

life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

‘For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSA

The gospel does not say that Jesus will gallantly step forward, take suffering upon himself, and thus demonstrate his power. Instead, his fate will be a demonstration of his vulnerability. He will be taken forcibly and will suffer at the hands of others. He will do this willingly, but not as a volunteer. Jesus will be a victim. This picture of Jesus carries implications for discipleship. Whoever follows him must follow him to the cross. If we participate in his success, we must also share in his shame. Disciples have a choice to follow or not to follow, but if they choose in his favour they must be ready for suffering and humiliation.

Paul exhorts us to reject the standards of the world. This is a very difficult path to follow, especially when it seems that those who conform to this age prosper. Following Christ can place barriers between ourselves and others. If we no longer share their values and their interests, we may feel alienated. Suffering is bound to invade our ministerial lives as well. We must remember that Jesus’ message antagonised many people in his day. Those who proclaim the same message in their own contexts must be prepared for a similar reaction.

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St Michael’s Parish Contacts

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- Mrs Robbie Forsythe, *Secretary* 4423 1712
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After witnessing the marvellous feats that Jesus accomplished, we discover that he is going to suffer and be put to death. How can this be? With Peter we protest. With Jeremiah we wonder: Have we been duped? The realisation that we too will have to suffer becomes a crucial test of our faith.

So let’s recall the first cross from which we take comfort as we bear our own crosses. ‘In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.’

Historical Context

At the time of the writing of Matthew’s gospel (around 75-80 CE), Christians were being persecuted and put to death for their beliefs. They were literally giving up their lives for their faith. These persecuted Christians saw Jesus’ triumph over death as a sign of great hope and trust in the future for themselves. Jesus’ words in the gospel – ‘whoever loses his life for my sake will find it’ – would give hope to those under persecution that ultimately they too would triumph and that the deaths of their friends were not in vain.

Some Questions:

What part of the gospel passage do you find most interesting / challenging? Why?

What are some of the challenges to being a follower of Jesus today?

In what ways have you had to ‘take up your cross’ – deal with a great difficulty – and still tried to live in a positive and hopeful way?

Our society today is very self-centred, there are not too many people who ‘deny themselves’ very much at all. What is one way that you can be more self-less?

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

Worrigeer House | 7.30pm 27 Sept

Tickets available @ Parish Office
and @ each church

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Our Sunday Word

St Michael’s Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

22nd Sunday (Year A) ~ in the season of the year

31 August 2008



First Reading

20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody’s butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: ‘Violence and ruin!’

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more. Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62

R/ My soul is thirsting for you,
O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. (R.)

3. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with

joy. (R.)

4. For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. (R.)

Second Reading

12.1-2

A reading from St Paul to the Romans

Think of God’s mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Eph 1.17-18

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

Gospel

16:21-27

The holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. ‘Heaven preserve you, Lord,’ he said. ‘This must not happen to you.’ But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God’s way but man’s.’

Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his



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.

22nd Sunday of the Year (A)

31st 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. 7.00am & 11.30am; Sat 9.00am
Morning Prayer: Wed 7.50am; **Holy Hour** Fri 10.30am
Berry & Culburra NO MASS THIS WEEK
Bomaderry First Friday 5.45pm – 5th. Sept.
Vincentia Mon./Thurs /Fri. 8.a.m. Tues/Wed 5.30pm
S'haven Heads NO MASS THIS WEEK
Kangaroo Valley: Monday/Sat 8.00.a.m.

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

We prayerfully remember the recently deceased: **Faye Trinder (Nowra), Luke Allen** (24yrs), formerly Nowra, **Thomas Williams** , (Drummoyn) and **Frank Gerry** all of whom died this week also **Frank Rouen, Cecilia Rodgers, Victor Young, Owen MacNeill** and **Jack O'Heir** whose anniversaries occur. *May they rest in eternal peace.*

The Diocesan Clergy Retreat will be conducted at Mt Carmel, Varroville during the week ahead. We are grateful to Fr Ronan who will care for the parish during the week. Please note no Tuesday evening Mass at Berry and no Thursday evening Mass at Culburra this week.

A Retreat Day will be conducted at St. Patrick's Berry on Sat. 20 September 9.30am – 3.00pm. The format will be similar to last year. A cordial invitation is extended to all parishioners. The focus this year will be on St Paul in this the year of **Paul, the great missionary and evangeliser.**

Attention Catechists! Urgently needed a copy of Christ Our Light & Love 3A (new or used)



The St Vincent de Paul Society Doorknock Appeal continues this weekend. If you can assist your help will be very much appreciated. This public financial support helps with the society's vital **local work**; please phone Margaret Perkins on 4423 2029 or fill in the form at the Church door.



PRAISE & WORSHIP NIGHT - Help keep the spirit of WYD alive in Nowra – join in a night of music, dancing, testimonies, WYD photos and loads more. Bring yourself, a family member, a friend or a bus load of people. Starts at 7pm Sat 6 September in St Michael's Hall.

THE YOUTH MISSION TEAM invites you to an information. & fundraising evening at St Columbkille's Parish Hall, Corrimal, Fri 5 Sept at 7.30pm. YMT Contact Chris Brennan 0433 636 359 or wollongong@ymt.com.au for information.

PARISH DIRECTORY - we are about to reprint the Parish Directory – if any parishioner is aware of any changes or amendments to be made please contact Robbie at the Parish Office by 12 September

Bob and Peggy Luxford would like to thank the priests of the parish, their own extended family, their friends and fellow parishioners for making their 50th Wedding anniversary Mass and the celebration that followed, a day they will remember with joy and gratitude for the rest of their lives.

The Spring Fair- Vincentia; Sat 6 Sept...Lots of Prizes, Chocolate Wheel, raffles, Devonshire Tea etc...The funds raised go towards a proposed hall at Holy Spirit Church. Sat. 9.00am – 2.30pm.

In keeping with State Legislation relating to Parish volunteers and child protection there is a need to review and update Parish & Diocesan records. Therefore parishioners who have come onto the parish **rosters** over recent years and **haven't** signed the relevant declaration Form, need to do so within the next 3 weeks. The forms are available in the Sacristy and Parish Office.

BAY & BASIN CWL – next meeting 4 Sept at Mary O'Connor's home, 324 Elizabeth Dr, Vincentia 12 noon.

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 by the Morrison Family, and Daniel Hopper will be guest speaker. **'WYD after the event.'**

- Cost of tickets will be \$30 (adult) 3 course meal and \$10 (child) 2 course child's meal. A vegetarian meal available – please indicate on your ticket. If you have any other special dietary needs please ring John Bennet (at Worrigea) 4423 1222 personally.
- **Tickets are on sale at** all Mass Centres and the Parish Office. Tickets must be paid for at time of booking. Get in early to avoid disappointment.

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. Readers from the Nowra parish are encouraged to attend. The Bishop will give a presentation on the day. Contact Helen Bennet 4253 0934 or email helen.bennet@dow.org.au to register.

WYD REUNION: PICS AND FLICKS – LAST CHANCE! Take part in this photo and film competition to celebrate WYD'08, on Friday, 19 Sept 6.00pm to 9.30pm at the McKinnon Theatre, University of Wollongong. Submit your 7 minute film or photograph by today. Competition and details are found at youth.dow.org.au

VOLUNTEERS in Disability Connections Program and families are invited to a lunch meeting on Wed 3 Sept 12noon to 1.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room to prepare for the Mass on Sun 21 Sept. Sandwiches and a cuppa will be provided. RSVP for catering 4654 8709

As has happened over recent years the Bishop has asked that there be a **special collection** on next week-end 6-7 Sept to assist sick and retired priests, and also to help in the work of promoting priestly vocations. All loose money in our second Collection next week end will be for the needs listed above.