

# Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

19th Sunday (Year A) ~ in the season of the year

10 August 2008

'I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

## The Gospel of the Lord.

### Gospel thoughts

by Fr Richard Leonard SJ

**A** conservative Protestant Church in a sleepy fishing village had to find a new minister. Over the protests of Jimmy, the senior Elder, a woman was hired as the new Pastor.

After the Reverend Gayle had been there a few weeks, Tom, a member of the congregation, offered to take her out fishing. Jimmy reluctantly agreed to allow them to use his boat for the day's outing, but insisted that he lead the expedition.

The trio got into the boat and motored out on the lake. When they got ready to fish, they realised that all their tackle had been left on the dock. Tom concluded that they would just have to go back and get it. Reverend Gayle said that wouldn't be necessary, and she got out of the boat and started walking across the water toward the dock.

Jimmy, who refused to be impressed by Gayle's miraculous abilities observed, 'See I told you we never should have hired that woman. She can't even swim.'

Jesus, the Son of God and Lord of creation, remains faithful to the disciples, no matter how treacherous the seas or how great their fear. He has come to them so that they may be saved and recreated as the Church who recognises that he is the fulfilment of creation, the one whom Israel has been longing to see and embrace.

We are inheritors of Matthew's faith. We're here because we believe that Jesus is the Son of God who has saved us from ourselves and from destruction. But it also means that in every storm that threatens our lifeboat Jesus comes to call us to faith, to catch us when we think we're drowning,

to accompany us back to safety and to bring calm to the troubled seas of our life. Aren't we lucky Jesus never learnt to swim?

## Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSA

**A**lthough divine power is manifested in dramatic ways, it is also present in what is unassuming. Traces of God can be seen in the delicacy of a violet, in a cool summer breeze, in the blush of innocence, in the fiery eyes of justice. Every one of us lives in the midst of God, breathes the breath of God's life, and is constantly touched by the exquisite artistry of God's creativity. Life itself is a mountain experience of God.

As wonderful as life may be, it can also be very frightening at times. There are misunderstandings and rancour, jealousy and vindictiveness, greed and a hunger for power. Our personal lives can come unravelled and we can feel that we are genuinely 'at sea'. Every human being is tossed about by the exigencies of life. It is at times like these that we need faith in Jesus. Even though we do not recognise him, he is there in the midst of our chaos. Having the power of God, he is the definitive champion of all chaos, and so he is able to allay our fears and calm the sea.

A true experience of God, whether it be within the ordinariness of life or one of life's tribulations, is both transformative and effusive. It is a reality that cannot be contained; it must be proclaimed. Disciples must be ready to do what they can in order that the good news of God's revelation be made known to others.

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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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## First Reading

19:9-13

### *A reading from the first book of Kings*

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

### The word of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84

**R/** Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

## Second Reading

9:1-5

### *A reading from St Paul to the Romans*

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and



be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

### The word of the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation

Ps 129.5

Alleluia, alleluia! I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word. Alleluia!

## Gospel

14:13-21

### *The holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is



**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.

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

**10<sup>th</sup> 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 THIS WEEK: The Assumption: Holyday of obligation – Vigil Masses Thursday**



Culburra: 5.30pm Berry: 6.30 pm  
Vincentia: 7.00.p.m  
**Friday August 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Nowra: 7.00am, 11.30 & 6.00pm  
K. Valley : 8.00.a.m.  
S'haven Heads 3.30pm  
Vincentia: 8.00.a.m.

**Nowra:** Mon 7.00am, Tues/Wed/Thurs 8.15am,  
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..

**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

**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.



We prayerfully remember: **Bernard Fogarty and Patricia Poke who died this week;** also **Dolores & Joseph Gravino, Marija & Edward**

**Alamango, Jessie & Tony Alamango, John & Laurie McBeath, Don Shears, Lillian Maguire and Freda Campbell** whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May they rest in eternal peace.*



**CAN YOU GIVE 3 HOURS??** The St Vincent de Paul Society will conduct its annual S/haven Doorknock Appeal from Aug 23 – 31 to raise funds for its vital work with local people in crisis. They need many people willing to give 3 hours

– the main collections will take place on the w/end of Aug 23/24. If you can assist please phone Margaret Perkins on 4423 2029 or fill in the form at the Church door.

**TALK – FOSTERING A CULTURE OF LIFE – a call by the late Pope John Paul 11.** Friday 15 August at 7pm in the Parish Hall, Nowra. Paul Hanrahan and Gail Instance from Human Life International in Sydney will be guest speakers.

**A message of thanks from Pope Benedict** ...*“Aware of the commitment made by so and groups ask you to thank behalf, the communities host families welcomed pilgrims into their homes. May the Lord bless them all for their kindness and goodness!”*



**THANK YOU FROM BISHOP PETER INGHAM** ...I wish to express by deep gratitude to each person who helped make WYD08 such a wonderful time of grace in our Diocese and beyond. I have been overwhelmed by the response and it gives me great joy and pride to have been part of our diocesan family during this time of renewal in our Church.

**CATECHIST INFORMATION –**

- **Urgent:** we need a Catechist for **Nowra Primary** on Wednesdays 11.30 – 12.30 for Years 5/6. Call Lyn on 4423 1009.
- **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Parent information Night for Parents only – **Nowra** Wed 20 Aug 7.30pm in the Hall – **Vincentia** – Fri 22 Aug 7.30pm in the hall.

**2009 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS** – St John's High School – planning begins on Tues 19 Aug at 6.30pm in the Common Room. All are welcome to attend. For information contact Jo Geer 4423 1666

**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. **Please bring a plate** of finger food to share.

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NOWRA** – next meeting Tues 12 Aug at 9.30am for morning tea – meeting commences at 10.00am.

**Feastdays during this week...**

Mon 11 – Clare, virgin

Thurs 14 – Maximilian Kolbe, priest, martyr

Fri 15 – Assumption of the Virgin Mary

**“COME & SEE”** Spirituality Program for men & women meet Wed 20 Aug at 7.30pm at the Parish Centre followed by supper (please bring a plate of finger food to share). Join us for prayer & conversation led by guest speaker Sr Anna Warlow sgs. Contact Moira 4423 6077 or Liz 4422 1279 for information.

**THE ANNUAL MASS & FESTIVAL FOR MIGRANT & REFUGEE SUNDAY** will be held on Sun 31 Aug at the Cathedral, celebrated by Bishop Peter at 2.00pm followed by a concert, cultural displays & food sampling. All are welcome. Enq. Kim 4235 0985.

**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)