



**St Michael's Parish,** Nowra – Tel: 4423 1712 E-mail: [office@nowraparish.org.au](mailto:office@nowraparish.org.au)

**Website: [nowraparish.org.au](http://nowraparish.org.au)** Incorporates the Church Communities of St Michael, Nowra; St Patrick, Berry

Sacred Heart, Bomaderry; Mary, Help of Christians, Culburra; St Joseph, Kangaroo Valley; Holy Spirit, Vincentia.

The Baptism of the Lord [Year A]

13<sup>th</sup> January 2008

## The Baptism of the Lord

“This experience for Jesus as he emerges from the water following baptism gives reassurance that this chosen path is indeed what God wants. In fulfilment of the prophecy in Isaiah, God ‘endows’ him with the Spirit and addresses him as ‘My Son, the Beloved; on whom my favour



rests’. As throughout the New Testament (cf. Rom 5:5; 8:15), the experience of the Spirit is primarily an assurance of God’s love. Everything that is now to follow in the ministry of Jesus will derive its impulse and its meaning from this sense of deep, familial intimacy with the Father.

For this reason it is appropriate to read this particular Gospel at every baptism. Each and every Christian has the right to hear, ‘You are my beloved son, my beloved daughter, in whom I take delight’, personally addressed to him or her by God. Would it not make a difference if that was the first thing we allowed ourselves to hear on rising every morning, if we began our day, our work, our ministry with that divine address ringing in our ears – not because we deserve it or have earned it but simply because we know that that is how God looks upon us in Christ?..” {Brendan Byrne SJ}

**Easter is the Feast that is directly related to Christian Sacramental Baptism, however this is an appropriate occasion to reflect on our own Baptismal ‘calling’.**

|                                      |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>CLERGY OF THE PARISH:</b>         | <b>Phone</b> |
| Fr Patrick Faherty PP                | 4423 1712    |
| Fr Richard Healey (Nowra)            | 4423 1712    |
| Fr Leo Duck (Vincentia)              | 4441 5571    |
| Fr Ronan Kilgannon (Kangaroo Valley) |              |

### Sunday Masses: (Holiday time):

**NOWRA** ..... 6pm Vigil; 8am, 9.30am & 6pm  
**BERRY** ..... 8.00am  
**BOMADERY** ..... 9.30am  
**CULBURRA** ..... 6pm Vigil & 8.00am  
**VINCENTIA** ..... 6pm Vigil, 8.00am & 9.30am  
**KANGAROO VALLEY** ..... 11.00am  
**SHOALHAVEN HEADS:** ..... Vigil 6.00pm

### MASSES DURING THE WEEK

**Nowra:** Mon 7.00am ..... Tues/Wed/Thurs 8.15am  
 Friday 7.00am and 11.30am..... Sat 9.00am  
**Berry:** Tues 5.30pm ..... **Culburra:** Thurs 5.30pm  
**Bomaderry:** ..... First Friday only 5.45pm  
**Vincentia:** Mon, Thur, Fri 8.00am ... Tues, Wed 5.30pm  
**Kangaroo Valley:** ..... Mon/Tues/Thurs/Sat 8.00am;  
 Wed 6.15am. Divine Office is chanted 15 mins prior to Mass. No Mass on Fridays.

### Confession/Reconciliation

**Nowra:** Sat 11.30.-12.30pm. 5.00 - 5.30pm.  
**Culburra:** Sat. 5.30pm. **Berry:** Tues 6.00pm  
**B'derry:** 1<sup>st</sup> Fri. 5.15pm.; **K Valley:** Sat 4.30 – 5.00pm  
**Vincentia:** Sat. 5 - 5.30pm.

**WYD2008** – The Diocesan HomeStay program has been launched. Would you like to host WYD pilgrims? This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome international visitors into your home during WYD08. Be sure to pick up a blue flyer and register by visiting [wyd08wooll.org](http://wyd08wooll.org) or place your completed flyer in the Homestay box (in all Mass Centres).



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**Note: If you have already returned the blue flyer, please take one of the HomeStay information packs, and complete the 2-page application form at the back, and drop the completed form in the HomeStay box. Thanks!**

❖ **The Young Adults Group** are holding a raffle with prizes of approx. \$500/1<sup>st</sup> prize, \$250/2<sup>nd</sup> prize and \$120/3<sup>rd</sup> prize. The winners will be announced through Bulletin. All monies raised will assist youth and young adults to attend WYD08.

**JOURNEY TO THE HEART** – this year’s **Lenten Programme** is a pilgrimage. “The essence of a pilgrimage is that the pilgrim sets forth in the company of others seeking a change of heart. The journey to one’s heart is not an easy road. It is however, the most incredible pilgrimage we can ever take.” We are invited as parishes and as a Diocese to embark on this pilgrimage. If you have never participated in a group previously, this is a good year to ‘give it a go’. You do not have to commit to all sessions. Since Ash Wednesday is on 6 Feb, meetings should commence from Mon 4 Feb.



Sheets for Nowra/B'derry are at the Church doors; for the other centres please check with the usual contact people. Enquiries – please contact Peggy 44213417 or Francene 44215962. Details next week for outlying centres.

**Bishop Peter Ingham** continues his pastoral visitation to the Parish this weekend, celebrating Vigil Mass at Vincentia, and on Sunday at Nowra and Kangaroo Valley. We are sincerely grateful to the Bishop for the time he has so generously shared with us.

**“We have lived together for all these years as brothers and sisters. There is therefore no reason for us to be used to raise our hand against our neighbour because he or she belongs to a different ethnic group or political affiliation. Life is sacred! We all belong to one family of God.”** ( The Bishops of Kenya)



We prayerfully remember **Joyce Veronica McMahon** –Currarong, and **Maisie Brodie** (Culburra) who died this week. Also **Don Geary, Christopher McManus, Annie**

**Moses, and John Standen** -Libby Baker’s son, whose anniversaries occur. *May they rest in eternal peace.*