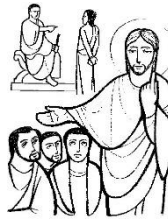




# Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



**PARISH BULLETIN**  
**24/25 JUNE 2023**  
**12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + YEAR A**  
**VINNIES WINTER APPEAL**

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

## Taking Life Seriously

In the gospel, Jesus encourages us as follows: “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even all the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid.”

God pays attention to each of us. God knows us each in the tiniest detail!

A conclusion follows. See what you think of it: ***Each of us is created to be a place where God's love can dwell.***

It follows that we will never be truly human unless the greatest value in each of our lives is to receive the love of God and to carry it to the people around us.

Our culture would never buy such a proposition. On television we see people seeking ease, beauty, convenience, pleasure and so on. Quite often on broadcast channels, cable channels, and now on subscription programs, one could conclude that the human person is made for one purpose only: sex. Without realizing it, commercials are built to encourage the seven Capital Sins (pride, gluttony, avarice, lust, sloth, envy and anger). Jot that list down, put it by your television and put a check behind each one when it is promoted.

Alright, we human beings do get attached to many things or fascinated by them. But if each of us is created to be a place where God's love can dwell, then any of these fascinations might be left aside if it begins to take over God's place. If I am attached to wealth, or my stamp collection, or my good looks, or drugs, or even my mate—in a way that makes God's love take second (or third or fiftieth) place, then my life is disordered and I am headed for a fall.

How do you react to this proposal? Personally, I used to react to it with confusion and resistance. “You mean I am to love God only and not care about my friends, my family, music, sports, food, health, etc? Not care about anything except God?”

No.

Healthy love of all these things has its roots in love of God. Everything gets its own individual value from the indwelling of God within it. Each person, each blade of grass receives its full value of love because it proceeds from God's gentle hand.

Whoever takes this proposition seriously will live a full human life. But I can hear the reader saying immediately that this is too difficult. So many things get in the way. Have a look through your life and see how often you forget God the source. “Leave me, I am a sinful man,” Peter once said to Jesus in the boat, remembering that he had actually deserted Jesus at least three times. How many times have you and I done likewise?

So, does the above proposition really apply just to those who never sin?

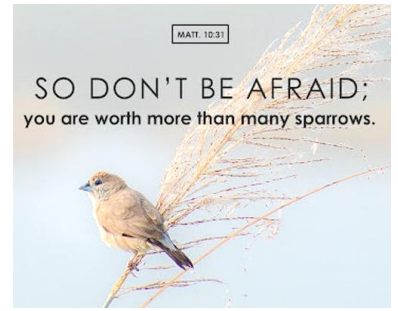
Not at all. “If you sin, I will not leave you, I will love you,” God has said throughout the ages. The cross of Jesus is the ultimate statement of that truth. God's love remains constant and dear, in spite of the rampant sin in all of us and each of us. His love will help us get closer to the goal.

Let us rejoice, then. No matter how many hairs we have on our head, God's love remains to be let in.

As we saw last week, the commission of the Twelve is addressed to all baptised Christians. Continuing his instruction, Jesus tells the apostles that all the ‘hidden’ truths that they have come to know, as his companions during his earthly life, must be ‘proclaimed from the house tops’. The term ‘proclaim’ echoes the word ‘kerygma’ (proclamation) that came in the New Testament to stand for the message preached by the apostolic Church.

Jesus knows what the future holds for him, and he warns the apostles that they must be ready for the same fate. The word, ‘martyr’ means ‘witness’. In the early centuries, the fact that so many men and women, young and old, were ready to face a terrible death, rather than renounce their faith, so impressed their pagan neighbours that it led many of them to embrace the Christian faith. Martyrdom has been a continuing fact of the Church's life during the past century. Most of us, however, will not have to face this ultimate test. All of us, in the other hand, will know times when it is not easy to stand up for the things of God.

The courageous example of Jeremiah can still inspire us as we face these difficulties. The messages of the prophets were not miraculous communications, but the reflections of believers who – because they had a living faith in the God of the covenant – recognised God's desires for the people in their changing circumstances. Prompted by the Spirit, they shared their convictions with God's people. Jeremiah lived in a nation in crisis – because of the invasion of a powerful enemy. His prophetic reflections were unwelcome in influential circles. Later developments showed that his fears for his life were justified. Turning to the Lord in his isolation – to the God who comes to the aid of the ‘needy’ – he echoes one of the great themes of Old Testament faith, ‘the Lord hears the cry of the poor (those who have no one else to turn to).’



✠✠ Now it is the Saviour himself who encourages those who must overcome their ‘fear’, as they give witness to all that he stands for. He translates the theme that gave courage to Jeremiah into terms that bring to mind the whole message of the Sermon on the Mount. Why should they fear? Even the cheapest life in the market ‘two sparrows for a penny’, is in the watchful care of their heavenly Father. ‘Why every hair of your head is numbered’, he tells them. In the end, when he comes to judge the world, he will ‘declare himself for them in the presence of his Father’. Do not be afraid before the threats of the present world; make sure not to be found wanting, in the end.

Our essential Christian witness will not be given in the market place, but in the informal exchanges that are a constant part of life – in the discussions that lead to family decisions, in our work place conversations, and in the attitudes that people know are the expression of Catholic conviction. It will not be so much what we say, as the respect and friendliness with which we express ourselves that matters. ‘Always have your answer ready for the people who ask you the reason for the hope that you have’, St Peter says, ‘But give it with courtesy and respect, and with a clear conscience’ (1 Peter 3:15).

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

### First Reading      Jeremiah 20:10-13

- ✠ Suffering can lead to resentment, bitterness, and anger. Who do you think enabled Jeremiah to not only endure his suffering but also get beyond it and all the negative emotions that came with it?
- ✠ How can trust help you handle a situation when you are surrounded by “terror on every side”? How can you build this trust? Should you wait for “terror” to arrive before you start trusting?

### Second Reading      Romans 5:12-15

- ✠ Paul tells us in this reading that “the gift is not like the transgression.” Does God’s mercy wipe out or destroy sin and go far beyond the forgiveness that we all need?
- ✠ Discuss the fact that proclaiming the gospel brings some suffering with it. If you let your sufferings be absorbed into Christ’s do you think they acquire saving significance for the community or for those you love?

### Gospel      Matthew 10:26-33

- ✠ If Christ says to “speak in the light” that which he has said in darkness, is that speaking meant to dispel the darkness? Can you “proclaim” the Good News today “from the housetops”? What does that mean in terms of ending racial bias?
- ✠ And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.” What does Pope Francis say about fear to the people in the middle of a war in South Sudan? Was Francis “speaking in the light”?  
I gather here with you in the name of Jesus Christ, the God of love, the God who achieved peace through his cross; Jesus, the God crucified for us all; Jesus, crucified in those who suffer; Jesus, crucified in the lives of so many of you, in so many people in this country. ... Jesus knows your anguish and the hope you bear in your hearts, the joys and struggles that mark your lives, the darkness that assails you and the faith that, like a song in the night, you raise to heaven. Jesus knows you and loves you. If we remain in him, we must never fear, because for us too, every cross will turn into a resurrection, every sadness into hope, and every lament into dancing!  
– Pope Francis, *Homily at Mass in South Sudan, 5 February 2023*

## “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.

## 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.*



There will be a special collection at both Masses this weekend and next weekend. You can donate cash or use your credit/debit card. You can also donate online to Thirroul Vinnies Conference: go to this link to donate: <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way-conference/vinnies-thirroul-winter-appeal>

## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION – 29 JUNE

**Congratulations** to the following young parishioners who will receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** from Bishop Brian on **Thursday, 29 June at 19:00: RIVER HAY; LUCY BRUNGS; EMILY DEEMING; LIBBY SHARRATT; WILLIAM HORAN; LIAM DENNYSON; FINN GULLY; FIADH MOLLOY; GISELLE BARR; AUDREY FORAN; CHARLI COLEMAN; IMOGEN VILLANTI; JESSE BROWN; ARABELLA DONNELLY; LARA MCENTEE; OLIVER FORTE; JAMES BOLTON; OSCAR NASSO.** Congratulations to the Candidates, their families and their sponsors.



## 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](http://www.ymt.com.au/istandevents)

## SPIRITUALITY ON THE SOFA – WEDNESDAY, 5 JULY AT 19:30

Here is the Zoom link to watch and participate in the next **Spirituality on the Sofa, 19:30 to 21:00 on Wednesday, 5 July** – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88194824050?pwd=L3FZdVVibXFmREIDNmVEOGNwWGZaQT09>

The presenters will be **Norma Tracey** and **Matthew Smith** who will share some of their exciting and innovative life stories about how they continue to work side by side with Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of our community - striving to make a difference. **Norma** is a psychoanalytic therapist and a founder of Gunawirra, a not-for-profit organisation where Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal professionals work side by side. **Matthew** is the managing director of Summit Education Australia. He is an experienced educator and school principal specialising in First Nations education and inclusion, trauma-informed practice, and behaviour.

## CHANCE TO SUPPORT OUR PARISH SCHOOL

Here's a chance for you to support our Parish School of Saint Michael. On **Sunday, 2 July, 08:00 to 16:00** the **Sausage Sizzle** at **Bunnings Bellambi** [corner Bellambi Lane and Watts Lane] is the venue for this fundraiser. Call in and enjoy a sizzling, scrumptious, succulent, sustaining, slim snag. Mention this ad for extra onions!

## 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](mailto:judy.bull@bigpond.com) or 0407 672 417 if you have any resources that can be used.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

Today's globalized world has brought all of us closer together, yet it has not made us any more fraternal. Indeed, we are suffering from a famine of fraternity, which arises from the many situations of injustice, poverty and inequality and also from the lack of a culture of solidarity. “New ideologies, characterized by widespread individualism, egocentrism and materialistic consumerism, weaken social bonds, fuelling that ‘throwaway’ mentality, which leads to contempt for and abandonment of, the weakest and those considered ‘useless’. In this way human coexistence increasingly tends to resemble a mere *do ut des* which is both pragmatic and selfish”. Yet the worst effect of this famine of fraternity is armed conflict and war, that makes enemies of not only individuals but entire peoples, and whose negative consequences reverberate for generations. With the founding of the United Nations, it seemed that the world had learned, after two terrible world wars, to move towards a more stable peace, to become, at last, a family of nations. It seems, though, that we are going backwards in history, with the rise of myopic, extremist, resentful and aggressive nationalisms that have kindled conflicts which are not only anachronistic and outdated, but even more violent.

– Address of Pope Francis to the United Nations Security Council, 23 June 2023.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Sundays Year A • Weekdays Year I

Monday	26 Jun	Monday of Ordinary Time Week 12	Genesis 12:1-9	Matthew 7:1-5
Tuesday	27 Jun	Tuesday of Ordinary Time Week 12	Genesis 13:2	Matthew 7:6,12-14
Wednesday	28 Jun	St Irenaeus, bishop, martyr	Genesis 15:1-12,17-18	Matthew 7:15-20
Thursday	29 Jun	Sts Peter and Paul, apostles	Acts 12:1-11    2 Timothy 4:6-8	Matthew 16:13-19
Friday	30 Jun	Friday of Ordinary Time Week 12	Genesis 17:1,9-10,15-22	Matthew 8:1-4
Saturday	1 Jul	Saturday of Ordinary Time Week 12	Genesis 18:1-15	Matthew 8:5-17
Sunday	2 Jul	13 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, Year A – <i>Scripture Readings are listed below.</i>		

## THIS WEEK'S RECIPE: Chocolate Rough Squares

250g Arnott's Marie biscuits; 400g condensed milk; 1 cup coconut; 1½ tbs cocoa; 55g butter melted. Topping: 55g copha; 200g Cadbury milk chocolate.

**Base:** Process biscuits to fine mixture. Add cocoa, coconut and mix through. Add condensed milk and melted butter and press mixture into a foil lined 28 cm x 18 cm lamington pan. Place in refrigerator whilst making topping.

**Topping:** Microwave the copha and chocolate together and pour over base. Place in refrigerator to set. When set, let the slice reach room temperature before cutting into triangular pieces.

**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.**

**These items are currently in short supply:**

**Sweet biscuits, pasta & sauce, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, baked beans & spaghetti, and tinned seafood**

## FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

✦ 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
✦ Sunday, 2 July	08:00 to 16:00 St Michael's Parish School Bunnings Sausage Sizzle
✦ Wednesday, 5 July	19:30 Spirituality on the Sofa
✦ Thursday, 6 July	19:15 Baptism Preparation Meeting for July Baptisms
✦ Friday, 7 July	09:30 Anointing of the Sick during Mass
✦ Weekend, 8/9 July	Blessing of July Wedding Anniversaries and Birthdays
✦ Saturday, 8 July	18:30 Dinner at Club Thirroul after 17:30 Mass
✦ Weekend, 15/16 July	Baptisms during Masses



### THIS Sunday's Readings – on website

#### 12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ♦ YEAR A

1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Jeremiah 20:10-13
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Romans 5:12-15
spel	Matthew 10:26-33

### NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website

#### 13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ♦ YEAR A

1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	2 Kings 4:8-11,14-16
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Romans 6:3-4,8-11
Gospel	Matthew 10:37-42

### SUNDAY

#### MASS TIMES

Saturday	17:30
Sunday	08:00
☞ 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 09:00-15:30; Fri 09:30-14:30

🌐 [www.thirroulcatholic.org.au](http://www.thirroulcatholic.org.au)

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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 1<sup>st</sup> Friday</i>	