

can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSA

The overarching theme derived from today's readings is the question of insider-outsider. We see here that the divisions and barriers that emerge out of human experience have been shattered by the graciousness of God. Jesus' openness to 'the other' finds a precedent in the prophetic tradition. Isaiah spoke of a time when outsiders would join insiders in worshipping God, thus dissolving the categories of insider and outsider. He was, of course, referring to the age of eschatological fulfilment. This age dawned with the coming of Jesus. Jesus himself moved out of the constraints of his own cultural worldview, and he directs us to do the same. People are either excluded because of gender, culture or religious perspective, or included only because they are able and willing to conform to discriminatory standards. In the reign of God, this should not be the case. People are accepted along with their own cultural profiles.

God's embrace first enclosed even those who rejected Jesus, and then God's plan of salvation unfolded in a new way. An invitation to enter the kingdom was issued to the Gentiles, those who had been considered outsiders. If outsiders are now insiders, what has happened to the former insiders? Paul insists that they are still insiders. God has not simply shifted the identifying boundaries; God has dissolved them. In the interim between the dawning of the eschatological age and the end of time, the invitation to be included remains open to all.

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Biblical Overview

by Gregory Sunter

This week's gospel provides a fascinating illustration of Jesus' response to those in need. Jesus has travelled to the area of Tyre and Sidon – part of modern day Lebanon. He was physically removing himself from the place of his very active ministry and taking a break. When the Canaanite woman approaches Jesus and his disciples, she is an interruption; a nuisance. Jesus is very abrupt with her. He tells her simply that his ministry is to the house of Israel – the Jews – and is not for her. But the woman is persistent and again asks Jesus to help her. Jesus is even more abrupt and tells her that it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs. Through this use of metaphor, Jesus refers to the children of Israel (the Jews) and to the gentiles and pagans – sometimes referred to as 'dogs' to reflect their lowly status in the eyes of the Jewish tradition. Still the woman persists and turns Jesus' metaphor back on him, saying that even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table.

The woman's persistence and faith pay off. Jesus is moved by her faith and through that faith heals the woman's daughter. Despite his initial abruptness and reluctance, Jesus responds with compassion to the woman's request. It is as though she needed to demonstrate that she was really serious and that she did in fact believe that Jesus could make a difference in her life and the life of her daughter. This is an important story in Matthew's gospel. This gospel was written predominantly for Jewish Christians but this story reveals that the ministry of Jesus and the reign of God is open to anyone who believes.

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**St Michael's Parish
Feast Day Dinner**

Worrigege House

Saturday 27 September 7.30pm

Tickets available @ Parish Office

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Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

20th Sunday (Year A) ~ in the season of the year

17 August 2008



First Reading 56:1.6-7
A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring

to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 66

R/ O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)
2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. (R.)
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

Second Reading 11:13-15. 29-32

A reading from St Paul to the Romans

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save

some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The word of the Lord.



Gospel Acclamation Mt 4.23

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel 15:21-28

The holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs



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.

20th Sunday of the Year (A)

17th 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. 7.00.a.m. & 11.30.a.m. 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: 1st Fri. 5.15pm. **K'Valley:** Sat 4.30 – 5.00pm
Vincentia: Sat 5.00pm – 5.30pm

“COME & SEE” Spirituality Program for men & women. *I said to the almond tree “speak to me of God”....and the almond tree blossomed.* An invitation to be open, to notice, to listen, to experience and to connect with ourselves and others....to be aware of God in our everyday lives. Join us for prayer and conversation led by guest speaker Sr Anna Warlow sgs on Wed 20 Aug 7.30pm at the Parish Centre followed by supper (please bring a plate of finger food to share). Contact Moira 4423 6077 or Liz 4422 1279 for information.



We prayerfully remember: **Jennifer Wilkins** – sister of Geoff who died recently in the UK, also **Damien Baker, Hilda Hockey, and Doris Lansdowne**, whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May they rest in eternal peace.*

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.



CAN YOU GIVE 3 HOURS??? The St Vincent de Paul Society in this parish urgently needs help over the next 2 weekends with its **annual Doorknock Appeal**. If you can spare 3 hours either next Sat or Sun or on the weekend of Aug 30/31 to help the Society gain public financial support for its vital **local** work please phone Margaret Perkins on 4423 2029 or fill in the form at the Church door.

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** – 2nd Parent information Night for Parents only – **Nowra** Wed 20 Aug 7.30pm in the Hall – **Vincentia** – Fri 22 Aug 7.30pm in the hall.



Peggy and Bob Luxford are celebrating their Golden Wedding on Sat. next 23 August. They would be delighted to have parishioners join them and their family at the 9.00 a.m. Mass on Sat next to prayerfully celebrate the occasion.

CULBURRA FAMILY GROUP will be Barefoot Bowling (socks if you prefer) at Callala Beach RSL Club on Sun 24 Aug at 1.30pm. Cost will be \$5. All Welcome.

PARISH AWARENESS MASS (a celebration for people with Disabilities) – Sun 21 Sept to be held in St Michael's Parish Hall. A Date to note in your calendar.

2009 20TH 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

Feastdays during this week...

Wed. 20th - St Bernard
Thurs 21st - St Pius X - Pope
Fri 22nd - Queenship of Mary
REGIONAL READERS' WORKSHOP conducted by the Diocesan Liturgy Commission will be held on Sat 6 Sept 9.30am – 12 noon at St Paul's Parish Hall, Albion Park (for Nowra parishioners). Contact Helen Bennet 4253 0934 or email Helen.bennet@woll.catholic.org.au to register.

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 Sat 27 Sep at 7.30pm. Dinner music will be provided by the Morrison Family and there will be a guest speaker.

- Cost of tickets will be \$30 (adult) 3 course meal and \$10 (child) 2 course child's meal. There will be a vegetarian meal available – please indicate on your ticket.
- Tables may be booked – a maximum of 10 per table - by ringing Robbie at the Parish Office (you don't have to book 10 – we can combine tables). There is an option on the ticket to indicate your seating preference. All other parishioners will be allocated seating prior to the evening – you will be able to check your table number by ringing Robbie the week prior to the 27th and it will be displayed at Worrigea House on the night.
- Transport will be available for those who need it by 'car pooling' with parishioners. Please indicate on your ticket stub. We are also asking those who have space in their vehicle to volunteer to take those who don't have transport (also on the ticket stub).
- **Tickets are on sale from this week at the Parish Office or from all Mass Centres from next weekend.** Tickets must be paid for at time of booking.

PARISH MINISTRIES are always in need of more personnel and none more so than the music ministry. At present St Patrick's Berry would be delighted to hear from interested persons who can read music and have an acceptable level of keyboard technique. Geoff Wilkins would gladly give the necessary tuition in organ technique associated with the organ at Berry – by phoning 4464 1464.

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