



Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSA

A ruling theme for this Sunday is the call from God. We can look at it as an ongoing reality rather than a once for all event, or even a 'born again' experience. This is a call to new faith and constant conversion. Baptism may be the one defining call for the Christian, but as our lives unfold we discover that we are invited again and again to commit ourselves anew to the gospel and to discipleship. The call itself is a call to faith and conversion. It is a call to turn our lives around and to open them to God's refreshing grace. It is a call from a life of selfishness to one of generous giving to others. It is a call from unbelief to faith. At each juncture of life, the call may make a distinctive demand.

Some mistakenly believe that only those are called who seem deserving of the call. Today's readings should disabuse us of this misconception. The call to discipleship is offered to sinners, to those who appear to be unacceptable, to tax collectors and prostitutes, to those outside of the circle of respectability. Only such people realise how gracious God is in bringing them into the circle of acceptability. The call to discipleship is offered to those who are sick and impoverished. Only they realise how desperately they need God's grace. When such people do accomplish great things, they know that everything was achieved by the power of God working through them.

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Gospel thoughts

by Gregory Sunter

Who you ate with in the time of Jesus was as much a political act as it was a social one. To eat with a person of much lesser status than yourself was to effectively 'lower' yourself to their status. In today's gospel, Jesus is joined at table by a number of tax collectors and 'sinners'. The Pharisees are scandalised by the actions of Jesus and challenge the disciples about it. For the Pharisees, such people were 'unclean'. To share food with an unclean person was to become unclean yourself because sharing food often involved using common plates and bowls.

Interestingly, Matthew, whom Jesus calls to follow him, is never identified as a tax collector in this passage. He is just a man sitting by the customs house. However, he is often referred to as a tax collector. It is a logical connection with the customs house, but it is not specified in the text. Tax collectors were treated with mistrust and disdain by other Jews. They were seen as collaborators with the Roman occupying forces. The taxes they collected were imposed by the Romans and effectively were used to pay for the upkeep of the Roman army in Palestine.

Reflection Questions

Q. What are the social codes at play in this incident?

Q. Why do the Pharisees challenge the disciples rather than directly challenge Jesus?

Q. How might the Pharisees have reacted to being told to 'go and learn the meaning' of a scripture quote?

Q. What evidence in the text supports the case that the gospel writer was not against the Jewish tradition?

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sleeps to go

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Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

Tenth Sunday (Year A) ~ Season of the Year

8 June 2008

First Reading

6:3-6

A reading from the prophet Hosea

Let us set ourselves to know the Lord; that he will come is as certain as the dawn, his judgement will rise like the light, he will come to us as showers come, like spring rains watering the earth. What am I to do with you, Ephraim? What am I to do with you, Judah?

This love of yours is like a morning cloud, like the dew that quickly disappears.

This is why I have torn them to pieces by the prophets, why I slaughtered them with the words from my mouth, since what I want is love, not sacrifice; knowledge of God, not holocausts.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 49

R/ To the upright I will show
the saving power of God.

1. The God of gods, the Lord, has spoken and summoned the earth, from the rising of the sun to its setting. 'I find no fault with your sacrifices, your offerings are always before me. (R.)

2. 'Were I hungry, I would not tell you, for I own the world and all it holds. Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats? (R.)

3. 'Pay your sacrifice of thanksgiving to God and render him your votive offerings. Call on me in the day of distress. I will free you and you shall honour me.' (R.)

Second Reading

4:18-25

From the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Though it seemed Abraham's hope could not be fulfilled, he hoped and he believed, and through doing so he did become the father of many nations exactly as he had been promised:

Your descendants will be as many as the stars. Even the thought that his body was past fatherhood – he was about a hundred years old – and Sarah too old to become a mother, did not shake his belief. Since God had promised it, Abraham refused either to deny it or even to doubt it, but drew strength from faith and gave glory to God, convinced that God had power to do what he had promised. This is the faith that was 'considered as justifying him'. Scripture however does not refer only to him but to us as well when it says that his faith was thus 'considered'; our faith too will be 'considered' if we believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, Jesus who was put to death for our sins and raised to life to justify us.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

Gospel

9:9-13

The holy Gospel according to Matthew

As Jesus was walking on he saw a man named Matthew sitting by the customs house, and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

While he was at dinner in the house it happened that a number of tax collectors and sinners came to sit at the table with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your master eat with tax collectors and sinners?'

When he heard this he replied, 'It is not the healthy who need the doctor, but the sick. Go and learn the meaning of the words: What I want is mercy, not sacrifice. And indeed I did not come to call the virtuous, but sinners.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



St Michael's Parish, Nowra – Tel: 4423 1712 E-mail: office@nowraparish.org.au

Website: 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.

10th Sunday in Ord Time (A)

8 June 2008

SUNDAY Masses:

NOWRA6pm 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 8.00am (Public Holiday), Tues 8.15am
 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 (6 June) 5.45pm
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 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: 1st Fri. 5.15pm; **K'Valley:** Sat 4.30 – 5.00pm
Vincentia: Sat 5.00pm – 5.30pm

CWL NOWRA – 1st Birthday – AGM meeting on Tues 10 June. Members are invited to attend 8.15am Mass followed by morning tea with Parishioners at the Church. The meeting will then convene in the Parish Centre. **Please bring a plate of finger food to share for lunch after the meeting.**



We prayerfully remember **Peter Duffy** (Nowra), **Paul Stewart (Jnr)** (B'derry); also **Diane Gray-Wellington** and **Joe Aquilina** whose anniversaries occur.. *May they rest in eternal peace.*

CATECHISTS NEWS. Thankyou very much for the response for 3 Catechists – but we still need one for 2/3/4 at Cambewarra. If you can help please ring Lyn 4423 1009

ST MICHAEL'S P & F Trivia Night is on Sat 28 June from 7.00pm in the Parish Hall – cost will be \$15 per person (tables of 10) which includes nibbles throughout the night and tea & coffee. Please RSVP by 18 June – send money and names into the School office.

BUSES TO WOLLONGONG AND SYDNEY FOR WYD

Parishioners had earlier been asked to express an interest in attending the Mass at W'gong Sat 12 July 6.00pm or the Papal Mass in Sydney on Sun 20 leaving 5.00am. We are now asking that you **confirm** your intention to travel by bus to these events. The cost of the bus to **W'gong** will be \$10pp or \$15 per family (2 or more) and to **Sydney** \$20pp or \$30 per family (2 or more) – please place the money in an envelope – write your name and number going on the envelope and place in the collection bags at Mass next weekend – or hand it in at the Parish office during the week.

AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA – wonderful results by **Vonnie Muller** who with her helpers raised \$2,521.20 and the community of **Holy Spirit Vincentia** who raised \$386 for Cancer Research. A very big thankyou to all those who supported the events and made donations.

MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS 2008. If you are celebrating 25,40,50 or 60 years of marriage this year and would like an invitation to the Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Peter at the Cathedral on Sun 10 August please contact Helen and an invitation will be sent to you – 4253 0934 or email helen.bennett@woll.catholic.org.au

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES – the next set of envelopes will be available at all centres for you to collect on the weekend of 14/15 June.

CROSSROADS – next meeting Fri 13 June, led by St George's Basin Baptist Church at the Nowra Baptist Church on Old Southern Rd, South Nowra – from 7.00pm.

HOLY SPIRIT FUNDRAISING event for the proposed hall will be held on Sun 15 June at 12 noon – soup and slice luncheon. Cost \$5 plus a raffle. Please rsvp Michael 4443 7732 or Julie 4443 0848 for catering purposes.

'COME & SEE' Spirituality Program – you are invited to spend a day of prayer & reflection at Jamberoo Abbey on Sat 21 June – theme for the day is "Silence is a Challenge" with input by one of the Abbey sisters. Meet at 9am at St Michael's Church to car pool. Bring a lunch to share. Register by phoning Moira 4423 6077 or Liz 4422 1279.

Pilgrims to WYD are invited to JAMBEROO BENEDICTINE ABBEY on Sun 15 June from 10am to 4pm – lunch, morning & a/noon tea provided. RSVP by Mon 9 June to youth@dow.org.au or **4253 0809**.

"EVERYTHING AUSSIE" - Sat 12 July at 12pm - stalls, entertainment, food and good things for the visiting overseas pilgrims and parishioners to sample and enjoy – followed by sporting competitions. The day **concludes with WYD Commissioning Vigil Mass, 6pm at WIN Entertainment Centre** – a youth focussed liturgy **open to all parishioners** preceded by 30 minutes of music and youth choir.

WILL YOU BE ATTENDING THE MASS BUT NOT GOING BY COACH? – please call Robbie on 4423 1712 as we need to book a number for seating for Nowra.



Register Now!

We now have 90 registrations for WYD!
IF YOU STILL WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE of the Parish's offer to subsidise your cost of attending WYD08 we **are now able to extend our cut off date to Wed 11 June** - you need to register as part of St Michael's / St John's group **and you need to ask for sponsorship.** Just send an email with your details to wyd08@nowraparish.org.au. If you are currently living in the Parish you will be subsidised by \$180 for the week and \$90 for the weekend. Visit egeria.wyd2008.org
 For package B (week, own accom) join group **6247**.
 For package C (weekend only) join group **6254**.

Holy Hour of Power for all WYD Pilgrims – Wed 18 June, 7pm in St Michael's Church.

RETREAT DAY FOR CARERS – Centacare is conducting a retreat day for people who are carers for a person who is aging or who has a disability – a time out for prayer, reflection and spirituality - at The Old Courthouse, W'gong on 18 June between 10am and 2.30pm. For info re. organising respite care please phone Jacinta 4228 9059 or Carmen 4254 9331

PRAYER EVENING AT ST MICHAEL'S for Confirmation Candidates and Parents: Wed 11 at 7pm