

## Shoalhaven Highlights

### Saturday 29 March

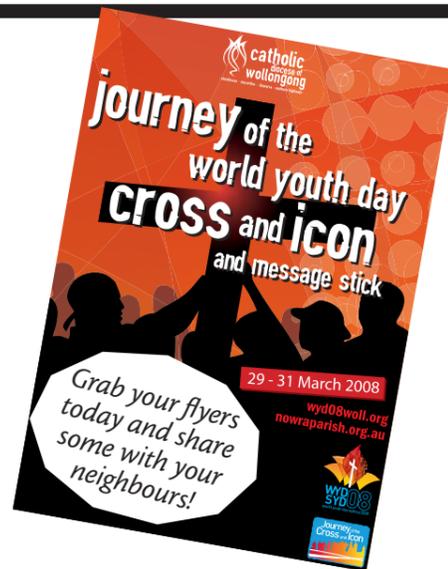
- **Kangaroo Valley**  
5pm Pilgrim walk (From Hampden Bridge to forecourt of St Joseph's Church)
- 7.30pm Vigil Mass (celebrated by Bishop Peter) followed by music, talks and camp for young adults and families

### Sunday 30 March (2nd Sunday Easter)

- 7am Travels for events in Ulladulla
- **Vincentia & Huskisson**  
2.30pm Travels by boat from Vincentia
- 3.00pm Indigenous ceremony and Memorial service for HMAS Voyager; Naval Cadet march (Huskisson Wharf)
- **St John's High School, Nowra**  
4.30pm School celebrations and BBQ begins  
5.30pm Arrival of Cross, Icon & Message Stick  
7.00pm Outdoor Mass  
8.00pm Live entertainment continues
- Vigil & veneration in St John's Chapel (until 10.00pm)

### Monday 31 March (Annunciation)

- **Nowra**  
7am Dawn Service (Hanging Rock, Nowra)
- **9am Liturgy at Marriott Park;**  
Procession through the streets (from Marriott Park along Kinghorne St to Junction Court, Junction St, Osborne St to North St)
- **10.20am School and Parish celebrations** (Around Parish Centre, North St, Nowra)
- 11.30am Parishioners invited to venerate Cross & Icon in front of the Parish Centre and to help with carrying the cross to the River.
- BYO Picnic (early!) lunch in grounds of school
- **12.50pm Pilgrim walk** over the Nowra Bridge (via Colyer Ave to river, then over Southbound bridge to Bolong Rd)
- **Bomaderry**  
1.50pm Indigenous celebrations (Bomaderry Homes, Bomaderry)
- 3.00pm Travel to Kiama



## We need marshalls

to help keep people moving during the pilgrimage walks, as well directing traffic & parking at St Michael's and helping people who are less able-bodied.

More than anything, we need your prayer support that many, many people in Nowra will be touched by the presence of the Cross in our parish, and discover more deeply the love of Jesus the Saviour.

**Call Fr Richard (0401 621 591) if you are free to help in any way!**

### Practice / Rehearsal

There will be a run-through of the program at St Michael's (in front of the Parish Centre) on Wed 26 March from 11.30am with the students of St Michael's School. **All Marshalls and potential volunteers are encouraged to attend.**

## WANTED: 86 BEDS

### HomeStay program

An opportunity to host WYD pilgrims during 'Days in the Diocese' - from 10-14 July 2008 (just before WYD week).

Register by visiting [wyd08woll.org](http://wyd08woll.org)

If you have already registered, we will begin contacting host families in mid-April for the next stage.

If you do not have internet access, 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!

We now have 124 places available; we are still looking for around 86 places across the Parish. Thanks also to our new coordinators ... we now only need one more for Nowra.

## Easter Greetings and Blessings

The Cross is the ultimate symbol that touches the depth of our spirit. The Cross speaks to us of service, of sacrifice, of hope, of love, of fidelity and of faith. While these deeper realities cannot be mathematically demonstrated, they are values whose unfathomable depths always leave room for more to be understood. We never quite arrive at an adequate understanding of them. But that doesn't mean we don't know them. Knowing is different from understanding and we intuit a lot more than we can imagine in our heads or express in words.

"The Cross of Jesus is the single most revolutionary moral event in all of history." (Rene Giraud, anthropologist) Its morally revolutionary aspect is in the paradoxical way Jesus, by conquering sin and death in his Paschal Mystery, gives us a way of dealing with evil and suffering from a whole new perspective. The Cross of Jesus is the key that unlocks the deep secret to everything.

To the extent that we understand the Cross of Jesus, we grasp the key to life. And the reverse is just as true: to the extent that we don't grasp the meaning of the Cross, we miss the key that opens up life's deepest secrets. When we don't grasp the Cross, life's deep mysteries become a riddle.

While the Cross of Jesus contains life's deepest moral secret, nevertheless we live with a secret we sometimes understand and then at other times fail to understand!

May we always acknowledge that our life is a Paschal journey together with our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ who is the Light that guides our steps.

Fraternal Easter blessings

*+ Peter Ingham*  
Most Rev Peter W Ingham DD  
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG



The latest editions of the Diocesan magazine *Journey* and *Youth Noticeboard* are now available. Make sure you grab your copy. Still FREE!

# Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

Easter Sunday (Year A)

### First Reading

10:34,37-43

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

**The word of the Lord.**

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117

**R/** This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

### Second Reading

3:1-4

*The letter of St Paul to the Colossians*

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

**The word of the Lord.**

### Sequence

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise. The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled, hath sinners to his Father reconciled. Death with life contended: combat strangely ended! Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign. Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way. The tomb the Living did enclose; I saw Christ's glory as he rose! The angels there attesting; shroud with grave-clothes resting. Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee. That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know. Victorious king, thy mercy show!

### Gospel Acclamation

1 Cor 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

### Gospel

20:1-9

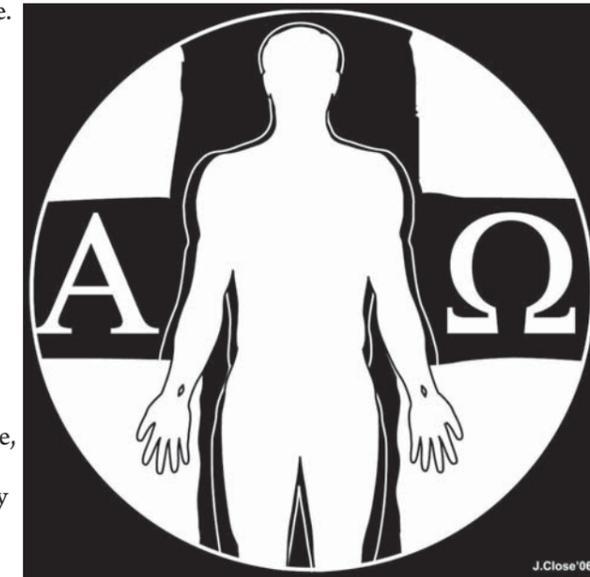
*The holy Gospel according to John*

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

## Alleluia! He is risen indeed!



### Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

**E**aster is the season of mystagogical catechesis, that instruction that unpacks the hidden mystery of the experience of the sacraments of initiation received or renewed at Easter. The readings of each Sunday concentrate on some aspect of this mystery. The central theme of this Sunday is newness of life in Christ. This newness is not without its historical context. It burst forth first in the resurrection of Christ, and then through the preaching of the first Christians.

The readings testify that if we die with Christ, we will appear with him in glory; if we cast out the old yeast, we will be fresh dough. And when this wondrous transformation takes place, everything is new; everything is fresh. To what newness are we called? To what must we die in order to rise transformed? What old yeast of corruption must be cast out in order that we might be fresh dough? At Easter we renew our baptismal vows. What is it that we really renounce? Ours is a world of violence, of prejudice, of indifference. Too often we harbour feelings of anger and resentment, of selfishness and disdain. Easter proclaims that Christ has died and has risen; with him we die to all of the wickedness in our lives and in our world, and we set our hearts on higher things, on sincerity and on truth.

17  
weeks to go

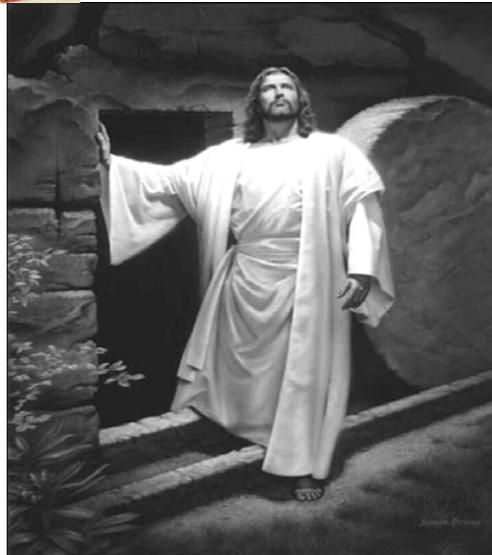




**St Michael's Parish** | Tel: 4423 1712 | E-mail: office@nowraparish.org.au | Website: nowraparish.org.au

23 March 2008 **Easter Sunday**

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



**Sunday Masses:**

**NOWRA:**.....6pm Vigil; 8am, 9.30am,  
Please Note: **7.00pm (St John's High School)**  
**BERRY:**.....8.00am  
**BOMADERRY**.....9.30am  
**CULBURRA**.....6pm Vigil  
**VINCENTIA**.....6pm Vigil & 9.30am  
**KANGAROO VALLEY**.....11.00am

**Masses During The Week**

**Nowra**..... Mon 8.00, Tues/Wed/Thurs 8.15am  
.....Fri 7am & 11.30am, Sat 9.00am  
**Morning Prayer:** Wed 7.50am **Holy Hour:** Fri 10.30am  
**Berry**.....Tues 5.30pm  
**Culburra**.....Thurs 5.30pm  
**Vincentia**.....Mon/Thurs/Fri 8.00am, Tues/Wed 5.30pm  
**Shoalhaven Heads**.....Fri 3.30pm  
**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 11.30am – 12.30pm, 5.00 – 5.30pm  
**Culburra**.....Sat 5.30pm  
**Berry**.....Tues 6.00pm  
**Bomaderry**.....1<sup>st</sup> Fri of the Month 5.15pm  
**Vincentia**.....Sat 5.00pm – 5.30pm  
**Kangaroo Valley**.....Sat 4.30pm – 5.00pm

**PLEASE NOTE:** As part of the celebrations of the WYD08 Cross & Icon in the Parish on **Sunday 30 March**, evening Mass will be outdoors in the grounds of St John the Evangelist High School at 7.00pm. This will follow activities which will commence at 5.30pm (see WYD08 information). All Parishioners are invited to participate in the celebrations and the Mass. **There will be only one collection – all loose money will go towards assisting young parishioners go to WYD08.**

*We wish parishioners and visitors a joyful and blessed Easter.*

A Blessed Easter to all! Celebrate that some will have improved life conditions because of your generosity. Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project



Compassion. Please return your Project Compassion boxes/envelopes by next weekend if possible.

**'YOUTH MINISTRY' does not necessarily mean a Youth Group – as in previous years' or generations' understanding** – if we are lucky we might have projects and events designed to give effect to ministries such as **Advocacy, Catechesis, Evangelisation, Justice and service, Leadership and development, Prayer and worship. There could be many options.**

But before anything like this can happen we, the Parish Council, with the support of Fr Pat, need to identify interested people (**both youth and adults**) from **each** of the parish centres willing to assist in the development and implementation of a strategic plan and structure for a 'youth ministry' within our wide and diverse parish with a view to building on the outcomes of WYD08.

The Proposal for Youth Ministry Strategy and Activ8 are available on the Web site for your information. Please consider accessing the documents on the website and we would appreciate feedback. Copies are available at the Parish Office as well.

If you are interested in becoming part of this much needed and indeed exciting new Youth initiative, please call Grant Gleeson (Council Sec.) on 0411 039 941 or send an email [ggleeson@mh.com.au](mailto:ggleeson@mh.com.au) or phone the Parish office (4423 1712) or email [office@nowraparish.org.au](mailto:office@nowraparish.org.au). Following the reception of expressions of interest, a meeting of interested parishioners will be convened as soon as is practicable. At that meeting the concept of the draft strategy will be presented and explained.

**PARISH RECIPE BOOK** – It has gone to the Printers – **and looks great** – you will find some great treats to add to your list of best ever recipes. **Hopefully the book will be ready for sale when the Cross & Icon travel through the Parish 29-31 March.** Look out for your copy and don't forget to buy your family/friends a copy – a great gift and a great support for **WYD08**



**WYD08 MERCHANDISE** – will be available at all Mass Centres over the coming weeks. A wonderful opportunity to have a memento of this exciting event in the Parish, and a really great idea as a gift/memento for HomeStay families to give to their guests. **The sale of these items – crosses, rosaries etc. is a fund raiser for WYD08 for the youth of the Parish.**



**RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES**

Dear friends, through the Paschal Mystery, we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life. Now that we have completed our Lenten observance, let us renew the promises we made in Baptism when we rejected Satan and his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in His holy Catholic church.

**And so:**

**Priest:** Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God's children?

**All:** I do.

**Priest:** Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin?

**All:** I do

**Priest:** Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?

**All:** I do.

**Priest:** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

**All:** I do.

**Priest:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

**All:** I do.

**Priest:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

**All:** I do.

**The Priest concludes:** God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. May He also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.



We prayerfully remember the recently deceased. Also **Peter Garratty, Nell Wright, Desmond McDevitt and Maude Crossingham** whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May they rest in eternal peace.*

**FAMILY GROUPS** – The Culburra Family Group has invited Fr Ray Sanchez to be a guest speaker on Mon 7 April at 6.00pm at the Parish Hall. All Family Group Members and all parishioners are cordially invited to attend. The Families Groups are in need of rejuvenation. What an appropriate season for this.

**KINCOPPAL-ROSE BAY**, School of the Sacred Heart, for P-12. Prospective & interested families are invited to attend a Principal's Presentation & inform. session on Boarding at Kincoppal at St Michael's Parish Centre on Sun 6 April at 10.45am. RSVP & enquiries to Geraldine 9388 6000 or [admissions@krb.nsw.edu.au](mailto:admissions@krb.nsw.edu.au)



**JOURNEY OF THE WYD08 CROSS, ICON & MESSAGE STICK** – Hopefully all parishioners are by now familiar with the details of the Journey of the Cross and Icon to the Parish on Monday 31 March. Parishioners are especially reminded of the Sunday evening Mass at St. John's at 7.00pm. You are encouraged to participate in veneration of the Cross at the Parish Centre, St Michael's from 12 noon Monday 31<sup>st</sup>. and to assist in the carrying of the Cross & Icon down to the river at 12.50pm. The Cross, Icon and Message stick will be carried across the Bridge at 1.20.p.m. and then handed to local Indigenous representatives who will process to the site of Bomaderry Homes off Beinda St. **This will be a very special and moving event in the Parish – an event not to be missed.**

**LAST MEETING AT ST JOSEPH'S KANGAROO VALLEY** for the Journey of the Cross, Icon & Message Stick on Tues 25 March at 5.00pm. This is the last chance to make sure everything is ready!!!!!!!!!!!!



132 849.

**LIGHT OF THE CROSS FESTIVAL** – 4 April - tickets are selling fast. ARIA Award winner **Damien Leith** is a special guest - heaps of performers. Please book your \$10 tickets by ringing Ticketek

**JOURNEY TO THE HEART LENTEN PROGRAM AND COMMEMORATION OF THE PASCHAL MEAL.** Many thanks once again to all those wonderful people who helped to make our Lenten Program and Paschal Meal a resounding success. About 26 groups throughout St Michael's Parish joined the Lenten Program – a beautiful program produced by the W'gong Diocese. Our sincere congratulations to those who produced the program – long may they continue! The generous people who came to help set up the Parish Hall last Sunday certainly made life much easier for the co-ordinators! Our heartfelt appreciation and thanks.



**EVERYONE DESERVES A HAPPY CHILDHOOD** – Centacare will be holding information sessions for people considering becoming a foster carer - at W'gong on 7 April from 6.45pm. RSVP 3 April to Tammy McKee 4227 1122

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – 30 March** – Parishioners are invited to a Liturgy at SS Peter & Paul's Church, Kiama at 2.00pm – 3.30pm. Refreshments follow the celebration. For information contact Joan 4232 2414 or Ann 4234 2704

**INTEGRATING Faith@Work** is a special course designed to help Christians in the workplace develop a healthy biblical framework for taking God into the marketplace and discovering his purpose in your daily life. Next workshop Sat 19 April 9am – 4pm at Servants of Jesus Community, Seven Hills. For inform. contact 8901 0690 or 0412 766 917