



Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
4/5 JUNE 2022
PENTECOST SUNDAY + YEAR C
RECONCILIATION WEEK

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

In the Old Testament, God promised that in the last days, in the days of the Messiah, God would pour out God's Spirit on all of his people. In Acts 2:14-18, the apostle Peter quotes this promise to explain what is happening when the apostles speak in tongues at Pentecost. This outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost marks the beginning of the period promised so long ago.

But why would God want to mark this great new beginning, the fulfillment of the Messianic promise, the start of the Church, by having the apostles speak in all the myriad languages of the polyglot world of their time? There are so many other things the Spirit might have done! Later, filled with the Spirit, the apostles heal the lame, cure the sick, cast out demons. Why didn't God mark the beginning of the outpouring of God's Spirit by something more glorious than the ability to communicate with others without a translator?

Here we should remember the story of the Tower of Babel, told early in Genesis, not so long after the Fall. The people building the Tower of Babel all spoke one language; but they used this power that the commonality of language gave them, for evil, building a tower that reached to heaven. God defeated them by the simple expedient of multiplying their languages and leaving them unable to understand each other.

Now, in the new age, Christ offers all people salvation from their sin, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. In this age of the Spirit-filled Church, all human beings are invited into communion with the Lord and with each other.

Human beings can be trusted with unity when they are incorporated into the one body of the Lord.

And maybe that is why God marks the beginning of the reign of God's Spirit in the Church by overturning the Babel – the **BABBLE** – of human language. Filled with the Holy Spirit, human beings can be given again what they lost at the Tower of Babel, not for storming heaven, but for proclaiming the kingdom of heaven on earth.

The reading from Acts sets the tone for today's celebration. Luke tells how the Church's universal mission was inaugurated, in the power of the Holy Spirit, as faithful Jews gathered for their Pentecost festival, fifty days after the Passover celebration. Luke was conscious of his task of telling the world what had really happened – as he makes clear in introducing each of his two works. He faced a great challenge, however, as he set out to describe and interpret the vast complexity of the Church's early development. He met this difficulty by choosing several events that were turning points in the Church's history, and presenting them in a dramatic way that made clear their profound significance – a device used by other writers of the day.

Luke's story of the Church's first Pentecost is an example of this approach. The Church's first courageous witness, and its subsequent announcing of the Good News throughout the known world, was a remarkable fulfilment of the Saviour's promise that he would give his disciples courage and power through the gift of his own Spirit (Mark 13:9-11). The universality of the Church's mission is made clear. The Church's first witness is to 'devout people from every nation' – in the first place to 'Jews', but with the mention of 'proselytes' among the crowd addressed the conversion of the gentiles is also anticipated. In the continuation of our passage, Peter's sermon gives a summary of the Church's early witness.

It is in the power of the Spirit that the Church takes up its mission. Today, before all days, the Church invites us to deepen our faith in the Saviour's gift of his own Spirit. Already in the Old Testament, 'the Spirit of God' was active as a life-giving force at work in creation. Anointed by the Spirit as God's 'Servant', in fulfilment of the prophecies of the Book of Isaiah, Jesus has led us to know the Spirit as a Person sharing the one divine life with the Father and the Son. Today's gospel reading is a meditation upon this shared life, and the way in which those who find faith in Christ have the Father and the Son 'make their home' in them. Those who have received the gift of Christ's own Spirit will be led to know how the Saviour is the source of hope for the whole world - as the Spirit 'reminds' them of all that Jesus said and did. The Spirit is the Spirit of Christ; the Spirit is the very life principle of the Church; the Spirit dwells in each believer as our 'paraclete' ['advocate' or 'helper'] – the companion who stands by us in all our trials, providing whatever is needed to survive every trial. We live 'in Christ' because he has given us his own Spirit. Writing to the Romans St Paul reminds these new converts that, together with the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit will come to 'live in them' – renewing their lives, as they set aside their old fears, and find joy and encouragement, as the Father's beloved 'children' who are 'coheirs with Christ', sharing the blessings of his resurrection.

Jesus longed to 'cast fire on the earth'. Teilhard de Chardin wrote: 'Some day, after harnessing space, the winds, the tides and gravitation, we shall harness for God the energies of Love. And then, for the second time in the history of the world, we shall have discovered fire'.



QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading Acts 2:1-11

- ✚ The nations were confused and amazed because everyone heard what the apostles were saying, but each perceived it in his own language. If you were completely open to the Holy Spirit, would you have a deeper understanding of everything that you hear? Was the miracle in the speaking or in the hearing? How does the Holy Spirit use the miracle of hearing with you?
- ✚ How were the disciples different after the Spirit's arrival? In your own life do you tend to see the Holy Spirit as dynamic and constant or only occasional? Rate your belief in the Holy Spirit as your constant companion on a scale of 1 to 10. Are you different when you are confident that the Spirit is with you?

Second Reading Romans 8:8-17

- ✚ The gifts of the Spirit are knowledge, wisdom, understanding, reverence, courage, right judgment and awe and wonder in the presence of God. How do they create unity in the Church? Think about one of the worst problems in the world today (War in Ukraine, Climate crisis, Immigration, Racial bias) ... what small or large gifts has the Spirit given you to help with a problem that should be eradicated?
- ✚ Were Puccini and Shakespeare given gifts for their own pleasure? Then, for what were these given? What gifts from the Holy Spirit are you aware of in yourself? Do you foresee yourself using them? Will synodality call you to use them?

Gospel John 14:15-16, 23b-26

- ✚ Compare God breathing life into Adam with Jesus breathing the Holy Spirit into his disciples. What is the significance for you? Is there a new creation? Do you have the courage to strike out on or join new paths the Holy Spirit shows you?
- ✚ Just as the disciples were to embody the Holy Spirit, now it's our turn. Why do you think Pope Francis says in his Pentecost homily that the Church needs to testify now to mercy?

Let us go another step. We too are called to testify in the Holy Spirit, *to become paracletes*, comforters. The Spirit is asking us to embody the comfort he brings. How can we do this? Not by making great speeches, but by drawing near to others. Not with trite words, but with prayer and closeness. Let us remember that closeness, compassion and tenderness are God's "trademark," always. The Paraclete is telling the Church that today is the time for comforting.

It is more a time for joyfully proclaiming the Gospel than for combatting paganism. It is the time for bringing the joy of the Risen Lord, not for lamenting the drama of secularization. It is the time for pouring out love upon the world, not for embracing worldliness. It is more the time for testifying to mercy than for inculcating rules and regulations. It is the time of the Paraclete! It is the time of freedom of heart, in the Paraclete.

– Pope Francis, *Pentecost Homily*, 23 May 2021

ONE NON-PERISHABLE ITEM PER FAMILY EACH WEEK TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE LOCAL ILLAWARRA AREA: drop items in the special white plastic bin if you come to Mass

FLOOD AND UKRAINE APPEALS – THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generosity over the last month. Totals *so far* ... as donations keep coming in:

VINNIES FLOOD APPEAL – TOTAL TO BE DONATED IS: **\$13,750. THANK YOU!**

UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL – TOTAL TO BE DONATED IS: **\$10,720. THANK YOU!**

} TOTAL \$24,470

If you still wish to make a donation: please direct credit our Parish account, St Michael, BSB 066 711, Account Number 001788, and in the "Reference" indicate **FLOODS** or **UKRAINE**. ALL DONATIONS WELCOME!

MORNING TEA AFTER SUNDAY MORNING MASSES RESUMES ON 7 AUGUST

As most Covid health restrictions have now been lifted, and as we have a minimal number of volunteers – THANK YOU! – Morning Teas of a Sunday morning will be resumed, as from 7 August. KRISTA SPIERS who died on 24 April inspired a return to Sunday morning teas. Krista would have turned 50 on Saturday, 8 August, so the first "Return of the Morning Teas" will be dedicated to Krista. Morning Teas, for the present will resume on 7 August and will be held on the first and third Sundays of each month (except January). If you would be available to go on the roster – say once every three months – to prepare and serve morning tea of a Sunday morning after Mass, please contact Judy Bull, Roster Coordinator ☎ 4267 2417, or the Parish Office ☎ 4268 1910. Thank you for your generosity.



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2022

The National Reconciliation Week 2022 theme, “**Be Brave. Make Change.**” is a challenge to all Australians — individuals, families, communities, organisations and government—to **Be Brave** and tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation so we can **Make Change** for the benefit of all Australians.

Last year Reconciliation Australia encouraged all Australians to take action; not just in National Reconciliation Week but every week of the year.

We saw unprecedented response to suggested actions for everyday and for braver action.

This year everyone is asked to make change beginning with brave actions in their daily lives – where they live, work, play and socialise.

National Reconciliation Week—**27 May to 3 June**—is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The dates for National Reconciliation Week are the same each year: **27 May to 3 June**.

These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey— the successful **1967 referendum**, and the **High Court Mabo decision** respectively.

27 May 1967 – On this day, Australia’s most successful **referendum** saw more than 90 per cent of Australians vote to give the Australian Government power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and recognise them in the Census.

3 June 1992 – On this day, the Australian High Court delivered the **Mabo** decision, the culmination of Eddie Koiki Mabo’s challenge to the legal fiction of ‘*terra nullius*’ (land belonging to no one) and leading to the legal recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of lands. This decision paved the way for Native Title.

Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

National Reconciliation Week started as the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation in 1993 (the International Year of the World’s Indigenous Peoples) and was supported by Australia’s major faith communities.

In 1996, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation launched Australia’s first National Reconciliation Week.

In 2001, Reconciliation Australia was established to continue to provide national leadership on reconciliation.

In the same year, approximately 300,000 people walked across Sydney Harbour Bridge as part of National Reconciliation Week – and subsequently across bridges in cities and towns-to show their support for reconciliation..



KINDERGARTEN 2023 ENROLMENTS FOR OUR PARISH SCHOOL NOW OPEN

Enrolments are accepted all year round, but the best time to enrol your child at St Michael’s is at the beginning of the year – the year **before** your child is due to commence school. Contact the school office by phone [4267 2560] or in person to put your child’s name on the enrolment list and you will be given/sent an enrolment package. Kindergarten enrolments are distributed and completed during Term 1, then enrolment interviews are usually held in May. Contact the school office as soon as possible so you and your child can come in and meet with the principal, Mrs Belinda Hughes. Written offers of placement will follow at the end of Term 2 (usually in June).

<https://www.smtow.catholic.edu.au/parents/enrolment-information/>



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2022

Confirmation is the second Sacrament of Initiation. There are **28 Candidates** for Confirmation this year, and this weekend, some of them will be at Masses as they prepare over two weeks to receive the Sacrament from Bishop Brian on Tuesday, 21 June. They will present their Baptism candles and make a promise to prepare for the Sacrament along with the commitment of their parents. Please keep these young parishioners in your prayers.

THIRROUL SEASIDE FESTIVAL 2022 – 3, 4 AND SUNDAY, 5 JUNE

Sunday, 5 June: Enjoy our magnificent seaside park where there is a full day of entertainment, commencing with the **Sunday Lions Club BBQ breakfast 8am**, at the south car park at Thirroul Beach. Remember to check out the Art Exhibition Prize winners at the Thirroul District Community Centre, from 10am.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Monday	6 Jun	Mary, Mother of the Church	Acts 1:12-14	John 19:25-34
Tuesday 📖	7 Jun	Tuesday of Ordinary Time Week 10 11:00am Funeral of Carmel Maloney 3:45pm Sacrament of Confirmation Class #1	1 Kings 17:7-16	Matthew 5:13-16
Wednesday	8 Jun	Wednesday of Ordinary Time Week 10	1 Kings 18:20-39	Matthew 5:17-19
Thursday	9 Jun	Thursday of Ordinary Time Week 10	1 Kings 18:41-46	Matthew 5:20-26
Friday	10 Jun	Friday of Ordinary Time Week 10	1 Kings 19:9,11-16	Matthew 5:27-32
Saturday	11 Jun	Saint Barnabas, apostle	Acts 11:21-26, 13:1-3	Matthew 10:7-13
		Dinner at Club Thirroul after 5:30pm Mass		
Sunday	12 Jun	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY ...	<i>Scripture Readings are listed below</i>	

THIS WEEK'S RECIPE ... Spinach Dip in Cobb Loaf

Creamy spinach dip in a cobb loaf tastes amazing and is always a crowd pleaser. Nobody can resist a good warm spinach dip served in a toasty cobb loaf – especially me! It is an easy, quick and super yummy dip that tastes amazing served straight from the oven. Alternatively, you can mix the dip ingredients and buy the cobb loaf the day before. I pre-bake the cobb loaf before adding the dip, then bake it again, so it tastes fresh, even if it is a day old.

Cream Cheese 1 block (250g), cut into chunks; Sour Cream 300ml; Frozen Spinach 250g thawed; Brown onion - half a small one (finely chopped); Garlic powder ¼ teaspoon; French onion soup packet dry mix 40g; Cobb loaf (white or wholegrain).

Preheat heat oven to 160°C fan forced (or 180°C no fan force). Cut the top off the cobb loaf to use as a lid later. Carefully hollow out the loaf by removing pieces of bread from inside it. Leave about 2cm around the edges. Tear the leftover bread into pieces to bake (for dipping). Bake the cobb loaf in the oven on waxed paper on a tray – approximately 5 minutes until firm/crisp. Place thawed spinach in layers of thick paper towel. Squeeze until all excess liquid is gone. Mix the following in a large bowl: cream cheese, sour cream, spinach, French onion soup, brown onion, garlic powder until well combined. Remove cobb loaf from oven. Place mixture into cobb loaf. Cover with cobb loaf lid and place bread pieces on rest of tray. Bake for about 20 minutes until very warm (check regularly to avoid burning loaf). Remove from oven and tear up cobb loaf lid into pieces. Serve Spinach Dip in Cobb Loaf warm with baked pieces of crispy loaf and crackers. **Favourite recipe to share? Email it to the Parish Office.**

2022 SIGNIFICANT MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS

If you are celebrating 25, 40, 50, 60 or over 60 years of marriage this year, and would like an invitation to the Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord at St Francis Xavier Cathedral on **Sunday, 7 August 2022** at 2pm, please register online at www.dow.org.au/events/ – or contact **Helen Bennett** at the Office of the Bishop at 4222 2403, or via email helen.bennett@dow.org.au by no later than Monday, 11 July. Once you have done so, an invitation and official online registration procedures will be sent to you.

PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.


THIS Sunday's Readings – on website

PENTECOST SUNDAY • Year C

1st Reading Acts 2:1-11
2nd Reading Romans 8:8-17
Gospel  John 14:15-16,23-26

NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website

TRINITY SUNDAY • Year C

1st Reading Proverbs 8:22-31
2nd Reading  Romans 5:10-5
Gospel John 16:12-15

SUNDAY

MASS TIMES

Saturday 5:30pm
Sunday 8:00am
 Saturday Mass recorded

Parish of St Michael – Thirroul

*One of the four Northern Illawarra Parishes
 Moving forward as a Parish Family*

Patrick Vaughan • *Parish Priest*

Andrew Granc ofm, Ken Cafe ofm • *Assisting*

Lauren Faulks • Parish Secretary

Tues, Wed 9am-3:30pm; Fri 9:30am-2:30pm

 www.thirroulcatholic.org.au

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Parish School of St Michael

 4267 2560

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday _____

Tuesday 📖 5:30pm

Wednesday 9:00am

Thursday 9:00am

Friday 9:30am

Anointing of the Sick 1st Friday