

# Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

25th Sunday (Year A) ~ in the season of the year

21 September 2008

So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

## The Gospel of the Lord.

### Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSA

Our attention shifts slightly in these last Sundays of Ordinary Time. We turn from concentration on the character and responsibilities of discipleship to reflection on the import of the end of time. As we move toward the close of the liturgical year, we are invited to consider the final coming of Christ and the last judgment.

The thought of judgment is enough to strike fear in the hearts of many. We sometimes experience tension between the idea of divine justice, which requires that the good be adequately rewarded and the evil be appropriately punished, and that of the mercy of God, which we hope will be generously extended to us. As seen in the readings for this Sunday, the justice of God does not conform to the standards of human justice. It is incomprehensible, because its foundation is mercy. While we might find consolation in this view of divine judgment

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when it is directed toward us, our hearts do not always seem to be generous enough to rejoice in the mercy extended to others. It is almost as if we feel that we have been cheated in some way, if God is merciful to others. However, divine mercy can work in us to abolish our pettiness and indignation and replace it with generosity of heart. We are called to conduct ourselves with this kind of generosity, this kind of love, this kind of mercy.

### Historical Context

Jesus' parable describes a situation that would have been very familiar to his audience. At the time, there were many quite wealthy landowners who controlled large vineyards, orchards and crop fields. They would have employed a certain number of permanent workers but come harvest time there was a need for more workers and, much like today, they sought to employ part time workers for a short period of time until the rush was over. Men looking for work would gather in the marketplace of a village and landowners would select workers and send them to their property to work.

### Some Questions:

How did the labourers hired first feel when they collected their pay? Were they justified?

How do you think the labourers hired later in the day felt?

What is the 'shift' in this parable that takes it from a narrative story to a parable about the kingdom?

What message about the kingdom do you think Jesus was trying to convey in the parable?

What is a situation today where we could apply this parable?

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## St Michael's Parish Feast Day Dinner

Worrigeer House | 7.30pm 27 Sept

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### First Reading

55.6-9

#### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

### The word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144

R/ The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. The Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured. R.

2. 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.

3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts. R.

### Second Reading

1.20-24,27

#### A reading from St Paul to the Philippians

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results - I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

### The word of the Lord.



### Gospel Acclamation

Acts 16.14

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

### Gospel

20:1-16

#### The holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first."



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**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.

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

**21 September 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;** 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:** 1<sup>st</sup> Fri. 5.15pm. **K'Valley:** Sat 4.30--5.00pm  
**Vincentia:** Sat 5.00pm – 5.30pm

**LIVING JUSTLY OR JUST LIVING?** Bishop Peter will launch this year's **Social Justice Statement** on the challenge of affluence and poverty in Australia at the Cathedral at 10.30am Mass on Sunday next 28 Sept. This will be followed by morning tea and a forum with Bishop Peter where we consider practical ways of living justly in our homes, workplaces, parishes, schools and wider community. The forum concludes with a commissioning at 1.00pm. A limited number of copies of this Statement will be on sale in the Parish on Sunday next



We prayerfully remember the recently deceased: **Carina Fenech** (B'derry and **Colleen Brazil** (nee Morrissey- Canberra) who died this week, and **Ray Abood, Nell Haigh, Sally Moses** and **Gino Mio** whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May they rest in eternal peace.*

**DIOCESAN MASS SUN, 5 Oct** at St Thomas Aquinas Church Bowral at 11.00am as part of the Tulip Festival. Featuring music from WYD and a Mass arranged by Geoff Harvey.

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

The Vigil Mass on Saturday 27 September will be a festive Mass. **Parishioners are invited** to participate in the Mass. The Parish Dinner in conjunction with the Feast will follow at Worrigea at 7.15pm for 7.30pm. Entrée will be served at 7.45pm. Dinner music will be by the Morrison Family and Daniel Hopper will be guest speaker on **'WYD after the event.'**

- There will be a Seating plan at the front door and there will also be 'ushers' who will assist you in finding your table if necessary.

**CATECHISTS' NEWS**

- A catechist is still needed at Nowra Primary on Wednesdays from 11.30 to 12.30pm for years 5 & 6. Ring Lyn at the Parish Office or 4423 1009 for further information.
- Please return all **resources** that you are **not currently** using. Don't forget to complete the resource folder.
- **The Gerringong Retreat** will be held on Mon 29 Sept from 9.30 to 2.30pm. The Theme is St Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles and the Leader will be Fr Graham Schmitzer. Bookings necessary – please phone Lyn.
- **Thank you** for all you do - enjoy the upcoming holidays.



**CULBURRA FAMILY GROUP** is having a Spring Garden Party at Joan & Greg Watts' home as their next function on Sun 28 Sept from 11.30am for 12 midday. Please bring a lunch to share. The address is 85 Ryan's Lane, Pyree, 4447 1270.

**YMT Wollongong seeking paid work**

From October 30 through to December 5 members of the Youth Mission Team Wollongong are seeking paid employment. If you have a business with a position, or know of positions available please contact Chris Brennan (YMT Wollongong Manager) on 4284 1635 or 0433 636 359 or [wollongong@ymt.com.au](mailto:wollongong@ymt.com.au), thank you.

**'JOURNEY'** News from the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong is available at all Mass Centres this weekend. Lots of amazing photos and great stories and articles about WYD08 and happenings around the Diocese.

**THE ANNUAL MEMORIAL LITURGY** for the Faithful Departed will be held at Worrigea Chapel on Saturday 8 November from 10.00am. Morning tea will follow at the Café near the Chapel. A big thank you to Pierre for his continued support and for the morning tea. Please note the date in your diary.

**HOLY SPIRIT COLLEGE SCHOOL REUNION** – Year 12 1988 and Year 10- 1986, 20 Year School Reunion, Sat 1 Nov. For more information ph Lisa 0412 942 871 or Cat 0412 854 800 or email [hsc1988@y7mail.com](mailto:hsc1988@y7mail.com)

**FIRST SATURDAY MARIAN DEVOTIONS – Sat 4 Oct** commencing with Reconciliation at 8.30am followed by Mass at 9.00am. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Rosary and Benediction at 9.30am. Morning tea will follow in the Parish Centre – **All welcome.**

**Year 12 Graduation Mass for St. John the Evangelist High School** will be celebrated at St. John's RE Centre. On Wednesday next Sept 24<sup>th</sup>. at 6.30.p.m. We congratulate the students who have come to the end of their secondary education, and pray for their success and fulfilment in the years ahead.

**YOUNG ADULTS GROUP** will be attending the Parish Dinner on the 27 Sept as their next activity.

**NOWRA CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

- 18 Oct. Sat Fashion Parade – 2.00.p.m.
- 7 Nov. Friday Ecumenical Evening. – 7.30.p.m.

**Feastdays: Tues Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> St Padre Pio Sat 27<sup>th</sup>. St. Vincent De Paul**

"The Eucharist (the Mass) should never become a point of contrast and a point of separation," Cardinal Castrillon- Pontifical Commission "Ecclesia Dei", said recently. "What is more important: the mystery of God who becomes bread or the language by which we celebrate the mystery?"

**Preparation for First Reconciliation will begin directly after next School holidays early October.**