

been entrusted to me by my father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden is light.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSA

If we are honest we will have to admit that though we have died with Christ to sin and risen with him to new life, we do not fully die to sin. In fact, there are many times in our lives when we live in sin, when we actually cling to sin. What happens to those who die in such a state? They may not have turned completely away from the goodness of God, but they have not been faithful either. The remnants of sin cling to them, making them somewhat unfit to stand before the face of God. Are they lost? Or are they saved?

In God there is mercy in abundance. Jesus is not willing to lose anyone. Therefore, the power of Jesus and the strength of his promises give us hope that even after death there is the possibility of purification and pardon. We have no idea of when this might happen or how it will happen. All we know is that the lovingkindness of God far surpasses any infidelity of which we might be guilty.

The feast of All Souls is not a feast of sadness, but one of great hope and confidence. It invites us to entrust our dead to God, because we know that they are really God’s dead. We know that if we

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have loved them, God has loved them more. They are in God’s care, and like a good shepherd God will lead them to peace.

Overview

by GIA Publishing

It is hard for this editor to separate All Saints from All Souls. The liturgies deal with the faithful departed no matter where their spirits have landed – heaven or somewhere else. Yesterday’s festival of saints and today’s festival of all souls-still-under-construction provide a rich and varied understanding of what happens when we die. Jesus provides some clear information: ‘I will not reject anyone who comes to me ... For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day’ (italics mine). Hope abounds, and it is the hope based on the passing from death into new life all because Jesus died for us and rose for us. Incidentally, the first reading from the book of Wisdom has become almost required in hundreds funeral liturgies in parish churches and communities: ‘The souls of the just are in the hand of God.’

Of course, it is in John’s gospel that the promises Jesus makes are somewhat outrageous. For example, in verses 33-35 he tells about the bread from heaven in beautiful language that does more than suggest eternal life; it promises it. From the triumph of the saints in heaven to the souls still waiting, hope abounds. After all, ‘the souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them.’ If one doesn’t see hope in all the verses from Wisdom 3, Psalm 22, Romans 6, and John 6, then you haven’t been paying attention – God with vast mercy offers hope to those who are waiting on earth as well as those not on earth that God will take them, embrace them, and call them as his own – no matter where they landed.

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Our Sunday Word

St Michael’s Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

All Souls (Commemoration of the Faithful Departed)

2 November 2008



First Reading

25.6-9

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 enrapping 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 27

R/ The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; before whom shall I shrink? (R).
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long, to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life, to savour the sweetness of the Lord, to behold his temple. (R).
3. O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy

and answer. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face. (R.)

4. I am sure I shall see the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living. Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord! (R.)

Second Reading

5.5-11

A reading from St Paul to the Romans

Hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God’s anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled, surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

John 6.39

Alleluia, alleluia! This is the will of my Father, says the Lord, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me, and that I should raise it up on the last day. Alleluia!

Gospel

11:25-30

The holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus exclaimed, ‘I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has



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.

**31st Sunday of the Year (A)
All Souls Day - 2nd November 2008**

ALL SOULS' DAY- Let pray for the faithful

Departed: -- 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: 1st Fri. 5.15pm. **K'Valley:** Sat 4.30--5.00pm

Vincentia: Sat 5.00pm – 5.30pm



We prayerfully remember : **Edith Farrar (Callala), Ron Dempsey (Berry), and Hazel Wilson (Nowra).** Also **Bill Toohey, Margaret Johnson, George Sullivan, and Iris Egan**

whose anniversaries occur, *May they rest in eternal peace.*

The St Vincent de Paul Society will be holding their Christmas Bookstalls throughout the Parish during the weeks ahead. The first will be Berry **on Sunday 9th Nov 2008.** Great opportunity to purchase gifts for Christmas. All prices have been reduced to the minimum, to cover costs. The Society is only interested in providing a service, not making profits from these bookstalls.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS and Christmas cards are now on sale at all Mass centres..

Dates to note:

Weekend 8/9 Nov First Holy Communion Culburra/ Bomaderry

TWILIGHT-TAIZE for Advent at St Patrick's Berry – 7.30pm, Friday 28 November.

ALL SOULS' DAY SUNDAY 2nd NOV

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. I urge you to get these Envelopes returned as soon as possible.

It is appropriate at this time to bring in mind when having the responsibility for arranging Funerals for our beloved dead, that we have a very sacred, meaningful and rich **Catholic Funeral Rite.** In an age when many funerals are conducted as civil ceremonies, people are getting the Christian/Catholic Rite eclipsed by the non-religious. We need to guard against long and repetitive eulogies (which ought to be no more than 7/10 minutes max.); visual presentations should be reserved for 'the wake' and/or the family gathering afterwards. Essentially the Funeral Rite of the Catholic Church is comprised of prayer for the deceased, proclaiming and reflecting on the Word of God, and a concise edifying reflection on the life of the deceased. The beautiful hope-filled Liturgical symbolism that can enhance the dignity and the sacredness of the ceremony should never be overshadowed.

8th Nov - The annual Liturgy for the Faithful Departed

will be held at Worrigea Chapel at 10.00am. Invite neighbours and friends who have lost loved ones. People of non-Catholic faith are very welcome. Morning tea is provided at the adjacent Café, through the courtesy of the staff.

ST MICHAEL'S ANNUAL SCHOOL

FETE this Sunday 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. Something for everyone – **DON'T MISS IT**



The Nowra branch of the Catholic Women's League invites parishioners to spend **“AN EVENING OF CHRISTIAN Sat next 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.



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



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION; I wish to sincerely thank all teachers and Catechists who very conscientiously prepared the children for 1st. Holy Communion

throughout the parish. **The teachers at St Michael's:** Mrs Lindy Nelson (REC), Mrs Tracee Cinello, Mrs Anne Dempsey; **Catechists:** Mrs Lyn West, Sr. Val, Mrs Carmen Kane, Mrs Colleen Timbs, and Mrs Rickie Gilligan. This is most precious work. May the Lord bless you and keep you

“GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING NIGHT” – Fri. 5th 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 31st. OCTOBER.** More info ring Shannon 4447 0990.