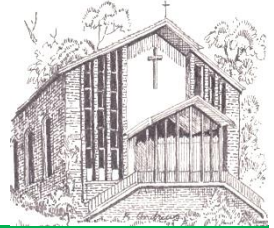




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



16 / 17 NOVEMBER 2019
33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR C
November: we remember the deceased

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Spiritual Revolution

Here is a consoling sentence from the first reading for Sunday: “But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.”

Healing wings. Righteousness (= right relationships, God’s justice). We have wished such things for a long time, so we would welcome them.

But what about the “revere” (=fear) part?

The Scripture is not talking about the fear [reverence, respect, awe, wonder] we get in horror films. Not that strange noise when you are alone in the house. Instead it is respect – awe and wonder – for God, a reasonable, settled concern, an awe before what is very much bigger than you, a reverential wonder toward the creator.

Spiritually speaking, this kind of “fear” is completely necessary for us. Only when we have it are we starting to relate to God, to begin maturing in our relation with the Most High.

And only then do we start suspecting what it really means to say that God is Love.

Sane as this last sentence may be, understanding it requires a continuing spiritual revolution in our lives. It is like the revolution brought about long ago by Copernicus (1473 –1543), who showed that the sun does not revolve around the earth but rather that the earth circles the sun.

Most of us, spiritually, are “pre-Copernican.” We think God’s job is to circle around us, as if we were the centre of the universe. Small planets, we think the sun should answer our prayers, make us peaceful, make our side win the ball game, and so on.

Nothing is really wrong with any of these.

But we stand in desperate need of a Copernican revolution. In fact, God does not exist to serve us, just the opposite. The centre of the universe is God, not us. God quietly maintains in existence everything that is ... stars, galaxies, lands, oceans, mountains, cities, human hearts, butterfly wings, the marvels and beauty of creation.

We owe reverence, that is, respect to such a Being. It takes a spiritual transformation to think in this way. What would happen if we tried it?

First, we would be living in truth instead of in pretence. The truth of our lives is that we are at home only when we open to this real God—within us, the source and goal of who we are—instead of to the latest fad. 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, 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!

Look. Advent is coming very soon. The Church will be preparing to see tender love shown forth in an infant. In pre-Advent (now) we are supposed to take in God’s grandeur in its awesome and wonder-invoking greatness, so that we might be humble enough to prepare for the baby.

And that is why the first reading and Gospel thunder on about the day of reckoning—when *“nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom,”* and so on. These are meant to bring forth awe and wonder (fear), to show us who is at the centre of the universe, and *who is waiting for us to climb down from our thrones.*

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 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 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 end.



DISABLED SURFERS ASSOCIATION: 7 DECEMBER

A fun day surfing experience for any person with a disability, no matter how challenging, with complete water supervision. Registration for participants is \$10 and all participants receive a bag of goodies, thanks to the local participating surf shops and businesses. Free registration for **volunteer helpers** and for giving up your time you will receive **FREE** sausage sizzle on the day, **Saturday, 7 December from 9:00am at Thirroul Beach.**

Disabled Surfing is about helping individuals with a disability to get into the surf and feel the freedom of catching a wave in a safe environment. What the DSA does is provide a safe surfing experience to all in the community with a disability. **Volunteers are needed for this to occur. You DO NOT need to know how to surf. If you can stand waist deep in water you can help.**

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 – DISCERNMENT STAGE

This is a process of communal discernment in which we pray, reflect, share, think nationally, think locally and respond with proposals for action will take place across three of the Northern Suburbs Parishes over the next few months. You are invited to read about the national themes for discernment, prayerfully contemplate them, and then come to one or more of the sessions across our parishes. Each session has a cut-off date for registrations to allow the Animators time to distribute materials and prepare.

Session times and dates are below. How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is ☞:

☞ 2:00pm ☞	☞ 7:30pm ☞	at	☞ Register by ☞	
joyful, hope-filled, servant	Saturday, 30 Nov	Monday, 2 Dec	Thirroul	Sunday, 17 Nov

Sign-up sheets are in the church ... sign up to make practical suggestions.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE BUS TRIP: Monday, 18 November

The annual bus trip is on Monday, 18 November. Members are asked to assemble at the rear of the Church by 8:15am for an 8:30am departure.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE – OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Many thanks from Thirroul CWL and Austinmer Uniting Fellowship to parishioners for the wonderful generosity providing items for shoe boxes for the recent collection for Samaritan's Purse – Operation Christmas Child. **70** shoe boxes were filled for needy children in such countries as Cambodia, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam.

BOOK OF THE DEAD

All during November we remember especially those who have died: our relatives, friends and those who have no one to pray for them. If you would like the name of someone who has died placed in the Book of the Dead, there are special forms available next to the baptism font in the church. Please complete them and put them on any of the collection baskets and the name will be added after November. May they rest in peace.

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

CATHFAMILY – FREE ACTIVITIES AND MORE

CATHFAMILY brings you a selection of activities, prayer rituals, crafts and recipes for free from their website. Don't miss CathKids: A weekly interactive experience with a two-minute animated reflection on the Sunday reading, questions to stimulate discussion, a simple activity and prayer. Visit www.cathfamily.org

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Tuesday 19 Nov 3:45pm Class #2 for First Communion
 Thursday 21 Nov Presentation of the Virgin Mary
 Friday 22 Nov St Cecilia, virgin, martyr



SWIM BETWEEN THE FLAGS

Our surfing season runs until 26 April 2020! **Please be safe on our beaches and waterways.** So far, since 1 July, there have already been **535** rescues – that's **59** since last week! Please **be safe** on our beaches: **FLAG SWIM FLAG**



PRAYER FOR RAIN AND THOSE AFFECTED

Eternal God, in wisdom and love you created our earth to sustain us and give us life. We turn to you now in faith, hope and love, asking you to look with favour on our drought-stricken land, on our starving animals, on our failing crops. Strengthen, sustain and give new heart to our farmers and to all who are affected by drought; be with those who support them. In your loving providence, send abundant rain and restore our parched earth. Father of all compassion, hear our prayer through Jesus Christ your Son, in whom the promise of new life has dawned, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life: Renew your faithful people. Renew the face of the earth. Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Mary, help of Christians – Pray for us. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – Pray for us.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL will take place on 30 November, 1 December – the same weekend First Communions begin – and 7 and 8 December. Thank you for your anticipated generosity, as usual. Vinnies Christmas Cards and Columban Calendars will be on sale from this weekend.

THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C
 1st Reading Malachi 3:19-20
 2nd Reading 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
 Gospel Luke 21:5-19

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Christ the King • End of Year C
 1st Reading 2 Samuel 5:1-3
 2nd Reading Colossians 1:12-20
 Gospel Luke 23:35-43

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