



Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



13 / 14 JULY 2019
15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR C
THE GOOD SAMARITAN

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Beloved of God

We will hear the whole Christian, Catholic life very gently stated in Sunday's readings.

In the First Reading Moses explains how simple God's commands are. His words are beautiful: "God's command is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?'"

It is already in our hearts and in our mouths. We have only to observe it. But what is it?


In the Gospel, a lawyer is very interested in this question. He asks Jesus to boil down the law to a single saying. Since an answer would be "not too mysterious and remote," Jesus asks the lawyer what the latter thinks it is. The man says by rote: "You shall love the Lord, your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself."

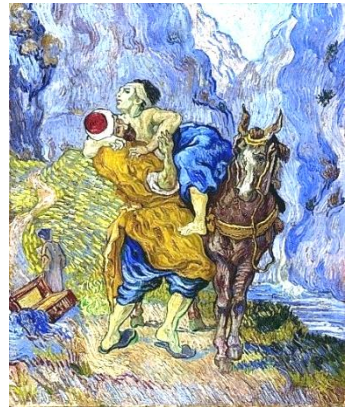
"You have given the right answer," Jesus says, "Do this, and you will live." But the man wants specifics. He is digging. Who is my neighbour, he asks.

What would be your answer to this question? It seems to be the crux of the matter.

For his part, Jesus is trying to get the man (and us?) to find the simple answer without having it handed to him. As before, Jesus does not respond directly, but this time gives the lawyer a parable to chew on.

A man fell victim to robbers. They beat him terribly, take his money, and leave him lying in the road, half-dead. A priest (an Israeli) saw this wounded man on the road and he passed right by, averting his eyes. A Levite (an Israeli) did the same thing. Along came a Samaritan, who theoretically should have been an enemy of the Israelis. But he did not avert his eyes or cross to the other side of the road. Jesus is not trying to slander the Israelis; he is showing that your neighbour is not just your own tribe or family or even just your friends. Every person on earth is your neighbour. Each is beloved to God, each is precious to the One we are to love with our entire strength, mind, self, and being.

The Samaritan approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn, and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the 



☞☞ with the instruction, “Take care of him.”

Jesus asks him, “Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbour to the robbers’ victim?” – and the lawyer says right away, “the one who showed him with mercy.” Jesus answers, “Go and do likewise.”

Jesus says the same thing to you and me. He keeps working with us, trying to get us to see the simple answer inside us. Go help those in need. God has given you an open heart. If only you would let your heart be wide enough to receive his love and then pass it on to his other beloved people!

So, this is not too mysterious or remote. Start now. Become what you were made to be. It is written within you.

In today’s gospel reading, we hear again the parable of the Good Samaritan. A familiar story, but its lesson is just as telling today as it was when it was first told – in a world troubled by antagonisms in which religious differences play a big part. Jesus is instructing his disciples. He has not come to abolish the Law that was so important in the faith of old Israel, but to bring it to its fulfilment. He uses this exchange with an unfriendly lawyer to illustrate what this means. ‘Love your neighbour as yourself, the Law said; this text, however, identified the ‘neighbour’ as a ‘member of your race’ (Leviticus 19:18). Other Old Testament texts, on the other hand, express a more generous and inclusive attitude to the stranger; hence the lawyer’s question. Jesus turns the question around. The question he has asked is self-centred: ‘Who should I accept as a neighbour?’ The parable takes up a far more generous question: ‘How can I be a true neighbour?’

It is not easy for us to appreciate how shocking for Jewish sensibilities was the place given to the Samaritan in the story. Recall the antagonism evidenced in a recent Sunday’s gospel: the Samaritans refuse to receive in their village pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem; and in response, the disciples of Jesus call down God’s vengeance. The violence we see so often these days on our television screens can help us to understand how bitter the antagonism between Jews and Samaritans was. Against this background, in the parable of Jesus, it is a Samaritan who is ‘moved with compassion’ for the battered traveller, and shows himself to be a true neighbour. Jesus gives the story an added edge for his interrogator, so well versed in the Law: the priest and the Levite – probably hurrying home to Jericho after completing their temple duties – pass on the other side, to avoid the possibility of ritual impurity.

Jesus does not scorn the Law; he is a faithful observer of the Law himself; but his story illustrates the fact that the Law was only a preparatory education for the fulfilment that is to take place in his own person – as he gathers all the peoples of the world into the one family of his heavenly Father. He fulfils all that the Law looks forward to; bringing the New Commandment that knows no exclusive limits: ‘You must love one another just as I have loved you’. The parable challenges us to reflect upon our own attitudes. We all become indignant at the religious antagonisms that show their ugliness in today’s world. But what is the quality of our good will to those who are different from us (ethnically, culturally, and socially); are we ready to show that good will in a practical way?

As we become more familiar with the Old Testament, we are probably dismayed by the spirit of vindictiveness that is sometimes evident. Today’s gospel illustrates the way in which the Saviour leads God’s people beyond the half-learned lessons of the Old Testament to a full sharing in the ways of God.



NAIDOC WEEK

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. NAIDOC originally stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'. This committee was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week and its acronym has since become the name of the week itself. Each year, there is a different focus city for the National NAIDOC Awards Ceremony. This year, the theme is **VOICE – TREATY – TRUTH**: let's walk together for a shared future. The 2019 theme honours the Indigenous voice of Australia which is more than 65,000 years old.

PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION

God of all creation, as we journey together in this Great Southern Land, we pray for healing, forgiveness and unity, creating a path of good will, with justice and compassion. Jesus, through the power of your love, you have given us the courage, wisdom and strength to share our gifts and talents in humility. In peace and understanding we reconcile with one another. Creator Spirit, we come together in prayer and thanksgiving for the many blessings we have received. Allow your Spirit to wash over us and give us strength to walk together as one.



VINNIES WINTER APPEAL – THANK YOU!!

The Annual Vinnies Winter Appeal was conducted over the last two weekends, and you gave a total of **\$5,554**. **Thank you for your generosity**. Donations will continue to be accepted – just put the Vinnies Appeal envelopes on any collection basket.

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

WE HAVE MOVED – TEMPORARILY, THAT IS

The inside of our church is being repainted – not a small job. Work started after Mass on Sunday, 7 July – **thanks to all the helpers!** – taking down the Stations of the Cross (they will need cleaning!) and other items off the walls. Painting commenced on Monday, 8 July, and will get fully underway next week. Hopefully, we will be “back home” by Saturday, 27 July ... but stay tuned. Meantime, we will celebrate the Eucharist: **on weekdays in the Parish Common Room, and on weekends in the McCarthy Centre within our Parish School grounds**. Parking can still take place within the Parish Church grounds. The cost of painting all the walls, ceilings, doors of the church and sacristies is approximately \$30,000.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

“Love of neighbour represents a significant indicator for recognizing affinities between Jesus and his Pharisee interlocutors. It certainly constitutes an important basis for any dialogue, especially among Jews and Christians, even today. Indeed, to love our neighbours better, we need to know them, and in order to know who they are we often have to find ways to overcome ancient prejudices.”
– Pope Francis, 9 May 2019

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Weekend 13/14 July Masses in the McCarthy Centre *usual times*

Monday 15 July St Bonaventure, friar bishop, doctor

Weekend 20/21 July Masses in the McCarthy Centre *usual times*
SCARF High Tea at 3:00pm



FOSTERING FUTURES

Every child has the right to a family and a permanent home – every single one. Right now, children across our region are in need. If you would like to find out more about becoming a foster carer with CatholicCare Wollongong, please email CatholicCare on fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au or ☎ 0418 783 956.

SCARF HIGH TEA SUNDAY, 21 JULY 3PM

SCARF [Strategic Community Assistance to Refugee Families] helps refugee entrants to build a sense of belonging and navigate the practical and personal challenges of starting a new life in Australia. People from refugee backgrounds have often experienced trauma, significant upheaval, loss and months or years of uncertainty before arrival in Australia. Once settled in a host country, refugee entrants are finally safe. But settlement isn't an immediate 'happily ever after' – so much in their new home is unfamiliar: culture, customs, language, social norms. By creating connections and generating opportunities, SCARF helps individuals and families to establish a sense of belonging, experience social and economic inclusion and access the tools for self-empowerment and independence. **Please come along or support** this initiative: **Thirroul Railway Institute Hall** – Platform 1 Thirroul Station, 11 Railway Parade, Thirroul, Sunday, 21 July, 3pm. Tickets \$30. ☎ 0405 027 250.



THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C

1st Reading Deuteronomy 30:10-14

2nd Reading Colossians 1:15-20

Gospel Luke 10:25-37

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C

1st Reading Genesis 18:1-10

2nd Reading Colossians 1:24-28

Gospel Luke 10:38-42

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

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

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