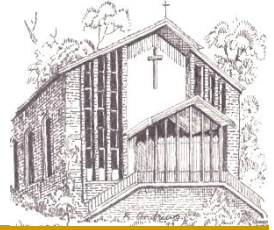




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



23 / 24 NOVEMBER 2019
FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING ✦ YEAR C

November: we remember the deceased

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Spiritual Revolutions

In Britain there was once a king named Arthur. He was the one who invented the famous Round Table and had Lancelot as his knight and Guinevere as his wife.

Long before Arthur became a king—in fact when he was just an infant in the cradle—a strange thing happened. The nurse stepped out for a moment and quick as a wink Merlin the magician appeared.

Then disappeared and took the little boy with him.

This was not really a kidnapping, because Merlin was a kindly old magician. Alright it was a kidnapping, but it was for a fond purpose. This magician did not want this boy to grow up in a sumptuous court, spoiled, pampered and “royal.” Rulers can be kilometres above the tiny precious specks of beauty in life.

So Merlin whisked young Arthur to a bedraggled castle of a third-rate Lord, Sir Ector.

Ector's castle was coarse and dirty but the people were ordinary and nice, and the nooks and crannies were perfect for a little boy to run around in and to hide in. All the servants and lords and ladies were his friends. Naturally.

There was no jealousy about Arthur's being heir to the throne because, thanks to Merlin, no one knew that he was. Even the boy did not know! He was now the foster-son of Sir Ector, and he was given the unpretentious name Wart (which in those days rhymed with Art, which is short for Arthur).

Merlin, funny old character, decided to educate Wart in an odd, special way. Merlin's idea was to transform him into various and sundry animals so that the Wart would find out first-hand the wonders packed into, say, the life of a hawk. Or of a fish. In fact, especially of a fish, because fishes go around in schools, and Wart the fish could go to class!

Now, Jesus was not called Christ during his whole lifetime any more than Wart was called King. He was called “Jesus,” a name that in Hebrew was Joshua, which probably meant “God is salvation.” He was a normal Jewish boy, playing with toys, helping his dad, getting his hands dirty and watching birds fly.

Like Wart, Jesus identified with the lowliest, most ordinary people in the world. Granted, there was no Merlin to turn Jesus into a fish or a hawk, but there was someone better, the Holy Spirit.

On the last day of Jesus' life on earth, Pilate asked Jesus if he were a king. Jesus was a King, but not in any way a Pilate could understand.

Smallness was his power.



✠✠ Christ the King.

Why should Christ the King, one of the people, have to suffer? Because he was one of us. Why do we have to suffer? Because that is the way of the world.

And why didn't Christ the King change the world and make things perfect? He did, but not in the way we had expected.

He did it as Christ the King.



The Church's year is closing; and we look towards the glorious consummation of God's plan for creation – when the Saviour will 'hand over the kingdom to God the Father' (1 Corinthians 15:24), having triumphed over all evil, and (as our second reading puts it) 'made peace by the blood of his cross'.

Let us not be put off by the fact that in today's world, *most* 'kings and queens' are no more than symbolic figures. Today we are invited to rejoice in the fact that we have the one 'in whom all things were made' as our leader. The incident remembered in our first reading – when the tribal chiefs of old Israel proclaimed David to be their leader – reminds us how important leadership is in our life. All the best things of life, we achieve together. Good leadership makes this possible; bad leadership creates most of the world's greatest problems. Our Saviour is far more than a symbolic figure, we know; and our faith will be greatly strengthened, if we own him as the leader who can bring fulfilment to all our hopes.

'Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection; for the sake of the joy which lay ahead of him, he endured the cross, disregarding the shame of it, and has taken his seat at the right of God's throne' (Hebrews 12:2). This text, like our gospel reading from Luke, reminds us that all our human expectations are overturned as we come to understand how Christ the King establishes and exercises his reign. Luke's portrayal of Jesus crucified shows how well the community for which he wrote his gospel had come to appreciate this. Jesus (proclaimed 'The King of the Jews', in the inscription attached to the cross) has made himself powerless; he is rejected by 'the leaders' of the people (while 'the people', foreshadowing those who are to find faith, stand watching in silent awe); he is mocked and ridiculed by the leaders, by the brutal soldiers, and even by one of the criminals crucified with him. Ironically, their jeers give expression to what the crucified one really is – 'the Christ of God', 'the Chosen One', the 'king' the nation longs for, the one who 'saves'.

And then, as if to reduce them all to silence, the other criminal crucified with him makes his submission of faith in Jesus crucified – as the one who would fulfil the hopes of Israel: **Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom?** And Jesus responds with the first pronouncement of an everlasting reign that will be shaped by the generous and merciful ways of his Father: 'I promise you, today you will be with me in paradise'.

The first Christians were to glory in the reign of Christ – so different from the ruthless regimes of their familiar world. In the letter to the Colossians, we have a hymn from their early liturgies, celebrating the Saviour whose leadership '*holds all things in unity*'.

FIRST COMMUNION 2019

Twenty-six (26) young parishioners have been preparing for receiving the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time. They will receive this Sacrament for the first time as follows: Saturday, 30 November – **2**; Sunday, 1 December – **12**; Saturday, 7 December – **5**; Sunday, 8 December – **4**; Saturday, 14 December – **2**; Sunday, 15 December – **1**. Please remember before the Lord these young parishioners and their families.

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.**

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL BEGINS NEXT WEEKEND

Today is the last Sunday of the Church year. Next weekend we begin again, **Advent**, preparing for Christmas, the coming of the Christ-child. As usual, there will be annual **Vinnies Christmas Appeal**, along with the preparation of **hampers** and **'Giving Tree' gifts** for distribution in our local area. The actual **Appeal** will be over two weekends, **30 Nov – 1 Dec** and **7–8 December**. **Hampers** and **gifts** will need to be **returned by the weekend of 14-15 December** for distribution before Christmas.



VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL
YOU CAN HELP END POVERTY

Also, next weekend at all Masses there will be the **Blessing of the Christmas Tree**. Thanks to you for your generosity and Vinnies for their ministry!
YOUR GIFT COULD CHANGE PEOPLE'S LIVES.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS IN OUR PARISH SCHOOL

Christmas Eve Mass will be in our Parish School grounds at **6:30pm** on **Tuesday, 24 December**. Children are involved in the readings and “walk-on non-talking” parts, e.g. carrying up candles, the bread and wine etc. If you would like your daughter or son to be involved, **please email the Parish Office on thirroul@dow.org.au**, giving name, phone number and any “job” they would prefer to do. Also, **singers are needed** to help lead the singing ... anyone from 5 years to 105 year are welcome! Also, **adult parishioners** are needed as **“Safety Officers / Ushers”** at the 6:30pm Mass – you don’t have to be on the usual Safety Officers Roster. Please contact the Parish Office by **4 December**.

Other Christmas Masses are: **9:30pm at Wombarra** and **9:00am at Thirroul**.

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**

HERBS IN OUR PARISH GARDEN

Feel **free** to take home for your cooking pleasure any of the herbs that are growing in our garden. Thanks to **Genevieve Nowlan** and **Pat Mirabito** for their work in the garden!

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Saturday 30 Nov St Andrew, apostle
Weekend 30 N/1 D Vinnies Christmas Appeal
First Communion (2 and 12)
Blessing of the Christmas Tree
Weekend 7/8 Dec Vinnies Christmas Appeal
Weekend 14/15 Dec Blessing of the Christmas Crib
Tuesday 17 Dec Reconciliation Rite II



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 **639** rescues – that's **104** since last week! Please **be safe** on our beaches: **FLAG SWIM FLAG**



WANT TO BE BAPTISED? WANT TO BECOME A CATHOLIC?

Anyone over the age of seven (7) who has not been baptised and who wishes to become a Catholic, NOW is the time to let the Parish Office know. Preparation begins this month for the three Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. The preparation is called RCIA or RCIC, the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults/Children*. Similarly, if you have been baptised in another Christian Church and you want to become a Catholic, you won't be re-baptised, but there is a preparation period prior to you receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. **If you or if you know anyone who wants to become a Catholic, please call the Parish Office THIS WEEK**, to obtain the "inquiry" form and to begin the preparation. People in the RCIA and RCIC programs will receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil, **11 April 2020**. Welcome to anyone wishing to become a Catholic. **Please call the Parish Office THIS WEEK.**

THIS 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

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

First Sunday of Advent • End of Year A

1st Reading Isaiah 2:1-5
2nd Reading Romans 13:11-14
Gospel Matthew 24:37-44

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*

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 ☎ 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