

afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Reflection**

by Dianne Bergant CSA

**T**he frequency with which we consider the question of insider-outsider is an indication of how important universalism and the breaking down of boundaries is within our religious tradition. All peoples, all lands are called on to praise God. Furthermore, God cares about and cares for all people (see Is 19:25), and God works through all people to accomplish good in the world: Gandhi, a Hindu of Indian origin; Martin Luther King, Jr, a Baptist minister; Susan B. Anthony, a suffragist; Nelson Mandela, a Black South African, etc. Human beings have always realised that, in comparison with the grandeur and expansiveness of the universe within which they live, they are weak and vulnerable creatures. This has led them to believe in and offer homage to a divine being, or beings. Praise of God has always been an expression of awe and gratitude as well as humility.

If neither gender, nor race, nor age, nor class nor culture qualifies one for being an insider, what does? Today's readings suggest that it is service of others. In breaking down the walls of prejudice, the

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social activists of our own age liberate not only the oppressed groups to which they belong, but also those who oppress them. The lives of these dynamic people show us that service of others draws them into our circles and encircles us in theirs. With open arms God invites all into an embrace of divine love. As God has embraced us, so we are called to embrace all others.

**Biblical Overview**

by Greg Sunter

**T**he gospel writer presents this episode as a deliberate attempt by the Pharisees to trap Jesus and turn the people against him. Their plan was a good one, with no apparent 'safe' answer: is it permissible (within Jewish tradition) to pay taxes to Caesar or not? If Jesus were to answer that it is not permissible to pay taxes then he would be identified as a rebel and a threat to Roman authority – leaving himself open to severe punishment. If he were to answer that it was permissible to pay the taxes he would have alienated a lot of his audience who resented the taxes imposed by Rome.

Instead of falling into the trap set by the Pharisees, Jesus approaches the question in a completely different way. He asks them to show him the money with which they pay the tax. Immediately, he has turned the tables on them. He doesn't appear to carry any of the coin in question and yet the Pharisees' disciples carry them as a matter of habit. They are asking if it is permissible to pay the tax and yet freely carry the coin with which the tax is paid. Jesus shows up the hypocrisy of their question by forcing them to reveal their own position in the simple action of producing one of the Roman coins. Jesus then closes the dispute by instructing them to render (give) to Caesar what belongs to Caesar but, more importantly, render to God what belongs to God. In a very simple way Jesus has shown up the Pharisees' disciples as being collaborators with the Roman authority and placing that authority above the authority of God. He reminds the listeners that regardless of earthly authority, the first duty is owed to God.

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# Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

29th Sunday (Year A) ~ in the season of the year

19 October 2008

**First Reading**

45:1,4-6

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 95

**R/** Give the Lord glory and honour.

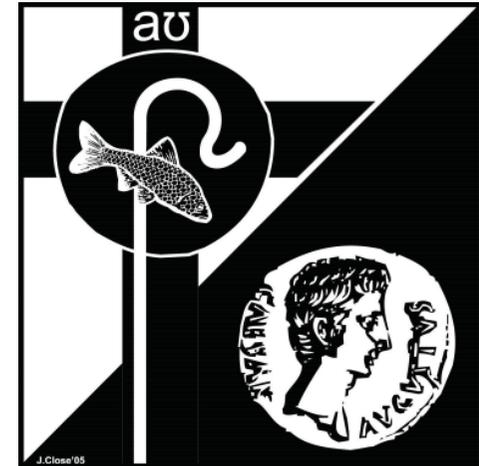
1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. Tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise, to be feared above all gods; the gods of the heathens are naught. It was the Lord who made the heavens. (R.)
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name. Bring an offering and enter his courts. (R.)
4. Worship the Lord in his temple. O earth, tremble before him. Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

**Second Reading**

1.1-5

**A reading from first Thessalonians**

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the



Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ. We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Phil 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia! Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!

**Gospel**

22:15-21

**The holy Gospel according to Matthew**

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not



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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.

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

**19<sup>th</sup> 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 Please note 10.00am**  
**Morning Prayer:** Wed 7.50am; **Holy Hour** Fri 10.30am  
**Berry;** Please note this Tuesday : 11.00a.m.  
**Culburra:** Thurs. 5.30pm **B'derry** 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:** 1<sup>st</sup> Fri. 5.15pm. **K'Valley:** Sat 4.30--5.00pm  
**Vincentia:** Sat 5.00pm – 5.30pm

**CULBURRA FAMILY GROUP** – the next function will be on Sun 26 Oct. It will be a tour of gardens at Bundanoon. Please rsvp Arthur/Rita by 24 Oct - 4447 2381. We will meet at Arch Gate at 9am to car pool.



We prayerfully remember **Bruce Wall, Bob Lumsden** (Berry), and **Anne Smallwood**, who died this week; also **Paul Borg, Bill McIntyre, Loris Curran, Rebe Witenden, Allan Christian, Anthony and Vessie Couch** whose anniversaries occur . *May they rest in eternal peace.*

**ST JOHN'S 20<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY 2009.** A follow up planning meeting will be held in the school Common Room on Tues 28 Oct at 6.30pm. For info ring Josephine Geer 4423 1666(w) 4234 3567(ah). Items to be discussed include a Social event, Open Day, Mass celebrations etc.

**1<sup>ST</sup> SAT. MARIAN DEVOTIONS – Sat 1 Nov.** with Reconciliation at 8.30am followed by Mass at 9am. All welcome to morning tea at the Parish Centre after devotions

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** will be celebrated at **Nowra** on Sun 26 Oct at 9.30am and 11.30am in the Parish Hall and at **Berry** at 8.00am. It would be very helpful if parishioners were able to attend an alternate Mass to the 9.30am at Nowra next Sunday



*“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.

The Nowra branch of the **Catholic Women's League** invites parishioners to spend “**AN EVENING OF CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP**” at St Michael's Parish Hall on Fri 7 Nov commencing at 7.30pm. The Guest speaker will be Sr Libby Byrne RSC. on “Waiting in Joyful Hope”. RSVP Marie 4448 5347 or Katherine 4464 1897 by 31 Oct Coffee & Dessert will be served at the end of the evening.



**MASS AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK** will be celebrated at St Patrick's Berry on Tuesday 21 October at 11.00am. **An invitation to all parishioners. Morning tea will be served after the Mass**

**Dates to note:**

**Wed 22 Oct.** -Parent Evening in preparation for 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation at 7.30.p.m  
**Sat 25 Oct** - St Vincent De Paul Regional Festive Mass – 10.00.a.m. St Michael's, Nowra  
**W/end 8/9 Nov** First Holy Communion Culburra/ B'derry  
**Sat 8 Nov - Liturgy** for the Faithful Departed will be held at Worrigea Chapel at 10.00am

**Mission Sunday Oct.18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> :** “ *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 this weekend October 18/19<sup>th</sup> will be donated to the Missions.**



**OFFICE OF DISABILITY: AN INFORMATION NIGHT** is being held on Wed 5 Nov from 7.30 – 8.30pm at St Michael's Parish Centre. Guest speakers from **Essential Personnel** will offer

information and advice regarding Work Experience and Employment Opportunities for adults with special needs. Information includes: support services, Government subsidies and Entitlements for employers who are interested or parishioners who think their bosses may be interested. **All Welcome. RSVP** as soon as possible 4654 8709 or [jheininger@materdei.org.au](mailto:jheininger@materdei.org.au)

**LIVING OUR FAITH IN CHRIST – VATICAN II SEMINAR.** Keynote speaker Dr Bill Connell fms PhD, addresses lay involvement in the Church via the Decree in the Apostolate of Lay People The day includes the launching of Beginning Theology, a new adult faith diocesan initiative. There will also be workshops on living our faith in the areas of Family Life; Social Justice; Liturgy; Leadership & Service. Sat 22 Nov at Chevalier College, Bowral from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Cost \$20/\$10 or by donation. Day includes morning tea and lunch. To register email [jane.edwards@woll.catholic.org.au](mailto:jane.edwards@woll.catholic.org.au) or 4253 0900 by Fri 14 Nov.

**DIOCESAN CATECHIST MASS** – a reminder that this year's Mass will be held at St John Vianney's Church, Fairy Meadow on Sat 15 Nov commencing at 2pm