

The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**The word of the Lord.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Mt 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!

## Gospel

16:13-19

### *The holy Gospel according to Matthew*

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

## Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSA

**P**eter is associated with the community in Jerusalem and Paul with the Gentile converts. Together they represent the universality of the church. The red vestments worn today remind us of the price their commitment exacted of them.

The followers of Christ come from every race and culture, every generation and social class. It is not a common culture that draws them together, but a common faith. The church has been strengthened by the blood of the martyrs. This was the case in its earliest years, and it is the case today. Both Peter and Paul are examples of how God takes those weak in faith and transforms them into champions of the gospel. Once transformed, each man threw himself wholeheartedly into the mission that was his. Their fate should not surprise us, for they were disciples of one who gave his last breath for the life of the world.

In so many places in the world today modern martyrs pay the ultimate price for their faith. We see this in Latin America, in many African countries, in the Middle East, and in Asia, to name but a few areas. Although the word martyr usually refers to one who dies for the faith, the Greek word (*mártys*) really means witness, one who gives testimony. Like Peter and Paul, the martyr is one whose life gives witness to the faith. However, when this witness is too much of a challenge, the witness' life is placed in jeopardy. Peter and Paul call us all to this kind of testimony to faith.

# Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

Saints Peter and Paul ~ Apostles

29 June 2008



## First Reading

12:1-11

### *A reading from the Acts of Apostles*

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly.

On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. 'Get up!' he said 'Hurry!' – and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, 'Put on your belt and sandals.' After he had done this, the angel next said, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in

reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. 'Now I know it is all true,' he said. 'The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me.'

**The word of the Lord.**

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33

**R/** The Lord set me free from all my fears.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)
2. Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name. I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free.
3. Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed. This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued his from all his distress.
4. The angel of the Lord is encamped around those who revere him, to rescue them. Taste and see that the Lord is good. He is happy who seeks refuge in him. (R.)

## Second Reading

4:6-8,17-18

### *The second letter of St Paul to Timothy*

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

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# 15

days to go

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**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 Feast of Ss Peter and Paul (A)

29 June 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 – 4 July  
**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:** 1<sup>st</sup> Fri. 5.15pm. **K'Valley:** Sat 4.30 – 5.00pm  
**Vincentia:** Sat 5.00pm – 5.30pm

**SACRED HEART BOMADERRY** – the new roster is available this weekend at the Church – please remember if you are not available on your rostered time to ring someone else to take your place.



We prayerfully remember **Mgr. John Purcell, Frank Robinson, Eileen Trevillion Maisie Stallworthy, and Myrtle Austin** whose anniversaries occur. *May they rest in eternal peace.*

**PARISH DISABILITY CONNECTIONS** – Volunteers and families who have members with special needs are invited to a lunchtime meeting on Tues 1 July – anytime between 12noon and 1.30pm to discuss World Youth Day. Lunch is provided at the Parish Centre.

**PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES** – please collect your new set of envelopes to save having to post or deliver them (a costly process). Receipts will be available at all Mass Centres from mid July. Receipts will not be posted out systematically.

**CONFIRMATION;** We congratulate the 108 young parishioners from all regions of the parish who were confirmed last Sunday. A special thank you to all the teachers and Catechists who were directly involved with preparing the young people. We are also most grateful to all who provided music and song for both Masses; and those who worked so hard to transform the Hall into a fitting place of worship for such an important occasion.



**HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH VINCENTIA** is holding their annual Spring Fair and are currently looking for sponsors to be included on the flyer. 10,000 flyers are distributed in the Bay & Basin area with monies raised going to our proposed hall. Cost is \$60 – contact Michael 4443 7732.

**MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS 2008.** If you are celebrating 25,40,50 or 60 years of marriage and would like an invitation to the Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Peter at the Cathedral on Sun 10 August, we encourage you to please contact Helen – 4253 0934 or email [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au)

**1<sup>ST</sup> SAT DEVOTIONS – 5 July.** Reconciliation 8.30am; Mass at 9.00am. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Rosary and Benediction at 9.30am. Morning tea in the Parish Centre after devotions. **All Welcome.**

**CATECHISTS' INFORMATION** – Level 2 course Aug 11,18 & 25 from 9.30am – 2.00pm in the Parish Centre. It has been proposed that we have an evaluation meeting of new curriculum (2.30 – 3.30pm) and a lesson planning workshop (3.30 – 4.30pm). Please advise Lyn if you will be attending the workshops.

**THE MALTESE COMMUNITY** of the Illawarra is inviting parishioners to meet the new Archbishop of Malta (who will be visiting Aust. for WYD) on Thurs 24 July at 4.00pm at the George Cross Falcons Club, 25 Lake Ave., Cringila.

**CONGRATULATIONS on your support of the recent Mission Appeal** throughout the Parish – the total given and pledged was \$20,500. Thank you very much for your very generous contributions

**“EVERYTHING AUSSIE”** - As a Diocese let us celebrate and entertain our overseas pilgrims - Sat 12 July at 12.30pm – 30 Parish stalls, entertainment, food and good things for the visiting overseas pilgrims and by local and international artists. An amazing line-up of talent. Sporting competition to follow leading into the **WYD Commissioning Vigil Mass, 6pm at WIN Entertainment Centre** – a youth focussed Liturgy **open to all parishioners** preceded by 30 minutes of music and 80-piece youth choir. **NUMBERS FOR SEATING AT THE MASS WILL BE CLOSED Tue 1 July. Bookings for seats on the Bus to the W'gong Mass have closed.** If you don't advise the Parish Office by Monday that you intend driving up and attending the Mass you won't be allocated seating. **Please note:** if you did not forward payment for a seat on the Bus to Wollongong you have not been allocated a seat. (Check the list)

### CROSS & ICON 15 DAY WALKING PILGRIMAGE.

Come and join in the 15 day walking pilgrimage into Sydney from our Diocese. The proposed schedule is **Tues 1 July 9.00-9.30am** St Francis Xavier's Cathedral staying overnight at Ruse. **Wed 2 July 9.30am starts** from St Thomas More Parish, Ruse – overnight stay at St Mary Mother of God Church, Leppington.

**JOURNEY - THE DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER** – is available this weekend. This special 24-page edition contains beautiful colour photos and the whole story of the Journey of the Cross & Icon as related by Bishop Ingham. Lots of other features to look at! **FREE!**

**THE DIOCESAN RESOURCE CENTRE** will be closed from Mon 7 to Fri 11 July and Monday 21 July due to staff commitments with World Youth Day.

**Prayer night at St John's Chapel listed for Mon 30 June has been postponed. Watch this space.**

**ENGAGED ENCOUNTER** is a program provided for couples planning marriage, to deepen insights into each other and into married life – to be held on the weekends of Aug 23/24, Oct 18/19 and Dec 6/7. For info visit [www.engagedencounter.org.au](http://www.engagedencounter.org.au) or call 9990 3212. **Pastoral Council Meeting Sunday next July 6<sup>th</sup>. 7.15p.m.**