



Welcome to the Parish of Saint Michael Thirroul



PARISH BULLETIN
2/3 SEPTEMBER 2023
22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + YEAR A
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

What's In A Name?

This week, Peter is in for a big surprise.

In last week's Gospel Jesus retired the name "Simon" and replaced it with the name Peter: "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18) We heard that, at root, the name Peter meant "rock." Simon is to be the "Rock," the foundation of the Church.

Notice that Peter is telling Jesus to avoid pain by selfish use of his divine powers.

Surprise, surprise, Jesus gives Peter a different name this week, and it has a very different flavour: he calls him "Satan". "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are thinking not as God does, but as humans do."

If this name were to stick, Peter would be the leader of the very "Hades", the one that Jesus promised could never prevail against the Church.

Peter's entreaty is just what Satan had recommended in the desert temptations of Christ (Matthew 4:1-11)! When Jesus was hungry, Satan had said, stealthily, you are Messiah—why don't you simply turn these stones into bread? After that, have your angels save you from all danger. And then, be a real Messiah, be in charge of all the lands there are. Why not?

Because all of this would require bowing down and worshipping Satan. What is going on?

First, it is quite clear that Jesus' emotional state has changed.

He is obviously dreading the suffering and death he will soon have to face. His rebuke to Peter is so sharp, so instant, so contradictory, that its emotional roots are showing. He knows what a terrible toll human misery and affliction will take on him. He snaps at Peter and even resorts to name-calling.

Second, Jesus had been gradually schooling the disciples about who he really is. Not just a great teacher, or good friend, or magnetic preacher, but the complete revelation of divine love. They had achieved their first high mark last week when Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

This week Jesus shows the real meaning of Christly love: for the good of the world he must suffer greatly and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

Do the Apostles get it? No they do not. The Gospel reports that now Peter "rebukes" Jesus. Something like this: No, no, no, no, Lord, we will protect you—this will not happen to you, please don't worry so much. Everything will be ok, you'll see. We need you to be alive. You are the Christ! We need you to use your powers!

It is an impulsive response. Very human. But notice that Peter is telling Jesus to avoid pain by selfish use of his divine powers.

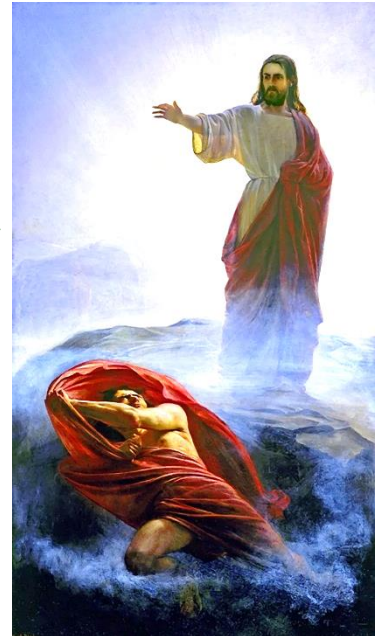
To put it another way, Jesus would have to act according to the self-seeking, self-interested part of human nature. Go for the wealth, the power and the reputation. Forget Godly love.

Since he was human, Jesus must have felt within himself the rewards that would come with such desert temptations. And he must feel it now as Peter gives him the very same enticement. So, he reacts strongly.

Does he really mean that Peter is Satan? No. But surely, he remembers with pain the devil's temptations.

No wonder that name slips out.

In last week's gospel reading, Matthew celebrated Peter's commission as the guardian of unity in the Church. The continuation of that passage, in today's reading, recalls the rebuke Peter received from Jesus after his confession. It was the mission of Jesus, to fulfil all the expectations of the Old Testament. In the questions put to the disciples that led to Peter's confession, Jesus speaks of himself as the 'Son of Man', and he repeats this reference in the concluding words of today's reading. The 'Son of Man' was the triumphant figure of the book of Daniel who was to come on the clouds to establish God's universal reign. Now, in the first of three predictions of his passion, he identifies himself with the 'Servant' of the Isaian writings who, by his sufferings, would lead God's people to the fulfilment of their God-given destiny. These references would have been treasured by Matthew's community, as they recalled their great theme that the life and death of the Saviour took place 'to fulfil the scriptures'. In Peter's condescending response to Jesus' prediction of the outcome of his rejection by the leaders in Jerusalem – 'This must never happen to you' – we glimpse something of the trusting relationship Jesus maintained with his disciples. But the sharp reaction of Jesus makes clear the seriousness of Peter's mistake. There is a great irony in the rebuke of Jesus: the 'rock' is told that he is a 'stumbling block'.



✠✠ Jesus is forming his disciples, we remember. And now he challenges them to begin to come to terms with the mystery of the Cross – his reconciling and healing of a shattered world. Though Jesus was aware that his conflict with the Jerusalem authorities was a matter of life and death – ‘the elders, chief priests and scribes’ were the three groups of leaders who made up the Sanhedrin that was to condemn him – his words do not necessarily involve a miraculous foreknowledge of his fate. ‘Taking up the cross’ was a proverbial way of referring to the bearing of adversity and suffering. Under Roman rule, crucifixion – with its prelude of the criminal’s bearing of the heavy crossbeam to the place of execution – was a familiar reality. Those who wish to be his followers, Jesus declares, must be warned that this means a readiness to bear the burden of suffering. The community, from a Jewish background, that Matthew is writing for have been filled with wonder and gratitude, as they recalled the Isaian description of the Suffering Servant: ‘He was being wounded for our rebellions ... the punishment reconciling us fell on him, and we have been healed by his bruises’ (Isaiah 53). Now they recall the words of Jesus inviting them to enter into this mystery of reconciliation: ‘Anyone who wants to save their life will lose it’ – a reference to the martyrdom that has already been the fate of some of their fellow Christians; ‘Anyone who loses their life for my sake will find it’. These words of Jesus imply an astounding claim. ‘For my sake’, Jesus says. For Old Testament faith, it is only God who deserves to be loved with all one’s ‘heart, soul and mind’ (Deuteronomy 10); now Jesus is claiming the same absolute allegiance for himself. For Jesus, this taking up of the cross is a daily, life-long calling. The other readings of today’s liturgy help us to reflect upon what this call involves in practical everyday terms. Jeremiah’s heroic faithfulness was to become a source of blessings and encouragement for God’s people of every age. Today’s passage from Paul to the Romans can serve as a commentary on the call of Jesus. We can offer our faithfulness as a ‘living sacrifice’, uniting our offering to the Saviour’s gift of himself for the sake of the world. It is the mystery of the Eucharist that makes this possible.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading Jeremiah 20:7-9

✠ Jeremiah couldn’t ignore the call to prophecy even though it brought him much ridicule. Who today speaks out about injustice in areas like human trafficking, racial discrimination, police profiling, gun violence, climate change, treatment of refugees, indigenous peoples, the death penalty?

✠ What social or economic structure of injustice would you like to transform that you can’t keep quiet about it?

Second Reading Romans 12:1-2

✠ How do you discern God’s will? Does certainty about the will of God’s come suddenly? Can it emerge gradually? Do you imagine you have made the decision and then check for feelings of consolation or desolation?

✠ Do you think Christ will use your suffering for the salvation of the world if you unite your trials with his?

Gospel Matthew 16:21-27

✠ You cannot take your money and possessions with you when you die. If you “lose your life” in love for others, does that give you something to take with you? Is it the love in your heart that goes with you when you die?

✠ According to Pope Francis, if we want to be his disciples, how do we imitate Christ?

Thus, the task of “taking up the cross” becomes participating with Christ in the salvation of the world. Considering this, let us make sure that the cross hanging on the wall at home, or that little one that we wear around our neck, is a sign of our wish to be united with Christ in lovingly serving our brothers and sisters, especially the littlest and most fragile.

Each time we fix our gaze on the image of Christ crucified, let us contemplate that he, as the true Servant of the Lord, has accomplished his mission, giving life, spilling his blood for the pardoning of sins. Therefore, if we want to be his disciples, we are called to imitate him, expending our life unreservedly out of love of God and neighbour.
– Pope Francis, *Angelus*, 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 30 August 2020.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANDREW GRANC OFM – WORDS OF THANKS

Father Andrew: You sailed onto our Thirroul shores in 2009 and except for a couple of years in Melbourne you have been with us ever since. You became part of our parish community and very quickly became part of our parish family. Our parish is not perfect, but it is a parish of rich generosity, caring and inclusiveness. This environment is nurtured from the top down from yours and Father Ken’s leadership and guidance. You have shared in our faith journey, our sadness and our joys and heard our heartfelt confessions. We have been so fortunate to have your example of ‘faith in action.’ My favourite part of one of your homilies was your quote from the musical *Godspell*, ‘Three things I pray, to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow the more nearly, day by day.’ Your reflections on your earlier life have been humbling and the stories of your theological duties and travel to various parts of the world very inspiring, building on your vast knowledge of theology and world affairs. You have managed your visual disability with quiet dignity, never complaining just getting on with life and the job at hand. You are a gentle, humble and kind man who has touched many hearts. We have been enriched by your presence and companionship. My dear friend we thank you and congratulate you on this wonderful achievement of 50 years a Friar Priest. – Barbara Bosely on behalf of all parishioners.

Thank you to all who made last weekend’s celebrations so memorable by your attendance and work.

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK: 3–9 SEPTEMBER 2023

In 2023, the message that 'Every child in every community needs a fair go' will be complemented with the theme *Where we start matters*. *Where we start* our lives in terms of where we live, the resources available to us, and the opportunities presented to us make a significant difference to our life outcomes. *Where we start* as a service sector in offering children and their families support and assistance makes a significant difference to life outcomes.

Where we start as decision makers in addressing large complex policy problems such as child abuse and neglect, also has a significant personal, social and economic outcomes. We invite you to use this theme to explore and talk about the many ways that 'where we start matters' for children, young people and their families. Of course *where we start isn't where we finish*. The aim of Child Protection Week is to bring together partners to focus on addressing the significant harms being experienced by children in Australia. By working collectively to change the trajectory of these children and families, we can reduce the number of children who may come in contact with the child protection system. The time to act is now. You can use this theme in ways that are most relevant to those you work with.

For instance this could include focusing on:

- supporting parents to access services so that all families have the opportunity to give every child a great **start**;
- supporting organisations to be safe and child-focused so they can give every child a great **start**;
- supporting communities and making sure that every neighbourhood has what it needs to give every child a great **start**.

UPCOMING SIGNIFICANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, 28 October 17:30 Mass Bishop Brian will celebrate Mass for the Centenary of our Parish ... dinner and entertainment to follow in the Hall. *Further details in the coming weeks.*

THE ALPHA COURSE – ASK QUESTIONS, SHARE FAITH AND BUILD COMMUNITY

The Northern Suburbs Parishes Spring Alpha Course starts Wednesday, 13 September, 7pm–8:40pm at St Joseph's Primary School Hall, Bulli, and you are invited. Alpha is an opportunity for you, your friends and family to explore life, and faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. We have a meal together, watch a video and then talk over dessert. To register go to www.dow.sh/alpha23 or email corrimal.bulli.alpha@gmail.com

📞 Peter Crowe ☎ 0407 913 696 or Kerrie Hennessy ☎ 0422 987 058. RSVP by **Friday, 8 September**.

FIRST PENANCE, FIRST COMMUNION 2023 – ENROLMENTS CLOSE TUESDAY

The Sacrament of First Communion is given to children who have reached the age of reason, which is accepted as seven years old, that is, when a child is in Year 2. [Canons 913, 914] Prior to receiving First Communion, children are to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance [Reconciliation].

In order to prepare for these Sacraments, there is a preparation program consisting of the following: a parent information evening; two classes (after school hours) in preparation for First Penance; celebration of First Penance; two classes (after school hours) in preparation for First Communion.

Enrolments close on 5 September 2023. Enrolment Forms may be downloaded from the Parish website. Enrolment forms are to be **emailed or delivered to the Parish Office by 5 September 2023**. Dates for **First Penance and First Communion** are listed on the Parish website.

CONISTON HOMELESS HUB

The Homeless Hub centre is located at 12-16 Miller Street, Coniston. The Vinnies Van operates out of this centre and provides emergency food relief and items for daily living to people experiencing homelessness and those living in difficult circumstances, 5 days a week. The Vinnies Homeless Hub and the Vinnies Van would be grateful for any one off or regular donations of food items, small toiletry items, sleeping bags, warm jackets, gloves, beanies, and snacks/poppers for school aged children. To donate ☎ 4228 9355 or ✉ vinniesvan@vinnies.org.au

CANON LAW CONFERENCE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

This week, Monday to Thursday, 4 to 7 September, Ken will be at the Annual Conference of the Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand, being held in Christchurch, New Zealand. Thanks to Andrew for celebrating the Masses on Tuesday to Thursday.

SPIRITUALITY ON THE SOFA – THIS WEDNESDAY, 19:30

Welcome again to Spirituality in the Pub/Spirituality on the Sofa: Wednesday, 6 September, 19:30 to 21:00. The leaders in conversation will be Dr **Louisa Sondergeld** and Dr **Cam Hollows**. Louisa is a young doctor at the Princess Alexandra Hospital Brisbane and a lecturer at the University of Notre Dame; Cam is a General Practitioner at the Bangalow Medical Centre and is particularly interested in Musculo-skeletal problems, skin cancer surgery, men's health, cancer and palliative care. To join the **zoom link**, paste the link below into your browser.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88194824050?pwd=L3FZdVVibXFmREIDNmVEOGNwWGZaQT09>



A VERY HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL FATHERS AND GRANDFATHERS

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Sundays Year A • Weekdays Year I

Monday	4 Sep	Monday of Ordinary Time Week 22	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Luke 4:16-30
Tuesday ✘	5 Sep	Tuesday of Ordinary Time Week 22	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Luke 4:31-37
Wednesday	6 Sep	Wednesday of Ordinary Time Week 22	Colossians 1:1-8	Luke 4:38-44
Thursday	7 Sep	Thursday of Ordinary Time Week 22	Colossians 1:9-14	Luke 5:1-11
Friday	8 Sep	The Nativity of the Virgin Mary	Micah 5:1-4	Matthew 1:1-23
Saturday	9 Sep	Saturday of Ordinary Time Week 22	Colossians 1:21-23	Luke 6:1-5

Sunday 10 Sep 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR A – Scripture Readings are listed below.

THIS WEEK'S RECIPE: Golden Syrup Damper

3 cups self-raising flour; ½ tsp salt; 2 tsp butter; 2 tsp golden syrup; 1 cup milk; 2 tbsp boiling water.

Place camp oven on fire to pre-heat. Dissolve golden syrup and butter in boiling water, then add milk. Mix flour and salt then pour in liquid ingredients; mix well until all ingredients are combined. Gradually add more milk if dough is not moist enough. Form into round circle (*aren't all circles round?!*) then place in preheated camp oven. Cover with coals and back for 25 to 30 minutes. If you don't have a camp oven, try your kitchen oven!

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:

biscuits, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, long life milk, tea bags, small coffee, tinned seafood, spreads

FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- ✦ Week, 2–9 September National Child Protection Week
- ✦ Weekend, 2/3 September Blessing of Fathers for Father's Day at both weekend Masses
- ✦ Monday, 4 September Ken at Canon Law Conference, Christchurch, until Thursday, 7 Sep
- ✦ Tuesday, 5 September Enrolments for First Penance and First Communion CLOSE for 2023
The 17:30 Mass will not be "televised" this week
- ✦ Wednesday, 6 September 19:30 Spirituality on the Sofa
- ✦ Weekend, 9/10 September Child Protection Sunday

CENTENARY OF THE PARISH – SATURDAY, 28 OCTOBER

All are invited to join our parish family, old and new, to celebrate the Parish's first 100 years! Mass with Bishop Brian will be held at 17:30 on Saturday, 28 October, followed by a community gathering: a BBQ in the school grounds for all. Further details to follow. In addition, to celebrate the Centenary, you will be able to order special mementos: Anniversary Book; Centenary Glasses; Centenary Wines. Order forms will be available from next weekend, and orders will need to be placed by Tuesday, 3 October the latest.

THIS Sunday's Readings – on website

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR A

1 st Reading	Jeremiah 20:7-9
2 nd Reading	Romans 12:1-2
Gospel	Matthew 16:21-27

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

Kerry Fabon • Parish Secretary

Tues, Wed 09:00–15:00; Fri 08:30–15:00

NEXT Sunday's Readings – on website

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR A

1 st Reading	Ezekiel 33:
2 nd Reading	Romans 13:8-10
Gospel	Matthew 18:15-20

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Parish School of St Michael

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SUNDAY

MASS TIMES

Saturday 17:30

Sunday 08:00

📺 Saturday Mass recorded

USUAL WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday _____

Tuesday 📺 17:30

Wednesday 09:00

Thursday 09:00

Friday 09:30

Anointing of the Sick 1st Friday