



Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



22 / 23 JUNE 2019
BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST ✦ YEAR C
A Body Broken for a Broken People

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Why go to church?

Many people today, especially younger people, say they believe in God and are on a spiritual quest, but they do not need an organized religion to help them.

Sunday's Mass will make the question especially poignant. To put things in the worst light, why would you Catholics go each week to be handed a flat wafer called a "host" and perhaps a small sip of wine? It seems like a lot of trouble, and would appear to have very little to do with the spiritual quest.

As Catholics, we answer that the host is no longer "bread" but has undergone a "transubstantiation." To put that in simpler terms, even though the host has an appearance of a piece of bread, its substance has been transformed from that of bread to that of Christ's risen body. The same goes for the wine.

Non-church believers might reply, "Aren't God and spirituality something interior, something private? Wouldn't the point be that we should help each other? Why can't we do it without all the paraphernalia, without all this 'body and blood' business?"

Let's attempt an answer.

Christian Catholic beliefs are a direct result of what we believe about Jesus.

- (1) He is a speaking-out of God's love. He and the Father are one, as the scriptures attest.
- (2) He died on the cross in a showdown between goodness and the forces of selfishness and greed.
- (3) Evil won. But at his depths, Christ was deeper than evil. He was made of something stronger than either life or death. This something endured even though he was dead and buried. What was it? Love, the kind founded on the life of Jesus. He was the direct expression of God-love. Jesus emerged from the tomb because he was rooted in God-love.
- (4) Then he ascended into heaven, as we saw. It looked like he left us behind. But he sent the Holy Spirit into the hearts of those who believe so that he would still be present to us. Pentecost was the full expression of this fact.

Fine so far, as our churchless brothers and sisters might agree: "But this Holy Spirit of God dwells deep in the wordless depths of a person. You have proved our point. We do not need ceremonies and ritual."

Are they right?

Not quite. Look at it this way. When you are hungry and you want, say, a hamburger, does thinking about a burger do the job? Since your hunger is internal, 



☞☞ why does it need an answer in the material world? Nonsense.

We human beings do have spiritual insides and they are very important, but we have an outside too. We are not built to just stay within ourselves but in addition to let our spirits walk, play, and even suffer in the material world. The Holy Spirit's presence at the depths of our being makes us desire to find Jesus with our eyes, ears, nose, tongue and hands.

And that is why we go to church. In order to find the answer to our spiritual quest, in the real, fleshly presence of Christ. At Mass, a ritual, we find presence given to our senses in Communion. It comes from the exterior, and it fulfills our interior, spiritual and physical yearning. We go to church, not to pray, but to **pray together**.

Are you hungry for Christ? Come and eat. Come and drink.

You are what you eat and drink, you know.

Today's liturgy, like that of last Sunday, invites us to a deeper appreciation of the Paschal Mystery we have just celebrated. Today we renew our faith in the great sacrament in which the Saviour's Paschal Mystery gives life to the Church age after age.

The gospel reading from Luke makes clear the central place given to the Eucharist in the community for which the gospel was written. In Luke's narrative, Jesus, after completing his Galilean ministry, turns his attention to the formation of the apostles. He has them share in his mission by sending them to preach the good news and to heal the sick. Confronted by a crowd that has neglected to provide themselves with nourishment in their eagerness to stay in his company, Jesus has a new lesson for The Twelve. 'Give them something to eat yourselves', he tells them. There can be no doubt, as the narrative continues, that Luke sees these words as pointing to the Eucharist, the nourishing of the people of God that will be the centrepiece of the apostolic ministry. Taking the loaves and fish, Jesus 'raises his eyes to heaven', pronounces 'the blessing' over the loaves, and then 'breaks them'. Though provided by Jesus, the nourishment is given to the people through the ministry of the apostles – who are instructed to organise the people 'in parties', to distribute the loaves and fish, and to collect the scraps.

St Paul's letter to the Corinthians gives us the oldest extant account of the institution of the Eucharist. Paul writes barely twenty years after the crucifixion; but he makes it clear – using the technical language of the rabbinical tradition in which he was formed – that he is handing on an authentic and sacred tradition of the Christian community. This is independently confirmed by the fact that Paul's narrative of what happened at the Last Supper shows clear evidence of having been modified by repetition in liturgical celebrations. The implications of Paul's brief account are momentous. 'This is my body, which is for you' (with manuscript variations, 'given for you', 'broken for you'). In the Church's central act of worship, Jesus makes himself the nourishment of the world, perpetuating the last act of his earthly life – in which he gave himself into the hands of his Father, for the life of the world. The words, '*This is the new covenant in my blood*', echo the declaration of Moses as he inaugurated the first covenant (Exodus 24:8); but this is the 'new' covenant in which humanity's final bonding with God replaces the shadows and types of the Old Testament. The celebration is a '*memorial*' that '*proclaims the Lord's death until he comes*' – the constant faith of the Church since the beginning, that the Lord and his Paschal Mystery are present in the celebration of the Eucharist, finds strong support in the biblical overtones of these words.

The context of Paul's words has great practical significance. Just prior to this passage, Paul rebukes the Corinthians for forming selfish and exclusive factions as they gather to celebrate the sacrament that should awaken in them a love that is selfless, one with that of the Saviour!



CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES



This year there are **50** 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. Two Candidates will be confirmed on 20 July.

WINTER SOLSTICE: SATURDAY, 22 JUNE AT 1:54AM

The June Solstice (Winter Solstice) is on Saturday, 22 June 2019 at 1:54am in Sydney. In terms of daylight, this day is 4 hours, 31 minutes shorter than on December Solstice. In locations south of Equator, the shortest day of the year is around this date.

The summer solstice occurs once a year in December when the Sun's track across the Australian sky reaches its highest point. It is the day that has the most daylight hours of any in the year. The summer solstice usually occurs on 22 December, but can occur between 21 and 23 December. The winter solstice is the day of the year that has the least daylight hours of any in the year and usually occurs on 22 June but can occur between 21 and 23 June. So, from now on, the days get longer ... *As the days lengthen, the winds strengthen.*

But! Summer is on its way!!

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL – 29-30 JUNE AND 6-7 JULY



The Annual Vinnies Winter Appeal will be held over the weekends of **29-30 June** (next weekend) and **6-7 July**.

This winter, thousand of Australian like Ruby will struggle to make ends meet.

Nothing prepared Ruby for the changes that she would go through later in life. Losing a husband and going on the pension didn't just mean she had limited means ... it left her with no social connections.

If you're too broke to go out, or you've felt isolated from people, then you've felt the pain of poverty. After paying for food, Ruby cannot even afford to leave the house and faces days of complete isolation.

Thanks to the generosity of Vinnies supporters, she has made a step toward ending her pain of poverty. Your donation will help provide food, housing an support to people in need.

Vinnies are very grateful for your generous support of past appeals.

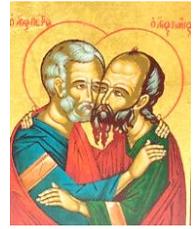
**ONE NON-PERISHABLE ITEM PER FAMILY EACH WEEK
TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE LOCAL ILLAWARRA AREA**

SOCIAL JUSTICE ... FROM POPE FRANCIS

“Everything is connected and rapid today, but the frenetic scramble for money is accompanied by an interior frailty that is ever more acute, and by an increasingly evident disorientation and loss of meaning. What I care about is an economy that is more humane, that has a soul, and not a reckless machine that crushes human beings. Too many people today are without work, dignity or hope.” – Pope Francis, 18 May 2019.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Monday 24 Jun Birth of John the Baptist
 Wednesday 26 June 7:30pm Confirmation
 Thursday 27 June 7:30pm Confirmation
 Friday 28 June Sacred Heart of Jesus
 Saturday 29 Jun Sts Peter and Paul, apostles



PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 Themes

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is ...

MISSIONARY and EVANGELISING: *This theme is inspired by the voices of the People of God who shared a passion for participating in the missionary nature of the Church and desire stronger support, involvement and formation among all the baptised who make up the Church.*

INCLUSIVE, PARTICIPATORY and SYNODAL: *This theme is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a desire for individuals and groups within and also beyond the Church to find a better welcome and be incorporated more into her life and mission.*

PRAYERFUL and EUCHARISTIC: *This theme is inspired by the voices of the People of God who shared how deeply they treasured the Eucharist and the sacramental and liturgical life of the Church.*

HUMBLE, HEALING and MERCIFUL: *This theme is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a deep and faith-filled trust in God and a need for lament and healing within the Church, acknowledging the sexual abuse crisis as a turning point for the Church in Australia.*

A JOYFUL, HOPE-FILLED and SERVANT COMMUNITY: *This theme is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a yearning for the Church to be a sign of God's kingdom for all people in Australia – to be able to see the Catholic Church in action, and to recognise Jesus.*

OPEN to CONVERSION, RENEWAL and REFORM: *This theme is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a desire to do things differently in response to Christ and the experience of our people, accepting that faithfulness to tradition requires change that is both personal and communal.*

THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

The Body and Blood of Christ • Year C
 1st Reading Genesis 14:18-20
 2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
 Gospel Luke 9:11-17

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C
 1st Reading 1 Kings 19:16,19-21
 2nd Reading Galatians 5:1,13-18
 Gospel Luke 9:51-62

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

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Parish Office Hours Tuesday, Wednesday Friday

9:00am to 3:30pm Magda Pires
 10:00am to 3:00pm Maureen Franciskovic

🌐 www.thirroulcatholic.org.au Parish School of St Michael ☎ 4267 2560