



**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.

**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year (A)**

**3 August 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 5.45pm –  
**Vincentia** Mon,/Thurs /Fri. 8.a.m. Tues/Wed 5.30pm  
**S'haven Heads** Fri 3.30pm  
**Kangaroo Valley:** Mon/Tues/Thurs/Sat 8.00am;  
Wed 6.15am. 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



We prayerfully remember: **Paul Stone who died this week**; also **Shirley Rigney, Gino Bocci, Maurie Witts** whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May they rest in eternal peace.*

**YOUNG ADULTS EVENING:** Monday 4 August at the Parish Centre, 8.00pm – You are cordially invited to an evening recalling and reflecting on the WYD and the Papal visit with a slide-show, followed by Supper.

**THE FEAST OF ST MICHAEL - Our Parish Patron.**

The Parish Dinner in conjunction with the Feast will be held this year at Worrigea House on Saturday 27 Sept. Tickets and more detailed information will be available in the weeks ahead.

**TALK – FOSTERING A CULTURE OF LIFE –** Friday 15 August at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Paul Hanrahan and Gail Instance from Human Life International in Sydney will be guest speakers.



Before leaving for vacation on Sunday Pope Benedict described his trip to Australia for World Youth Day as an “extraordinary experience.” “I still have this extraordinary occasion,” he said, “in which I experienced the youthful face of the Church, in my mind and in my heart. It was like a multicolored mosaic, formed by young men and women from every part of the globe, all gathered together in the one faith in Jesus Christ. People called them ‘Young pilgrims of the world;’ a beautiful expression that catches the essence of these international days that John Paul II began... Typical of the Sydney meeting was realising the central place of the Holy Spirit, in the life of the Church and of Christians.” The Pope also thanked Australia's bishops, especially Cardinal George Pell, Archbishop of Sydney, for their work, as well as Australia's Governments and authorities for their support, and all those around the world who prayed for the event.

**PRIESTHOOD ENQUIRY WEEKEND.** Has the Lord stirred your heart to do something more with your life? Come along to a special weekend for young men who are asking serious questions about their life and vocation. If you are considering the priesthood, then this weekend is for you. Workers and students and a whole range of ages and backgrounds are invited. 8-10 August, Gerringong. The weekend will be conducted by the Diocesan Vocations Team. Cost? \$30 (Let us know if this is a problem.) To book for the weekend contact: Fr Mark O'Keefe 4271 1068 or Fr Richard Healey 0401 621 591.

**CATECHIST INFORMATION –**

- **Urgent:** we need a Catechist on Thursdays 1.50-2.25pm at Cambewarra for Years 2/3. Call Lyn on 4423 1009.
- Level 2 course Aug 11, 18 & 25 from 9.30am – 2.00pm in the Parish Centre. We will have an evaluation meeting of new curriculum (2.30 – 3.30pm) and a lesson planning workshop (3.30 – 4.30pm) on 11 August.

**St Michael's Youth – Come and share the excitement of World Youth Day.** A new youth group for teenagers (13-19) will kick-off on Friday 8 August from 7pm-9pm in the Parish Centre (then each 2nd Friday of the month).  
A time for fun, games, music, sharing and prayer.  
BYO munchies to share.

**WYD REUNION: PICS AND FLICKS** - Take part in this photo and film competition to celebrate World Youth Day 2008, on Friday, 19 September 6.00pm to 9.30pm at the McKinnon Theatre, University of Wollongong. Submit your seven minute film or photograph by 29 August. Competition and details are found at [youth.dow.org.au](http://youth.dow.org.au)

**The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady to St Bernadette at Lourdes 1858-2008.**



To enable us to reflect on the impact of this event in Marian devotion St Patrick's Community will screen a DVD on Lourdes following the Vigil Mass at Berry for the Feast of the Assumption on Thursday 14 August. The Mass will be at 6.30pm followed by a brief supper and then the DVD which runs for about 35 minutes. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

**Feastdays during this week...**

Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> Mon St John Vianney  
Tues 5<sup>th</sup> St Dominic  
Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> The Transfiguration  
Fri. 8<sup>th</sup> Blessed Mary Mackillop

**PARENTING COURSES – CENTACARE**

- **Rollercoasters** – a 7 week program to assist children who are experiencing parental separation, divorce, or parents who have re-partnered. Available to children aged 4 – 12. On Monday a/noons: Aug 4,11,18,25 & Sept 15, 22 from 4 – 5pm. Course Fee \$35 – bookings 4421 8248.



## Biblical Overview

by Greg Sunter

**T**oday's gospel gives us another heart-wrenching experience for Jesus. The last time we encountered Jesus in a distraught moment was the Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time when he was 'moved with pity' (*splagchnizomai*). His followers were in need of direction. He immediately commissioned his disciples to exorcise demons, cure every disease and every illness (Matthew 9:36 – 10:8).

Today we hear that Jesus took pity on his followers who needed to be fed. He did not pray for them and leave them. No. He sent the disciples to be hunters and gatherers and bring back what they found. Five loaves and two fishes were the best they could do for the five thousand men and who knows how many women and children. It would seem that the same 'moved with pity' mentioned above came over Jesus and he did something about it. He looked to heaven. He blessed the food. He gave it to his disciples to feed the hungry. No one went away still hungry.

It is important to remember that this miracle occurred after Jesus had learned of the decapitation of John the Baptist. Jesus travelled 'to a lonely place where they could be by themselves'. Perhaps Jesus wanted to be alone to grieve and lament privately over this personal loss. It is no stretch of one's imagination that Jesus experienced *splagchnizomai*. The word connotes gut wrenching, heart stopping, deep innards. Perhaps by the rawness of this pathos, Jesus was so moved to feed his hungry friends ... and with great extravagance.

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### St Michael's Parish Staff

Fr Patrick Faherty, *Parish Priest* 4423 1712  
 Fr Richard Healey, *Assistant Priest* 4423 1712  
 Fr Leo Duck, *Resident in Vincentia* 4441 5571  
 Fr Ronan Kilgannon, *Resident in Kangaroo Valley*  
 Mrs Robbie Forsythe, *Secretary* 4423 1712  
 Sr Margaret Prendergast sgs 4421 2260  
 Sr Patricia Lawless sgs 4421 2260  
 Sr Val Green rsc 4441 7035  
 Mrs Lyn West, *Catechist Coordinator* 4423 1009

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## Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSA

**J**esus nourishes us. In a world that is fraught with meaninglessness, he offers purpose; to a world that is stumbling in darkness and confusion, he provides direction. He satisfies the hungry heart; he enlivens the drooping spirit. Those who follow Jesus will never be left to languish in the desert. If we but open our eyes, we will be amazed at the bountifulness of the nourishment that is provided for us. We will discover that God is magnanimous, even prodigal in giving, that God's generosity exceeds all of our expectations and also our understanding.

Furthermore, we are nourished by God through the ministry of each other, through the simple things of life, (distributing bread and gathering up the fragments): visiting the sick and consoling the grieving; caring for a child and giving aid to an elder; bagging groceries and directing a choir. If we but open our eyes, we will be astounded at how ordinary actions can satisfy our hunger and the hunger of others.

Most amazing of all is that this nourishment is given freely; there was no thought of requiring payment. God simply invites: Come! All we have to do is reach out our hands to receive and we will never be sent away to find nourishment for ourselves. We will discover that a bond is established that endures. Jesus is filled with compassion, a compassion that is not a fleeting emotion, but an enduring attitude. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

# Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

18th Sunday (Year A) ~ in the season of the year

3 August 2008

## First Reading

55:1-3

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

### The word of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144

**R/** The hand of the Lord feeds us:  
 he answers all our needs.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live. (R.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, call on him from their hearts. (R.)

## Second Reading

8:35-39

### A reading from St Paul to the Romans

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing

still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### The word of the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia!

## Gospel

14:13-21

### The holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

### The Gospel of the Lord.