

But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSA

As incredible as it may seem, some people turn down the invitation to the eschatological banquet. This is the case, both in the parable and in our world today. This invitation seems much less interesting than a sports event, the latest movie, or some social affair. So much of our time and energy is spent either climbing the economic ladder or just trying to keep our heads above water. Even if we are interested in the banquet, we do not seem able to afford the time and energy that it might require. And so we send our regrets: I cannot come. What a shame! We seem to have forgotten that everything is tending toward the end; all of our plans, interests and distractions will cease. Only the banquet will remain. All God asks of us is that we receive the blessings that have been prepared for us. We need not work for them. In fact, we cannot work for them on our own. All we can do is enjoy them. Enjoyment of the eschatological time of fulfilment is open to all, but guaranteed to none.

One theme seems to connect all of the readings for this Sunday, our total dependence on God.

God spreads the banquet table and invites the guests; God punishes those who are indifferent to or antagonistic toward the eschatological banquet; God supplies whatever we need in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. We do not have to bargain with God, or make reservations. All we have to do is accept what God has to offer.

Biblical Overview

by Greg Sunter

Who you ate with in Jesus' time was very important – it reflected your own status. To share table with people who were regarded as 'lesser' by nature of their lifestyle or illness was seen to lessen the status of other participants. Sharing table was as much a political action as it was a social one. This week's gospel is an important one for understanding Jesus' message of an inclusive kingdom. The king invites all the 'right' people to attend his son's wedding banquet but they shame him by refusing his invitation and murdering his messengers. This would have been an extraordinary action in Jesus' time. An invitation to the table of your social superior would not be rejected lightly. To try to save face and regain some honour, the king sends his servants to bring in people off the street – the poorest and least socially acceptable people. The invitation to the people off the street, 'bad and good alike', is a reflection of Jesus' own attitude to sharing table. Jesus ate with those who were regarded as unworthy: tax collectors, prostitutes and sinners. It was one of the harshest criticisms of Jesus made by the Pharisees and Scribes: 'He eats with tax collectors and sinners!' One of Jesus' strongest messages was about the inclusive nature of the kingdom and he lived it day to day. His inclusive table fellowship was a powerful statement about the fact that the kingdom is an invitation to all – rich and poor alike, regardless of status in this world. This parable highlights the invitation to join in the kingdom of God that has been rejected by the Jewish leaders but taken up by the 'lesser' people of society. The wedding banquet is a metaphor for the kingdom of God.

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Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

28th Sunday (Year A) ~ in the season of the year

12 October 2008



First Reading

25:6-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.

On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.

We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23

R/ I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)

2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there

with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. (R.)

3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. (R.)

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading

4:12-14,19-20

A reading from St Paul to the Philippians

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

22:1-14

The holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding."



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.

28th Sunday of the Year (A)

12th October 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. 5.30pm **Culburra:** Thurs. 5.30pm
Bomaderry First Friday 5.45pm
Vincentia: Mon/Thurs/Fri. 8.00a.m. Tues/Wed 5.30pm
S'haven Heads: Friday: 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

Feastdays: Wed 15 – Teresa of Jesus (Avila),
Fri 17 – Ignatius of Antioch, bishop, martyr
Sat 18 - Luke, Evangelist- Patron of the medical profession.



We prayerfully remember the recently deceased; **John Sloane, Ted Goswell, Laurie Lloyd, Daphne Fossey. Also Peter Walsh (Berry) and Jack Fleming** whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May they rest in eternal peace.*

POSITION VACANT – Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Coordinator to help develop and foster a comprehensive diocesan youth and young adult ministry. Contact Richard McMahon 4253 0976 for further details or Richard.mcmahon@woll.catholic.org.au
WYD PASTORAL DVDS & COMMEMORATIVE BOOK can be purchased through Sydney. The DVDs can be purchased as a boxed set for \$79.95 featuring eight events. The Stations of the Cross or Highlights package can be purchased individually at \$24.95. Visit www.wyd2008.org

FASHION PARADE – The Nowra Branch of the Catholic Women's League and NEC Direct Fashion invite you to a Fashion Parade at St Michael's Parish Hall on Sat 18 Oct at 2.00pm. Entry \$8 donation (afternoon tea and lucky door prizes). RSVP Marie Hanley 4448 5347 or Katherine Brandon 4464 1897.



*“At the 2000 WYD in Rome, one young man has a minor accident which turns into a year-long-life-and-death struggle – developing his pilgrimage beyond all expectation...” James Cross has been invited to tell his story in the Parish on Mon 27 Oct at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre as an initiative of the Young Adults group. He spoke at WYD08 and is an entertaining and inspirational speaker. He has written a book titled **Pilgrimage to Life a True Story of Suffering and Grace** which you will have an opportunity to purchase on the night.*

“POSITION VACANT” - Volunteers urgently needed to help at St John's High School canteen – operates daily 9.30am – 2pm. No handling of money required. If you can spare one morning a month or have any free time at all to offer please contact Vicki 4423 1359 in school hours.

Dates to note:

Oct. 15th. Parent Prayer Evening for 1st. Holy Communion 7.30.p.m.
Oct 19th. Sun. Mission Sunday also First Holy Communion at Vincentia
Tues Oct 21st 11.00am. - **Berry - Mass with the Anointing of the Sick – an invitation to all parishioners**
Oct Wed. 22nd. - 7.30.p.m. Parent Evening in preparation for 1st Reconciliation.
Oct. Sat 25th. St Vincent De Paul Regional Festive Mass – 10.00.a.m. - Nowra
Oct : Sun 26th. First Holy Communion Nowra/Berry
Nov. Fri 7th. Ecumenical Evening. – 7.30pm
Nov 8/9 First Holy Communion Culburra/ Bomaderry
Nov. Sat 8th. **LITURGY** for the Faithful Departed will be held at Worrigea Chapel at 10.00am

Pastoral Council Meeting on this Sunday 12 October. Members please note the commencement time of 4.00pm to accommodate our guest speakers

Catechists' News:

Mon October 20th. **Child Protection In-service 9.30-12.00** – at the Parish Centre. It is now required that Catechists upgrade in this regard every three years. Responses to date are few, there is still time to register. Ring Lyn 44231009
First Holy Communion Parent Prayer Evening; Wed next October 15th - 7.30.p.m.

"COME & SEE" Spirituality Program on Wed, 15 Oct. The focus for October is "Balance and Harmony - restoring the sacred rhythm of rest". Join us for prayer and conversation - 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

Mission Sunday Oct.18th/19th : “ So it is God, who is love who leads the Church towards the frontiers of humanity and calls the evangelizers to drink ‘from the original source’ Jesus Christ...Only from this source can care, tenderness, compassion availability and interest in people’s problems be drawn...” Pope Benedict. One third of all funds raised in Australia through Propagation of the faith and Mission Sunday collections are allocated by the Australian Bishops to the home Mission fund within Australia. **All loose money in the Second Collection on October 18/19th will be donated to the Missions.**

We welcome Fr Reg Howard - a Columban Missionary to the Parish this weekend, he will be celebrating the Masses Culburra, Berry & Bomaderry in the absence of Fr Richard. Fr will encourage parishioners to support 'The Far East' missionary magazine

Pope Benedict opened the Synod of Bishops with Mass at St Paul Outside the Walls Basilica. For three weeks, more than 250 Bishops will prayerfully reflect and discuss "The Word of God in the life and mission of the Church". Bishop Peter Ingham is one of the Bishops representing the Australian Bishops.