



Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
17/18 JUNE 2023

11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR A

POSTCARDS TO THE FRONT

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

For the Life of the World

In today's Gospel, Jesus shares his mission to proclaim the kingdom of heaven with his disciples. The signs of the kingdom's presence consist of the work that Jesus has already been doing: the sick are cured, lepers are cleansed, demons are driven out, and the dead are raised to life. The disciples are sent to continue doing the work that Jesus has begun. This is a moment of transition in Matthew's Gospel. The focus has shifted from the ministry of Jesus to the work of the community that he has inaugurated. More than any other Gospel, Matthew's Gospel elaborates on the work of the Church, which is to continue after Jesus' death and resurrection.

The Gospel reports that Jesus commissions twelve disciples. Many scholars believe that the twelve disciples symbolize the twelve tribes of Israel. It designates, therefore, continuity between Israel and the Church.

Matthew lists the names of the twelve disciples, as do Mark and Luke. Matthew also uses the word apostle when referring to the Twelve. The word apostle means "one who is sent." In this context, Matthew is calling attention to the mission that the twelve disciples are being given. They are sent by Jesus to proclaim the kingdom of heaven in word and deed.

As Jesus sent his disciples to continue his work and mission, so too the Church is sent by Jesus. The Church is his continuing presence on earth. Every member of the Church is sent by Jesus to contribute to this mission.

The mission of Jesus was universal. It could only be carried out through the ministry of collaborators who were empowered by a sharing in his own Spirit. The commissioning of the Twelve Apostles was a moment of immense consequence, therefore, in the earthly ministry of Jesus. It is important that we recognise that this commission involved not only the Apostles and their 'successors', the bishops of the Church, but also by every baptised member of the Church. Matthew opens up a broad vision in his introduction to the 'summoning' of the Twelve by Jesus. We are reminded of struggling humanity of all times and places, as Jesus shows concern for 'the crowds, harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd'; he speaks to his disciples of the boundless 'harvest' envisaged in the generous plan of God.



The word 'apostle' (used only here in Matthew's gospel) refers to one sent out with a special commission. Matthew refers to the Twelve as 'disciples', prior to their commission – the commission they are to receive presupposes and builds upon the relationship with Jesus they have shared with the men and women who – as his 'disciples' – have formed the new family of Jesus. Vatican II makes reference to this solidarity as paramount when it describes the role of the Apostles: 'the Apostles were the first shoots of the New Israel, and at the same time the beginning of the sacred hierarchy' (Decree on Mission, n.5). For Jesus, the choice of twelve symbolised the coming into existence of a New Israel. This commission, therefore, concerns not only the hierarchy but all the baptised. The 'successors' of the Apostles must make it their first concern, to foster, identify with, and give witness to, the authentic faith and life in the baptised community entrusted to their care. For their part, the whole community of the Lord's disciples must recognise that they are all called to share in the commission given to the renewed people of God. In other words, the whole Church should be apostolic and missionary.

For a long time, the missionary outreach of the Church has been associated in the Catholic mind with the foreign missions – an apostolic expression that has had a privileged place in the Church's life from the beginning. As they hear today's gospel, committed Catholic communities should ask themselves whether they are truly apostolic and missionary. Not infrequently, those who have joined our parish communities, through a well organised RCIA program, report that they are discouraged by the routinised apathy that seems to characterise so much parish life. Today's gospel indicates two gauges we can use to evaluate the apostolic spirit of our parish community, if we want to respond to this wake-up call. Those in need – physically and spiritually – had a privileged place in the concerns of Jesus. Do we share this concern by a genuine and practical outreach to these people? Time and time again, concern for the marginalised, after the example of Jesus, has brought new life to Christian communities. Our second gauge is the witness of a courageous and generous identification with all that Jesus stands for, in the vision of a renewed faith. The Christians of the early centuries were forbidden to disclose the essentials of their faith to outsiders; but they converted the world of their time, by the quality of their lives. ('Do not turn aside to pagan territory'. Puzzling words, until we realise that the first concern of Jesus was to call Israel back to the ideals expressed in our first reading. Ultimately, however, this was because he needed helpers in a mission to the whole world.)

The more that we pray over these readings, the more they can affect us. When we listen to the first reading, from the Book of Exodus, we must wonder what was in the minds of God's "chosen people" when God says, "I bore you up on eagle wings and brought you here to myself." When these chosen people fled from Egypt, it was a miraculous event in their lives. They never really believed that they could be free.



✠✠ When Pharaoh's army pursued them, they must have felt that they would be destroyed, and yet the sea opened before them and they escaped. But that was the beginning. Then we hear all about their stories of not having enough water, not having enough food, of the problems of going through the desert—and on and on and on. This does not sound like being born up on eagle's wings and being brought to the mountain of God!!

Sometimes we can get caught up in our own sufferings and not see what is really happening. If we look at the sufferings of the chosen people in the desert, we can't possibly describe it as being born up on eagle's wings. On the other hand, if we look at their escape into freedom and their arriving at the mountain of God, we begin to understand the eagle's wings. They could not have been there if God had not sustained them and helped them.

This is surely a part of the lesson of this Sunday that we are celebrating. We must begin to look at the deeper meanings of history, both the history of salvation and our own personal history of walking with God. So often we get caught up only in our present sufferings and don't keep an awareness of where God is leading us. Always God is leading us to encounter His divine presence.

In Matthew's Gospel today, we can also wonder about this Good News that Jesus asks the apostles to preach. They are to go only to the Jewish people and to proclaim that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. For us, this Kingdom may not mean very much. For the Jewish people of the time of Jesus, it probably meant that the Messiah had come and a lot of them would have hoped for freedom from the Romans and freedom to live their faith without interference from others. For some, this Kingdom would have meant a re-establishment of the previous Kingdom of Israel.

Jesus generally means that the Kingdom is the presence of God in the world. The Kingdom is truly present in you and in me when we are following God and trying to be faithful to God's word. The Kingdom is present within us. And when we join with others who are also faithful to the Word of God, then the Kingdom becomes present within the believing community.

So, when Jesus sees that lots of people are looking for God and want to follow God, Jesus tells us that the harvest is abundant.



What about our own times? Are people looking for God? Are you looking for God? Am I looking for God. That is the challenge. That is the invitation. God invites us to seek the Kingdom. And as we seek, then we discover that the Kingdom is right here in our midst. Like the chosen people in Exodus, we shall suffer on the way to discover the Kingdom, even though it is right here.

Let us pray this Sunday for a deeper awareness of God's divine presence in our personal lives and in the life of our Christian communities. Let us ask that the Holy Spirit will give us the vision to see how God is present in our world. May we have the power to ask for God's healing, for the life of those who are dying, for freedom from demons. Let us ask for the gift to see how we have been born up on eagle's wings.

"POSTCARDS TO THE FRONT" IN UKRAINE

"Postcards to the Front" has a mission is to solicit postcards from Australians with messages of encouragement and support to Defenders of Ukraine on the front lines. We - "Postcards to the Front" - send postcards in bulk to our Founder, Tamara Levit in Zaporizhia, Ukraine. The cards are added to care packages which are hand delivered to the front lines.



HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Obtain one or MORE Australian postcards: try your local post office shop. Address your message to "Defender of Ukraine". The frontline defenders may be soldiers (both men & women), nurses, doctors, civilians etc. Write in either English or Ukrainian. Use the entire back of the card to write your message. No need for a stamp on the postcard as we send them in bulk, and they are hand delivered in Ukraine. Please do not use the word PEACE. This word has acquired a new meaning in Ukraine. When the Russians invaded, they told people they were doing this for peace. The word now conjures up images of people being killed, and property being destroyed. Please don't use the words "Russia, Russians or Putin". Mention you are from Australia, this really cheers people up. Remind them that the world hasn't forgotten them. Don't forget to write at least your first name on the card. That makes for a personal connection. No need for a return address on the card. Defenders are being shelled and shot at. They haven't got time to write back. Place your postcard(s) in a sealed envelope and address it to "Postcards to the Front" and put them on a collection plate or deliver them to the Parish Office. On the outside of the envelope, please include your name and email address so we can let you know that they have arrived. In May, 1175 postcards were sent to Ukraine. That makes a total of 2221 since we started in March. It costs \$14.40 per package. To sponsor an envelope please send \$14.40 of international stamps to Postcards to the Front, PO Box 565 Williamstown Vic 3016. Don't forget to include your email address.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF OUR PARISH

Our Parish of Saint Michael will be celebrating the parish centenary on **Saturday, 28 October 2023** at the **17:30 Mass** with Bishop Brian Mascord followed by community picnic/BBQ in the grounds of our Parish School. The Celebrations Committee is seeking parish stories and photos for a centenary publication. Please contact Judy Bull judy.bull@bigpond.com or 0407 672 417 if you have any resources that can be used.

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND – WELCOME

WELCOME to **JACK KELLEY** baptised in our Parish this Saturday during the 17:30 Mass, and to **PENELOPE, AUBREY** and **MONTGOMERY RYDER** baptised this Sunday during the 08:00 Mass: **welcome** and **thank you** to their parents, godparents, families and friends for bringing the children to our Parish community.



The next Baptisms to be held in our Parish will be during Masses **Saturday** or **Sunday, 15/16 July 2023**. The next Baptism meeting for parents will be in the presbytery on **Thursday, 6 July 2023** at **19:15**. Call in to the Parish Office to collect the Baptism Enrolment Forms. **Welcome and congratulations!**

Baptism is the first Sacrament of Christian Initiation. The three Sacraments of Christian Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. In most of the Eastern Catholic Churches, the three Sacraments are celebrated together as is done in the Latin Catholic Church with adults and children over the age of reason.

DIOCESAN YOUTH MINISTRY HOLIDAY CAMP

Sydney iSTAND Weekend Against the Tide 2023 for young people (14-18yrs). Friday, 30 June 5:30pm – Sunday, 2 July 1pm @ Mount Carmel House, 365 St Andrews Road Varroville. Cost: \$150 registration (inclusive of all food and activities). Contact: Antoinette Collins 0428 771 744. Registration: www.ymt.com.au/istandevents

PATRONAL FEAST OF THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

17 June is the Patronal Feast of the Diocese of Wollongong, the **Immaculate Heart of Mary**.

The Icon of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (by Marice Sariola) is at Saint John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow.

As we celebrate the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the whole Diocese of Wollongong looks to Mary, the Mother of the Church. Thanks to the Marian shrines and churches around the Diocese dedicated to the Mother of God, devotion to Mary should be very strong and widespread among the people in our local Church.

May we continue to contemplate the Virgin Mary, who pondered in her heart the mystery of Christ. We know that Mary is present as a mother to us and so shares in the many complicated problems which today beset the lives of individuals, families, parishes, schools and communities. We know that Mary has a heart for the Christian people in our constant struggle between good and evil, to ensure that we do not fall, or, if we have fallen, that we rise again.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is an image of the Church which, nourished by hope, acknowledges the saving and merciful action of God, in whose light our diocese reads our own journey and all of history. Mary helps us to interpret all that happens to us in the light of Jesus her Son. As a new creation moulded by the Holy Spirit, Mary causes the virtue of hope to grow within us.

To the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of hope and of consolation, we confidently lift up our prayer: to Mary we entrust the future of the Diocese of Wollongong.

Loving God, you prepared a fit dwelling place for the Holy Spirit in the heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Graciously grant that through her intercession we may be a worthy temple of your glory.



THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION IN OUR PARISH

On **Thursday** evening at **19:00**, Bishop Brian will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for seventeen Year 6 parishioners. Please keep these young people in your prayers over these weeks.

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL – 24/25 JUNE AND 1/2 JULY

The St Vincent de Paul Society NSW has launched its annual Vinnies Winter Appeal with a focus on the number of older women experiencing and at risk of homelessness. “The Vinnies Winter Appeal is crucially important in enabling our services and members to support people experiencing disadvantage and hardship, particularly the concerning number of older women experiencing or at risk of homelessness,” said Yolanda Saiz, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW CEO. “The latest census figures revealed women over 55 remain one of the most at-risk demographics, increasing by 37% over the past decade to more than 7,300 across Australia.” The appeal will be held in our Parish on the weekends of 24/25 June and 1/2 July. **Help end homelessness crisis devastating older women.**



SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Sundays Year A • Weekdays Year I

Monday	19 Jun	Monday of Ordinary Time Week 11	2 Corinthians 6:1-10	Matthew 5:38-42
Tuesday	20 Jun	Tuesday of Ordinary Time Week 11	2 Corinthians 8:1-9	Matthew 5:43-48
Wednesday	21 Jun	St Aloysius Gonzaga, religious	2 Corinthians 9:6-11	Matthew 6:1-6,16-18
Thursday	22 Jun	Sts John Fisher, Thomas More, martyrs	2 Corinthians 11:1-11	Matthew 6:7-15
Friday	23 Jun	Friday of Ordinary Time Week 11	2 Corinthians 11:18,21-30	Matthew 6:19-23
Saturday	24 Jun	The Birth of John the Baptist	Isaiah 49:1-6	Luke 1:57-66
Sunday	25 Jun	12 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, Year A – <i>Scripture Readings are listed below.</i>		

THIS WEEK'S RECIPE: Coconut and Raspberry Ripple Cake from Chef Raymond

1½ cups self-raising flour; 1 tsp baking powder; ⅔ cup coconut sugar; sea salt; ⅓ cup desiccated coconut; 3 free range eggs; ⅔ cup extra virgin olive oil; ½ cup coconut milk; 2 punnets raspberries (or 250 g); 2 tbs shaved toasted coconut to serve. **Icing:** 1 cup pure icing sugar, sifted; ¼ cup raspberries, crushed; 2 tbs extra virgin olive oil.

Heat the oven to 180°C. Grease a loaf pan and line the base and sides with baking paper, allowing the sides to overhang. Sift the flour and baking powder into a large bowl and stir in the sugar, coconut and a pinch of salt. Whisk the eggs in a bowl along with the extra virgin olive oil and coconut milk. Fold the wet mixture into the flour mixture until just combined. Pour half of the cake mixture into the loaf pan. Using the back of a fork gently crush the raspberries in a bowl and pour over the cake batter in the tin. Pour over the remaining cake batter and smooth the top. Bake for 50 minutes, or until a skewer comes out clean when inserted into the centre. Cool in the tin for 10 minutes before transferring to a wire rack and allowing cool completely. Place the icing sugar in a bowl. Place the crushed raspberries into a fine sieve and push out the liquid over the icing sugar using the back of a spoon. Add in the extra virgin olive oil and whisk until the mixture is smooth and pale pink. Spread the icing onto the cake and sprinkle with toasted coconut before slicing and serving.

FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

✦ Tuesday, 20 June	15:45	Class #2 for Confirmation Candidates
✦ Thursday, 22 June	00:57	Winter Solstice – daytime 4h 31m shorter than 21 Dec
✦ Friday, 23 June	09:30	Years 1 and 6 attending Mass
✦ Weekend, 24/25 June		Vinnies Winter Appeal – Week 1
✦ Thursday, 29 June	19:00	Sacrament of Confirmation
✦ Friday, 30 June		Last Day of School Term 2
✦ Weekend, 1/2 July		Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday
✦ Weekend, 1/2 July		Vinnies Winter Appeal – Week 2



PLEASE BRING IN ...ONE NON-PERISHABLE ITEM PER FAMILY EACH WEEK TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE LOCAL ILLAWARRA AREA: drop items in the special plastic bins near the church entrances.

Thank you for all the winter type food items donated – Vinnies have enough

A GLIMPSE OF VIVID IF YOU CANNOT MAKE IT TO SYDNEY

Sydney's Abandoned Underground Tram Station: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXXor8g9vtQ>

THIS Sunday's Readings – on website	NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website	SUNDAY MASS TIMES
11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR A	12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR A	Saturday 17:30
1 st Reading Exodus 19:2-6	1 st Reading Jeremiah 20:10-13	Sunday 08:00
2 nd Reading Romans 5:6-11	2 nd Reading Romans 5:12-15	☑ Saturday Mass recorded
Gospel Matthew 9:36–10:8	Gospel Matthew 10:26-33	
Parish of St Michael – Thirroul <i>One of the four Northern Illawarra Parishes</i> <i>Moving forward as a Parish Family</i> Patrick Vaughan • <i>Parish Priest</i> Andrew Granc ofm, Ken Cafe ofm • <i>Assisting</i> Lauren Faulks • <i>Parish Secretary</i> Tues, Wed 09:00–15:30; Fri 09:30–14:30	🌐 www.thirroulcatholic.org.au 📍 325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive 📧 PO Box 44 • Thirroul 2515 ☎ 4268 1910 📠 4268 1976 📧 thirroul@dow.org.au Parish School of St Michael ☎ 4267 2560	USUAL WEEKDAY MASSES Monday _____ Tuesday ☑ 17:30 Wednesday 09:00 Thursday 09:00 Friday 09:30 <i>Anointing of the Sick 1st Friday</i>