

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSA

It is difficult for leaders to call people to accountability. Such is the unenviable responsibility of pastors in the parish, coordinators of religious education, members of the parish council, principals in the school, directors of liturgical ministry, to name but a few. Disciples must also engage in the very difficult process of reconciliation. Differences of opinion, misunderstandings, and actual offences tend to alienate people. We see this happen in families, neighbourhoods, parish communities, workplaces. It is not enough to say that we must try to forgive from our hearts. The process of reconciliation requires significant movement toward the admission of guilt as well. Both the one offended and the offender must be willing to be transformed.

Gathering two or three together in prayerful collaboration is not as easy as it sounds. If collaboration is to be effective, we have to be open and honest about our opinions and our biases, and respectful of the opinions and biases of others. We must work for the common good and not merely for what we personally think is best. We must be willing to accept and implement decisions with which we may not totally agree, and we must live with them gracefully. All of this calls for unselfish love. Love fulfils the entire law only: when we honour our personal commitments and the personal commitments of others; when we

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value the life, dignity and reputation of others; and when we respect their possessions. It is only because love is so demanding that it covers all of our responsibilities.

Historical Context

The idea of bringing a 'sinner' or offender before the church community to be confronted is one that the early Christians borrowed from the Jewish culture out of which they were formed. In Jewish society, the local synagogue was effectively a community centre. It was a gathering place, not only for worship and education, but also for meeting, debating and seeking solutions to problems. The synagogue community took on the role of mediator, witness, jury, judge and, if needed, punisher. The role of the scribes in Jewish society was to interpret the Law – the Torah – in resolving everyday situations.

Some Questions:

Why is it difficult to confront a friend about something they said that hurt you?

How do you usually deal with a hurtful situation?

What are some phrases you might use when talking to someone about how they hurt you?

In the final line of the gospel passage, Jesus assures us that when two or more come together in his name, he is there. How might that change the way you solve a problem with a friend?



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

Worrigeer House | 7.30pm 27 Sept

Hurry! Tickets are selling quickly.

Tickets available @ Parish Office
and @ each church.

Get yours today!

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Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

23rd Sunday (Year A) ~ in the season of the year

7 September 2008

First Reading

33.7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94

R/O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

Second Reading

13.8-10

A reading from St Paul to the Romans

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing

that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

2 Cor 5.19

Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

Gospel

18:15-20

The holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. 'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.



J. Close 05



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.

23rd Sunday of the Year (A)

7 September 2008

SUNDAY Masses:

NOWRA6pm 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; Tues. 5.30.p.m. **Culburra:** Thurs. 5.30.p.m.
Bomaderry First Friday 5.45pm
Vincentia: Mon/Thurs/Fri. 8.00a.m. Tues/Wed 5.30pm
S'haven Heads: Friday: 3.30.p.m.
Kangaroo Valley: Mon/Tues/Thurs/Sat 8.00.a.m. 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

A Parish 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.**

We prayerfully remember the recently deceased: **Luke Allen. Also Christopher Delaney, Bro Patrick Thompson S.M., William John Wison, Peter Walsh- Berry (1st Anniv), Violet McBeath and Troy Bryce Ramsdell (1st Anniv) whose anniversaries occur. *May they rest in eternal peace.***

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.

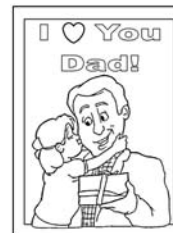


The St Vincent de Paul Society Doorknock Appeal

– a huge thankyou to the many volunteers who gave so generously of your time collecting throughout the Parish – a truly very generous response by the people of the

Shoalhaven - in excess of \$20,000 was raised. A thankyou Bar-B-Q for all those who helped will be held at the Jim Da Silva farm on Saturday 13 Sept commencing at lunch time, all welcome. Please RSVP to Margaret 4423 2029 by Thurs 11 Sept for catering purposes.

FATHERS' DAY – a time to remember the love and dedication of the fathers of the community. We pray that it is for you a day of joy and fulfilment in your children. May God bless and sustain you.



As has happened over recent years the Bishop has asked that there be a **special collection** on **this 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 **this** weekend will be for the needs as above.

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

SHOALHAVEN CROSSROADS – next meeting will be on Fri 12 September, hosted by St Stephen's Anglican Church – "Country & Western Theme" – held at Nowra Baptist Church, Old Southern Rd., Sth Nowra. Come at 7pm for 7.15 start finishing at 9.15pm.

GOT YOUR WEDDING PLANS UNDER CONTROL? But how prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. Coming w/ends Oct 18-19, Feb 7/8 or Apr 18/19. For inform go to www.engagedencounter.org.au or ph 9990 3212.

ST MICHAEL'S YOUTH GROUP will meet Fri 12 Sept, 7.30 – 9.30pm in the Parish Centre & Hall. All welcome.

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.
- **Tables may be booked** – a max of 10 per table – contact Robbie at the Office.

NOWRA CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

- Next meeting at the Parish Centre on Tues 9 Sept. 9.30am for morning tea – meeting starts at 10.00am.
- 18 October Fashion Parade
- 7 November Ecumenical Evening.

The Diocesan Office of Disability Annual Inclusion Mass for Sun 21 Sept will be held in the Parish Hall. The Mass will be a celebration of the gifts that each member of our Parish community brings and a reminder of the importance of **including** everyone in the celebration of Mass. All are welcome! Refreshments will be served following Mass.

WYD REUNION PICS AND FLICKS celebrating World Youth Day 2008 through film and photography on Fri 19 Sept from 6pm to 9.30pm at McKinnon Theatre, University of W'gong. **All WYD08 participants are welcome!** A free night with dinner provided. See www.youth.dow.org.au for more details.

"COME & SEE" Spirituality Program. "Sharing our story connects us"our faith journey is strengthened and enriched by our shared experiences - an invitation to listen to guests from our Parish as they share a part of their personal faith journey with us. Join us to listen to their stories, and for prayer and conversation on Wed 17 Sept from 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.