person thirty years; how quickly time has passed!'. This reality is common to everyone, and it obliges us to think about what we leave behind, about the mark our lives leave behind. We are therefore faced with a real and true call from the Lord to think seriously about the end: about my end, the judgment, about my judgment. Today it will be good for us to think about this: what will my end be like? How will it be when I find myself before the Lord? Here is the solution to our fears: "fidelity to the Lord: this does not disappoint". Indeed, "if each one of us is faithful to the Lord, when our death comes, as shall we say what St Francis said: 'sister death, come'. It will not frighten us". And even on the day of judgment, "we will look to the Lord" and we can say: "Lord I have many sins, but I tried to be faithful". And since "the Lord is good", the Pope assured, "we will not be afraid".

– Pope Francis, Homily, 22 November 2016

BOOK OF LIFE

All during November we remember especially those who have died, our relatives, friends and those who have no one to pray for them. Next to the altar, the **Book of Life** will be displayed, and each day a new month will be open – as well as those pages listing names for whom no date of death is known. **Please check if your deceased relative or friend is listed in the Book of Life** – either on the date of their death, or towards the end of the Book, if their date has not been listed in the Parish records. If you would like the name of someone who has died placed in the **Book of Life**, there are special forms available next to the baptism font in the church all during November. Please complete a form for each deceased person whose name is not already in the **Book of Life**, and put the form(s) in the basket next to the baptism font, and the name(s) will be added after November. If you are unable to attend Mass, email or phone the Parish Office with details you wish placed in the Book of the Dead (name of the deceased and date of death) A special violet candle will be lit during every Mass in November. *May they rest in peace.*



BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND – WELCOME TO THE SIX CHILDREN

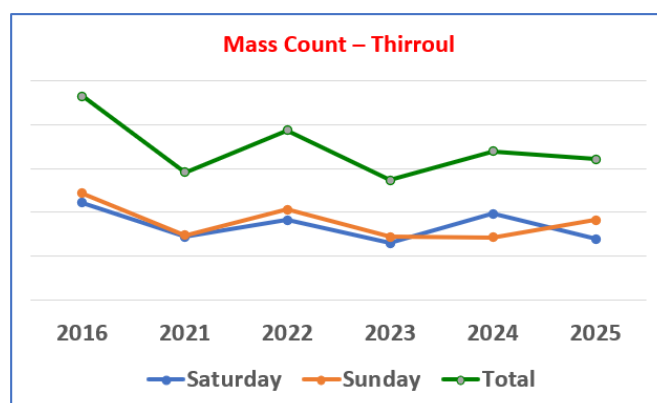
WELCOME to **ODETTE, AMBROSE** and **ELKE TYRPENOU** baptised on Saturday evening, and to **MILANA SPITERI, MANAIA** and **ELI PESA** baptised this Sunday: *welcome and thank you to parents, godparents, family and friends from our Parish.*

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, 20 December / Sunday, 21 December**. The next Baptism preparation meeting for parents will be in the presbytery on **Thursday, 27 November 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.



RESULTS OF THE MASS COUNT 2025

Total Attendances			
	Saturdays	Sundays	Total
18/19 Oct 25	70	107	177
25/26 Oct 25	63	80	143
1/2 Nov 25	71	94	165
8/9 Nov 25	75	83	158
Averages	70	91	161



DISABLED SURFERS ASSOCIATION – THIRROUL, 29 NOVEMBER

The annual Disabled Surfers Association event will take place at **Thirroul Beach South** on **Saturday, 29 November**, commencing at **08:30** and continuing until **13:00**. The Disabled Surfers Association provides an environment for individuals with a disability, the opportunity to experience the freedom of surfing with friends, using up to date equipment to get individuals over the sand and into the water with dignity. The organisation on the South Coast and Illawarra has been established for over 30 Years and prides itself on their achievements and advancements in the area of disability.

The organisation operates on a volunteer basis and requires volunteers to provide the necessary numbers to establish the safety requirements, that we as an organisation hold. The event is designed to ensure the safety of all individuals, be they participants or volunteers. The core role is to ensure that the participants have an exciting day on the beach. The organisation does not have any restrictions in relation to the individuals who attend and participate. We strive to ensure that all participants get the opportunity to experience the day at the beach. Age is no barrier to volunteer and there is no requirement to know how to swim – but it does help at times. **Just turn up on Saturday, 29 November at Thirroul South.** <https://www.disabledsurfers.org/nsw-south-coast>



THIRROUL SURF LIFESAVING CLUB – A GREAT FUNCTIONS VENUE.

At Thirroul, in the surf lifesaving club, there is a beautiful and well-appointed function space, overlooking the beach. It is available for hire for weddings, wakes, birthday and other parties. Why not support your local club and hire the function space: <https://www.thirroulsurfclub.com.au/> ① functions@thirroulsurfclub.com.au

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL.

As usual, there will be the annual **Vinnies Christmas Appeal** – for cash donations, for toys, for hampers. The Appeal will be launched on **Saturday/Sunday, 29/30 November**, the **First Sunday of Advent**, the same weekend First Communions begin. **Now is the time to do some planning and preparation** – items for the hampers, toys, other presents. **Thank you for your anticipated generosity.**



SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

			Sundays Year C • Weekdays Year I	
Monday	17 Nov	St Elizabeth of Hungary, religious	1 Maccabees 1:10-15+	Luke 18:35-43
Tuesday	18 Nov	Tuesday of Ordinary Week 33	2 Maccabees 6:18-31	Luke 19:1-10
Wednesday	19 Nov	Wednesday of Ordinary Week 33	2 Maccabees 7:1,20-31	Luke 19:11-28
Thursday	20 Nov	Thursday of Ordinary Week 33	1 Maccabees 2:15-29	Luke 19:41-44
Friday	21 Nov	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	1 Maccabees 4:36-37+	Luke 19:45-48
Saturday	22 Nov	St Cecilia, virgin, martyr	1 Maccabees 6:1-13	Luke 20:27-40
Sunday	23 Nov	CHRIST THE KING – <i>Scripture Readings are listed below</i>		

FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

✦ Sunday, 16 November	World Day of the Poor	https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2025/06/13/250613d.html
✦ Tuesday, 18 November	15:45	First Communion Class #2 – in the church
✦ Saturday, 29 November	08:30	Disabled Surfers Association, Thirroul Beach South
✦ Weekend, 29/30 November		Vinnies Christmas Appeal commences; Christmas Tree Blessing First Communion begins – 14 Candidates all told
✦ Friday, 5 December	09:30	Anointing of the Sick during Mass
	13:45	Year 6 Graduation Liturgy

RECIPE: CRUNCHY OAT SLICE WITH SEEDS, APRICOT AND CURRANTS

2½ cups Rolled oats; ½ cup Seed or nut butter of choice (Sunflower seed butter/tahini is a great alternative if you require nut-free snacks); ¼ cup Extra Virgin Olive Oil; ½ cup Creamed honey (melted); ¼ cup Chia seeds; ¼ cup Sunflower seeds; 2 tsp Cinnamon; ½ cup Dried apricots (sliced); ¼ cup Dried currants.

Heat oven to 180°C and line a brownie tin with baking paper. Melt honey and nut/seed butter together. Add olive oil and stir to combine. Combine dry ingredients, except apricots and currants, in a large bowl. Stir through the melted nut butter, honey and olive oil until combined. Stir through the dried fruit. Pour mixture into brownie tin and press down with back of spoon. Bake for 20 minutes until golden. Remove from oven and allow to cool before slicing. Store in an airtight container or separate into paper bags ready for school or holiday snacks.

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
Think about some items for Christmas 🎄 Thank you for your great generosity!

HEAR FROM POPE LEO

Sunday Echo is a limited-release resource the Diocese has developed that contains, using the Holy Father's most recent homily or reflection and accompanying discussion questions. **Each issue will be released the day after Pope Leo XIV gives a homily or reflection on the most recent Sunday Gospel readings:** to access or sign up to have sent straight to you, go to <https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/faith-circles/>.

JOB OPPORTUNITY WITH THE DIOCESE?

The Office of Professional Standards and Safeguarding are currently advertising an exciting new job opportunity. We are looking for a detail-oriented and hard-working person, who cares about the safety of others, to join the team as a Safeguarding (Records and Case Management) Officer. For more information, please visit the Diocesan Safeguarding website (www.dow.org.au/safeguarding). Applications are due by 5pm on Friday 21 November 2025.

THIS Sunday's Readings – on website

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ♦ YEAR C	
1 st Reading	Malachi 3:19-20
2 nd Reading	2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
Gospel	Luke 21:5-19

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

CHRIST THE KING ♦ YEAR C	
1 st Reading	2 Samuel 5:1-3
2 nd Reading	Colossians 1:12-20
Gospel	Luke 23:35-43

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Parish School of St Michael

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