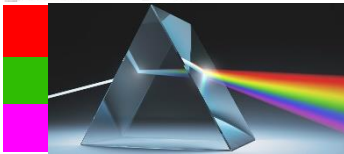
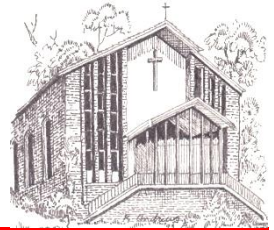




# Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



**15 / 16 JUNE 2019**  
**TRINITY SUNDAY ✦ YEAR C**  
**The Communion of Father, Son and Spirit**

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

## *Closing the Circle*

“Why do we have to hear all this stuff about the Trinity,” a gentleman asked. “Why can’t we just go to church and be good to each other?”

“Well, we can ... because of the Trinity.”

Because the Triune God is not some kind of brainy speculation by scholars, it is simply the way we experience God in this world. Christian living is the Trinity in action.

First, long ago human beings learned that there is only one God, who found “delight in the human race” (First Reading). Think of the many, many stories in the First (Old) Testament about God pursuing us, God’s labour to make a loving and holy covenant with us. “I will be your God and you will be my people,” God said. Like a marriage covenant.



Did this work? Well, not really. God became, by turns, angry, hurt, delighted, spurned, glorified, ignored, praised and rejected. Yet God kept coming back and back to renew the covenant, since God’s love is steadfast.

Second, we found out that God’s nature had always possessed another component. God had not been alone or lonely, as in a desert. God’s very nature had always been to relate to others, to be with us, God’s creation. This giving and receiving is the “Second Person,” or the “Word.” This Word was made flesh.

We saw him. Jesus laughed and cried and preached and turned over tables and cured folks, and was loyal to his people even to the end. “Everything that the Father has is mine,” he said (Gospel). That’s how we knew that Jesus was The Word and that the Word was God.

Gradually there came a third revelation about the Trinity. In Sunday’s Gospel Jesus hints about it: “I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now.” In other words, our small souls could never ever open to the great God—unless an actual presence of God gentled itself down and began to dwell within us.

Do you get the two-way logic? Everything the Father has and is belongs to the Word. Everything that the Word has and is belongs to the Father.

This mutuality is a third “part” of God. It is the Spirit. It tells us who the Christ (God) is, and it bestows us (and the whole earth) back upon the Father, closing the circle.

What aliveness, what keenness there is in God: speaking to us, reaching out, flowing forth, and then receiving back. God is like liquid motion, like a dynamism in which everything is changing always, yet it remains always the same, because it is rooted in love—because it is love.

We are invited into that circle of love.



Too theoretical? To put it more simply ... Do you suffer? Do you love? God invites you to meld that pain and that care into the Trinity's unending love.

The Easter season – the principal festival of the Church's year – has ended. The celebrations of the Sundays immediately following are like an afterglow. Today the liturgy invites us to renew our faith in the Trinity of Persons made known to us in what God has done for the world in Jesus Christ.

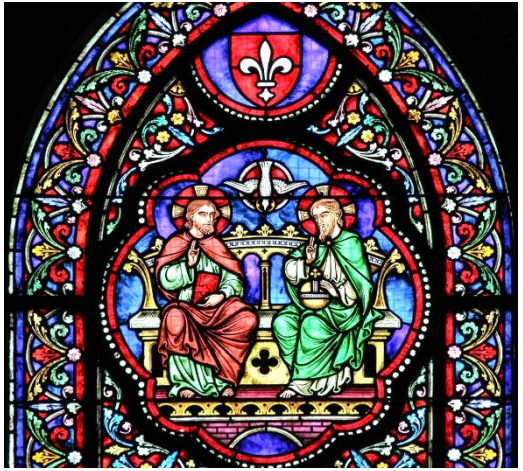
As Jesus awakened the beginnings of faith in his disciples, filling them with wonder at the mysterious depths they recognised in him, he directed their faith beyond himself, to the One with whom he was in continual communion – their prayer and their trust,

he told them, should be addressed to their 'Father in heaven'. Later, as the full impact of what had happened in the world's first Easter galvanised them into action, and they found new strength on the day of Pentecost, they remembered that Jesus had promised them the help of the his own Spirit to face what lay ahead of them. Faith in their Risen Lord gave the themes of the Old Testament a new depth of meaning for them.

Our first reading from Proverbs recalls one of these themes. For the Old Testament, the 'wisdom' of God, like the 'word' of God' was understood as God's self-expression in creation and the shaping of human affairs. Now, as his disciples recognised the ultimate identity of their Risen Lord, they knew him as the 'Word' of the Father (John 1) and the 'wisdom' of God (1 Corinthians 1:24), through whom 'all things came into being' (John 1:1). For the Old Testament, the 'spirit of God' was another self-expression of God in creation. God's 'spirit' worked interiorly – giving the breath of life, and bringing the call of God to human hearts. After the Resurrection, as today's reading from St Paul to the Romans shows, the disciples were vividly aware of the Holy Spirit as a divine agent carrying forward the work of Christ. And they remembered Jesus speaking of the Spirit as Someone other than himself, sharing as he does in the life of the Father. And in our second reading from Paul to the Romans, what Jesus has achieved for the world is clearly expressed as a work of the Father, Son and Spirit together – the 'Lord Jesus Christ' gives us God's 'grace', an entitlement to our sharing in the divine 'glory'; and at the same time the Spirit brings us the life-giving power expressed in the love the Father has shown us through the life, death and resurrection of his Son.

The ultimate mystery of God's life is – not surprisingly – far beyond our complete comprehension. It would be tragic, however, if it remained for us no more than a daunting abstraction. Christian faith should bring us the joy of recognising that – in the overflowing tumult

of the divine life that we call the BLESSED TRINITY – we find three friends who invite us to share in their common life as the ONE TRUE GOD. Today's gospel from John expresses this sharing in simple terms, and it brings us this astounding invitation: the Spirit 'will lead us to the complete truth', since he shares all with the Son, who in turn shares in 'everything the Father has'.



## “WHEN IN ROME” — BISHOP BRIAN’S *AD LIMINA* VISIT

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ

This year will mark the first time that I have experienced an *Ad Limina* visit to Rome with my fellow Australian bishops. The last *Ad Limina* took place in 2011 and usually happens every five years. So, this visit is very overdue.

In the lead-up to each each *Ad Limina*, every bishop must prepare and submit an extensive report for the Congregation of Bishops. Over the years, I have participated in the preparation of this report when I was vicar general of my previous diocese, but this will be the first time I have had to give an account of what is happening in the Diocese of Wollongong. This has its own complications as I am still “very green” in the diocese and so much of what has to be reported took place prior to my arrival in the diocese.

Most of the active bishops of Australia will be participating in the visit which takes place from 17–29 June 2019. We will begin with a five-day retreat outside of Rome. On 24 June, the *Ad Limina* will formally commence with an audience with Pope Francis (*I have met the Holy Father once before when I attended the new bishops course last year.*)

We will then visit the pontifical commissions, congregations and dicasteries that oversee the life of the Church. At the end of the week, Archbishop Peter Comensoli will receive, from the Holy Father, the Pallium which recognises him as the archbishop of Melbourne and metropolitan of Victoria.

PLEASE BE ASSURED OF MY PRAYERS FOR THE DIOCESE AS I TRAVEL AROUND THE DIFFERENT CHURCHES IN ROME, AND I ASK THAT YOU ALSO PRAY FOR ALL THE AUSTRALIAN BISHOPS AS WE EMBARK ON THIS IMPORTANT JOURNEY.

Yours in Christ, Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD, Bishop of Wollongong

## CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES



This year there are **51** Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please remember before the Lord the Candidates and their families as they prepare for the reception of Confirmation on 26/27 June.

## ARE YOU AVAILABLE FOR THE NEXT ROSTER?

If you would like to join any of the rosters to help out, **please call or email the Parish Office BY TUESDAY**. We especially need more **AV Operators** (who operate the computer) and **Safety Officers** (who greet people when they arrive and organize the collections).

## INSTITUTE OF TRIBUNAL PRACTICE – Ken away

The Institute of Tribunal Practice helps train people to work in the Tribunals of the Catholic Church, particularly dealing the marriage annulment process. Ken, Director of the Institute, will be teaching in Baulkham Hills this week and next. Students are from dioceses in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific. Thank you to Andrew for celebrating the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Masses. On this Friday and next Friday there will be Liturgy of the Word with Communion.

## KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS CHARITIES DINNER

The Knights of the Southern Cross Annual Charities Dinner will be held on Saturday, 22 June at 7:00pm at the Thirroul Railway Institute Hall. Guest speaker, Fr Patrick Vaughan, “*The Spiritual Benefits of Pilgrimage*”. Tickets \$35. Paul Tuckerman 4267 2535. BYO.

# WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

**Friday**      21 Jun St Aloysius Gonzaga, religious  
9:30am Liturgy of the Word

**Saturday**    22 Jun St John Fisher and  
St Thomas More, martyrs



## PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

In October 2020, the Catholic Church in Australia will gather for the first Plenary Council to be held since the second Vatican Council. In 2018, the entire People of God in Australia began preparing for this historic moment by listening to God, by listening to one another's stories of faith. More than 222,000 people participated in listening and dialogue encounters and contributed 17,457 submissions during the first stage of preparation for the Australian Plenary Council. The voices of the faithful help all of us to understand something of the historical experience and the current reality of the Catholic Church in Australia. This gathered data also reveals some deeper hopes and questions, and the diverse yearnings, that we are now challenged to consider together.

The National Themes for Discernment below are inspired by the data and call us toward the future. As we move into this second stage of preparation for the Plenary Council, we continue to seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

**How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is: MISSIONARY and EVANGELISING; INCLUSIVE, PARTICIPATORY and SYNODAL; PRAYERFUL and EUCHARISTIC; HUMBLE, HEALING and MERCIFUL; a JOYFUL, HOPE-FILLED and SERVANT COMMUNITY; OPEN to CONVERSION, RENEWAL and REFORM?**

## ONE NON-PERISHABLE ITEM PER FAMILY EACH WEEK TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE LOCAL ILLAWARRA AREA

**THIS Sunday's Readings** *on our website*

**Trinity Sunday - Year C**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading**                      Proverbs 8:22-31  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**                     Romans 5:1-5  
**Gospel**                                John 16:12-15

**NEXT Sunday's Readings** *on our website*

**The Body and Blood of Christ - Year C**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading**                        Genesis 14:18-20  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**                     1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
**Gospel**                                Luke 9:11-17

### SUNDAY MASS TIMES

**Church of St Michael • Thirroul**  
Saturday – 5:30pm • Sunday – 8:00am

**Bulli • Sunday 8:30am and 5:30pm**  
**Corrimal • Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9:30am**

### LITURGIES THIS WEEK

**Wombarra [Liturgy] Monday 4:30pm**  
**Thirroul Tuesday 5:30pm**  
Wednesday 9:00am  
Thursday 9:00am  
**Liturgy of the Word Friday 9:30am**

## Parish of St Michael – Thirroul and Wombarra

*Moving forward as a Parish Family + one of the Northern Illawarra Parishes*

Patrick Vaughan • *Parish Priest* ❖ Andrew Granc ofm, Geoff Allen, Ken Cafe ofm • *Assisting*

325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive  
 4268 1910      4268 1976

PO Box 44 • Thirroul 2515  
 [thirroul@dow.org.au](mailto:thirroul@dow.org.au)

<b>Parish Office Hours</b>	<b>Tuesday, Wednesday Friday</b>
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**9:00am to 3:30pm**                      Magda Pires  
**10:00am to 3:00pm**                     Maureen Franciskovic

[www.thirroulcatholic.org.au](http://www.thirroulcatholic.org.au)      Parish School of St Michael      4267 2560