

## Gospel Acclamation

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

## Gospel

14:15-21

*From the holy Gospel according to John*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

## Prayer for Vocations

Dear Jesus, help our families to imitate the love and unity of the Holy Family. Help us to use our gifts for service to each other, and strengthen our faith so that we may be witnesses of the Gospel. Instill in parents a desire to offer a child to priesthood or religious life, and grant our children a desire to serve the Church. May young men become loving priests, husbands or fathers, and young women find joy in religious life or as wives and mothers. Help all of us, through our vocations, to grow in holiness and be worthy of eternal life with you. We ask this through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and Mother of Vocations.

Amen.

## Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSA

**W**e live in hope because we have been blessed with the opportunity of participating in the exaltation of Jesus. This hope is based on promises: the promise that we will not be left orphaned when Jesus returns to his Father; the promise that we will be comforted by the Spirit whom Jesus will send. It is trust in God that enables us to live in this world as if the promises have already been fulfilled, for in fact, it is precisely such living that fulfils them.

We have not celebrated the Ascension, and yet all three readings speak of the Spirit. The same Spirit, who quickened the resurrected life of Jesus, enlivens us. This Spirit strengthens, comforts, guides and inspires us. Life in the Spirit requires that we conform our lives to the commandments of God, not in a legalistic or constraining way but out of love. The love that comes to us through the Spirit will then overflow into the lives of others, and we will be agents of God's love in the world.

The Spirit given by Christ is mediated through the laying on of hands. This still happens in our day in the gentle touch of friends, in the loving touch of parents, in the healing touch of those who cure both the body and the spirit. The liturgical year is preparing us for the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, and Jesus is preparing us for life in the Spirit here on earth. This is the reason for our hope.

# 78

sleeps to go

Visit [wyd08woll.org](http://wyd08woll.org) or  
[woll.catholic.org.au](http://woll.catholic.org.au)



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# Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

[nowraparish.org.au](http://nowraparish.org.au)

Sixth Sunday (Year A) ~ Season of Easter

27 April 2008



## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 65

**R/** Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth, O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise. Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! (R.)
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow; shall sing to you, sing to your name!' Come and see the works of God, tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)
3. He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod. Let our joy then be in him; he rules for ever by his might. (R.)
4. Come and hear, all who fear God. I will tell what he did for my soul: Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me. (R.)

## First Reading

8:5-8; 14-17

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

**The word of the Lord.**

## Second Reading

3:15-18

*A reading from the first letter of St Peter*

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

**The word of the Lord.**



**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.

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter [Year A]

27 April 2008

### Sunday Masses:

**NOWRA** .....6pm Vigil; 8am, 9.30am & 6pm  
**BERRY**..... 8.00am  
**BOMADERRY**..... 9.30am  
**CULBURRA**.....6pm Vigil  
**VINCENTIA**..... 6pm Vigil, & 9.30am  
**KANGAROO VALLEY**..... 11.00am

### MASSES DURING THE WEEK

**Nowra:** Mon 7.00am, 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

**Bomaderry:** First Friday only 5.45pm – **next Friday**

**Vincentia:** Mon, Thur, Fri 8.00am, Tues /Wed 5.30pm

**S'haven Heads;** Friday 3.30pm (Community Centre)

**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 5.00pm – 5.30pm

**NOWRA CWL** extends an invitation to mothers and grandmothers of the Parish to a Mothers' Day a/noon tea on Sat 3 May at 2pm in the Parish Centre. **RSVP** (for catering purposes) by 27 April 2008 to Marie 4448 5347 or Judy 4421 8565



**BAY & BASIN CWL** invite parishioners to a reflection day led by Sr Bridie on 7 May at Berry Church Hall commencing 9.30am for morning tea.



We prayerfully remember **Shane Williams** (Nowra), **Peter Hamilton** (Sussex Inlet /Chesalon N.H.), **Tish Grimes** (K/valley).

Also **George Rouen** whose anniversary occurs at this time. *May they rest in eternal peace.*

**THE NEXT YOUNG ADULTS** meeting will be Mon 28 April at 8pm – a JCI Experience sharing night – so bring along your photos, video footage, stories & memories of the Journey through the Parish.



**TURNING CONCERN INTO ACTION – AROUND OUR COMMUNITY, AROUND THE WORLD** We need your prayers, your hands and heart! We are seeking new members – people who are looking for the

opportunity to put their faith into action. Currently we do 40-50 home visits per week.

**INFORMATION MEETING** Tues 29 April at 7pm in the Parish Centre. All are welcome. Come and find out more about the St Vincent De Paul Society. For information contact Pat 4421 2767 or Anne 4422 1395.

**ATTENTION ALL MEN!!** –of whatever status or denomination. You are invited to hear guest speaker **Maurice Williams (a deacon from UK.)** On **PRAYER FOR MEN**, this Mon 28 April – a breakfast session at 7.30am in the Parish Centre. Breakfast/refreshments provided. Gold coin donation appreciated. Enq. Kim (Diocesan Parish Services Team) 4253 0985 or [kim.mannix@wooll.catholic.org.au](mailto:kim.mannix@wooll.catholic.org.au). There is a form at Nowra/Bomaderry & Berry to indicate your interest. All regions welcome.



**TAIZE FOR PENTECOST** – will be held at Sacred Heart Church, Bomaderry on Friday 9 May at 7.30pm. **Invite a friend!** All welcome.

**1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY MARIAN DEVOTIONS – Sat 3 May** at Nowra. Reconciliation 8.30am prior to Mass at 9.00am. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Rosary and Benediction at 9.30am. Morning tea follows.

**THE PARISH RECIPE BOOK** – containing many delicious recipes by many Parishioners is on sale this w/end for **\$6.00** at all Mass Centres or at the Parish Office. Please purchase a copy to support fundraising to assist young parishioners to attend WYD08 in Sydney.

**There are a couple of corrections to the recipe book – as follows** Page 45 – Lemon cake – add **1 cup of sugar** to ingredients Page 57 – S/berry Cream butterfly cakes – amount of butter should read **60g**.

**YOUTH MINISTRY:** An augural meeting will be called in May to discuss what form of 'Youth Ministry' might take place in the Parish – so **please consider** participating in the initial meeting to give the optimum result in the long term. The Parish Web site has the proposal and Activ8 or get a copy from the Parish office – an opportunity for all generations to look at the options – contact Grant Gleeson on 0411 039 941 or send an email [ggleeson@mh.com.au](mailto:ggleeson@mh.com.au) or contact Robbie at the Parish Office. **Don't hold back** – attending the first meeting does not mean a firm commitment to anything – **SO COME ALONG AND SUPPORT THIS VENTURE!**

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR 2008:**  
**Missions' Annual Appeal** - Sunday 1 June  
**Confirmation** – Sunday 22 June  
**1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion** – w/end of 25/26 October



**DIOCESAN MASS TO CELEBRATE WYD08** (during the Days in the Diocese) – A youth focused liturgy **open to all parishioners** to be held at W'gong Entertainment Centre on Sat 12 July at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass), preceded by 30

minutes of music and youth choir. We are hoping to organise a bus, leaving from St Michael's Nowra – **there will be forms at all Mass Centres** – please complete the form to express your interest in attending.

- The form will also allow for you to indicate your interest in attending the **Pope's Mass on 20 July** by bus. You will still have to register to attend the Mass.

**JOURNEY OF THE CROSS & ICON** – photos of the journey throughout the Diocese can be viewed on the Diocesan WYD website – [www.wyd08wooll.org](http://www.wyd08wooll.org) (click on the JCI photo gallery banner on the homepage).

**JOURNEY OF THE CROSS & ICON recording the journey.** If you would like to record your reflections on the Journey in the Parish – to be possibly included in the next edition of the Diocesan Newsletter – please forward them to the Parish Office.