

## Gospel Acclamation

Jn 14.23

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

## Gospel

22:34-40

### *The holy Gospel according to Matthew*

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

### **The Gospel of the Lord.**

## Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSA

**O**ur religious tradition is founded on love. Actually, life itself is grounded in love. We may not always feel this love, but if we allow ourselves to reflect on life, we will realise this truth. We have been called into being by God's love; and we will only be happy if we live in that love. Thus, when we are directed to love God and love one another, we are not being asked to do something contrary to our nature. Rather, we are being told to live in accord with that nature. We come from God who is love, and so it is in our very nature to love and to be loved.

We may sometimes think that it is easier to love

## St Michael's Parish Contacts

Fr Patrick Faherty, <i>Parish Priest</i>	4423 1712
Fr Richard Healey, <i>Assistant Priest</i>	4423 1712
Fr Leo Duck, <i>Resident in Vincentia</i>	4441 5571
Fr Ronan Kilgannon, <i>Resident in Kangaroo Valley</i>	
Mrs Robbie Forsythe, <i>Secretary</i>	4423 1712
Sr Margaret Prendergast sgs	4421 2260
Sr Patricia Lawless sgs	4421 2260
Sr Val Green rsc	4441 7035
Mrs Lyn West, <i>Catechist Coordinator</i>	4423 1009
St Michael's Primary School	4421 3630
St John the Evangelist High School	4423 1666

God than to love others. It may actually be just the opposite. Other people are tangible. We can see and hear them, interact with them. Their influence in our lives can permeate our consciousness. That is not the way it is with God. Like Moses on the mountain, we can only see the traces of divinity as God passes by (see Ex 33:23). However, we show that we love God in the way we love our neighbour.

Love, the foundation of the reign of God, is contagious. When we love others, the reign of God spreads throughout the world. The compassion that we show toward others is a form of evangelisation. It proclaims much louder than any words that the reign of God has been established.

## Biblical Overview

by Greg Sunter

There is an implicit, or understood, commandment within the command to love your neighbour as yourself. That is, we must first love ourselves. Whilst to say someone 'loves himself' is used as a criticism of a person who is a bit too vain, that is not what is intended here. If we are to love others as we love ourselves we must first be content and happy with who we are. It is only when we are comfortable with who we are that we are able to reach out to those around us with compassion.

## Compassion

Jesus' words call us to love our neighbour as ourselves. We are called to treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves. To be able to do this, we need to picture ourselves in their place – experiencing all that they are experiencing; not imposing our own values and circumstances. To see ourselves in the place of another is the key to responding with compassion. The origin of the word 'compassion' means experiencing with. If we are able to truly 'experience with' another person perhaps then we can genuinely recognise and respond to their needs.

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# Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

30th Sunday (Year A) ~ in the season of the year

26 October 2008

## First Reading

22:20-26

### *A reading from the book of Exodus*

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans."

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

### **The word of the Lord.**

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17

**R/** I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. My God is the rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. The Lord is worthy of all praise: when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! Praised be the God who saves me. He has given great victories to his king and shown his love for his anointed. (R.)

## Second Reading

1.5-10

### *A reading from first Thessalonians*

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite



of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

### **The word of the Lord.**



**St Michael's Parish**, Nowra – Tel: 4423 1712 E-mail: [office@nowraparish.org.au](mailto:office@nowraparish.org.au)

**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.

**30<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year (A)**  
**26<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** 9.00am  
**Morning Prayer:** Wed 7.50am; **Holy Hour** Fri 10.30am  
**Berry:** Tues 5.30pm; **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.  
**K. 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

**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](http://www.wyd2008.org) or contact Robbie at the Office

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We prayerfully remember **Bob Lumsden** (Berry) and **Anne Smallwood** ;( Anne was for 30 years the faithful housekeeper at St Michael's). Also **Phonse Fitzgibbon, George Petty, Bill Toohey, Margaret Johnson, Mathew Rennie Ken and Robert Johnson and William Arthur Price**, whose anniversaries occur, *May they rest in eternal peace.*

**ST MICHAEL'S ANNUAL SCHOOL FETE**

will be held on Sun 2 Nov commencing at 10.30am in the grounds at the rear of the school. Lots of stalls – **Trash & Treasure is Back!** –cakes, gourmet delights, fresh flowers & more. Rides, Games, Food & Drinks, Matilda's Farmyard Animals, Police Car display. Something for everyone – **DON'T MISS IT!**



**FEAST OF ALL SAINTS SAT 1<sup>st</sup> NOV**

**Nowra:** Vigil Friday 6.00pm; S'haven Hds. - 3.30.pm.  
**Nowra:** Sat 9.00am; **K.Valley:**8.00a.m.  
Vincentia: 11.00a.m.



**ALL SOULS' DAY SUNDAY 2 NOV**

Normal Sunday Mass-times

Each time we say the Creed, we profess our belief in **the Communion of Saints.**

**"We believe in the communion of all the faithful of Christ; those who are pilgrims on earth, the dead who are being purified, and the blessed in Heaven, - all together forming one Church; and we believe that in this communion, the merciful love of God and His saints is always attentive to our prayers."**(CCC 962)

November Mass Offering Envelopes for the Faithful Departed are now available. May I suggest that we try to get these Envelopes returned to the Church/Presbytery by November 2 All Souls Day



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** will be celebrated at **Nowra** this Sun 26 Oct at 9.30am and 11.30am and at **Berry** at 8.00am. Congratulations to all the First

Holy Communicants and to the teachers and catechists who have dedicated their time in preparing the children for this wonderful event in their faith journey.

**MON 27 OCT, JAMES CROSS**, who comes from Darwin, will share his inspirational story as a part of his Nowra to Newcastle book launch! James spoke at WYD08 at the Entertainment Centre. The story of his battle with aplastic anaemia after WYD in Rome 2000 is incredible – the fact that he is alive today is amazing! However, what was truly inspirational was hearing about his inner pilgrimage during that time with God. His story is about Grace in a person's life and how God transforms us if we just let Him. **All ages welcome.**

**1<sup>st</sup> SAT. MARIAN DEVOTIONS** – Sat 1 Nov. with Reconciliation at 8.30am followed by Mass at 9am.  
**COLUMBAN CALENDARS** and **St Vincent De Paul Christmas cards** will be on sale at all Mass centres from next weekend.

**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.



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**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)

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**"GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING NIGHT" – Sat 6 Dec from 7.15pm.** Cost \$25 includes all you need – **this is not a fund raising event this year** – therefore we have been able to keep the cost the same even with the increased expenses. Take home kits available. Leave money in an envelope with name, phone & indication of whether kit is to be taken home or used on the night, with Robbie at the Parish Centre, St Michael's or St John's offices by **FRIDAY 31<sup>st</sup>. OCTOBER.** More info ring Shannon 4447 0990.

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**CONGRATULATIONS** to Brian & Daphne O'Connell of S/heads who celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on Saturday 8 November. May God Bless you always.

**Dates to note:**

**Weekend 8/9 Nov** First Holy Communion Culburra/ Bomaderry

**Sat 8 Nov - Liturgy** for the Faithful Departed will be held at Worrigea Chapel at 10.00am