

selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market'. Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up'. The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Reflection**

by *Dianne Bergant CSA*

**T**he basilica of St John Lateran is the cathedral of Rome, the mother church of all Roman Catholic churches.

The temple was the place on earth where God dwelt amid the people. It was God's presence, not the worship performed there, that made it a sacred site. There is something incarnational about this presence of God. It is manifested in the concrete, in something with shape and character. Still, as important as the temple may be, it is only a building. Paul insists that we are the temple of God; we are the manifestation of God in the world today. The Spirit of God dwells in us, making the believing community the living temple of God.

Today's readings offer us two pictures of the temple of God, two characterisations of the community of believers. In one, the temple has become a

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marketplace, and the community is preoccupied with the business of the world. In Ezekiel, we see water from the temple transforming everything in its path. As water flowed from the temple in Ezekiel's vision, so grace flows from the temple that is the people of God. Which image more closely characterises the community of which we are a part? Are we able to transform the wilderness of our world into a place that is teeming with life? Is the community truly the presence of God in the world today? Or is the temple simply a place where ritual is performed but the concerns of God take second place to the affairs of the world?

**Overview**

This Roman basilica is, literally, a living link to the Church's most ancient past. Dedicated on 9 November 324 (yes that's 1,684 years ago!), it stands as living history of the Roman Catholic Church – namely, a monument to the enduring church in spite of 'slings and arrows' and incredible scandals.

It is no surprise, since Jesus assured us of the Holy Spirit's presence, no matter what we do to frustrate that presence.

It is one thing to revere a building and its history. But it is another thing to go beyond stone and mortar and Baroque façades, and unearth the real meaning of church. St Paul tells us today, 'Didn't you realise that you were God's temple, and that the Spirit of God was living in you?' Then reflect on the opening prayer, 'God our Father, from living stones, your chosen people, you built an eternal temple to your glory.'

Jesus extended the metaphor to himself when he named himself as the new temple: 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.'

It serves as an apt symbol of our temples being joined to the ursymbol of the ageless church. Today's feast is a happy interruption in the Sunday cycle to give us another occasion to sing in a new context: 'O God, our help in ages past, / our hope for years to come. / Our shelter from the stormy blast / and our eternal home.'

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# Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

**The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**

9 November 2008

**First Reading** 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

*A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*

The angel brought me to the entrance of the Temple, where a stream came out from under the Temple threshold and flowed eastwards, since the Temple faced east. The water flowed from under the right side of the Temple, south of the altar. He took me out by the north gate and led me right round outside as far as the outer east gate where the water flowed out on the right-hand side. The man went to the east holding his measuring line and measured off a thousand cubits; he then made me wade across the stream; the water reached my ankles. He measured off another thousand and made me wade across the stream again; the water reached my knees. He measured off another thousand and made me wade across again; the water reached my waist. He measured off another thousand; it was now a river which I could not cross; the stream had swollen and was now deep water, a river impossible to cross. He then said, 'Do you see, son of man?' He took me further, then brought me back to the bank of the river. When I got back, there were many trees on each bank of the river. He said, 'This water flows east down to the Arabah and to the sea; and flowing into the sea it makes its waters wholesome. Wherever the river flows, all living creatures teeming in it will live. Fish will be very plentiful, for wherever the water goes it brings health, and life teems wherever the river flows. Along the river, on either bank, will grow every kind of fruit tree with leaves that never wither and fruit that never fails; they will bear new fruit every month, because this water comes from the sanctuary. And their fruit will be good to eat and the leaves medicinal.'

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 45

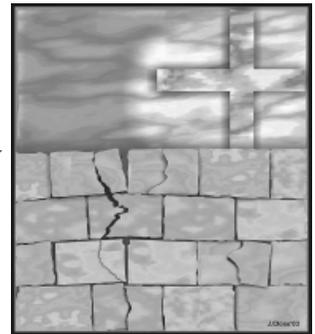
**R/** The waters of the river gladden the city of God.

1. God is for us a refuge and strength, a helper close at hand, in time of distress: so we shall not fear though the earth should rock, though the

mountains fall into the depths of the sea. (R.)

2. The waters of a river give joy to God's city, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within, it cannot be shaken; God will help it at the dawning of the day. (R.)

3. The Lord of hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our stronghold. Come, consider the works of the Lord, the redoubtable deeds he has done on the earth. (R.)



**Second Reading** 3:9-11, 16-17

*A reading from first Corinthians*

You are God's building. By the grace God gave me, I succeeded as an architect and laid the foundations, on which someone else is doing the building. Everyone doing the building must work carefully. For the foundation, nobody can lay any other than the one which has already been laid, that is Jesus Christ.

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia! I have chosen and sanctified this house, says the Lord, that my name may remain in it for all time. Alleluia!

**Gospel** 2:13-17

*The holy Gospel according to John*

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people



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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.

## Dedication of the Lateran Basilica 9 November 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

The next youth group meeting for high school aged youth will be held on Fri 14 Nov. Commences 7.30 in the demountable (near the Presbytery) and finishes at 9.30pm. Please bring something to share for supper.

We prayerfully remember: **Lorna Robinson Frances Sutherland** ( Robbie's mother-Sydney) and **Joseph McGee**. Also **Dave Sherry, Margaret Mathie and Pasquale**

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



A Diocesan **disABILITY AWARENESS MASS** on Sunday 30 Nov. Bishop Peter Ingham will concelebrate the 10.30am Mass at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong. All are welcome! Light refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the Mass.

refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the Mass.

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

### THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY pre-Christmas Bookstalls.

- **Berry – Sun 9 November**
- **Vincentia 15/16 November**
- **Nowra 22/23 November**
- **Culburra 13 December**
- **Bomaderry 14 December**



A 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.

**Come & See Spirituality Group:** next meeting Wed 19 Nov 7.30pm. Please bring a plate to share. Contact Moira Anderson 4423 6077 or Liz Nimmo 4422 1279.

### CATECHIST NEWS.

- Saturday 15 Nov at 2.00pm the Annual Catechist Mass will be held at St John Vianney's, Fairy Meadow. Please make a special effort to attend.
- Monday 24 Nov at 9.30am, the Catechist Mass and morning tea will be held at St Michael's. Please bring the usual sharing plate of Christmas Fare
- Friday 12 Dec – the Catechists' awards will be held at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral Wollongong
- 8 to 10 new Catechists will be needed for 2009. **WILL YOU HELP?** Ring Lyn 4422 1009 for more information.

**First Holy Communion this Weekend:** Culburra/ Bomaderry. We congratulate the children and their parents; and prayerfully thank their Teachers and Catechists.

**“GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING NIGHT” – Fri 5 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 21<sup>st</sup> Nov – PLEASE NOTE AMENDED RSVP DATE.** More info ring Shannon 4447 0990

### TODAY'S FEAST:

In 313, after having persecuted Christians for 250 years, the Roman Empire formally accepted and allowed the Christian Church to exist. On 9 November 324, Pope Sylvester consecrated the first Cathedral, the Church of the Holy Saviour and of St John the Baptist, built on land donated by the Laterani family. The Pope's Chair as Bishop of Rome has been in that place ever since. The basilica of St John Lateran is the first, the mother church, of every Christian church throughout the world. *Omnium urbis et orbis Ecclesiarum Mater et Caput.*



On this feastday of the universal Church, it is appropriate to reflect on the sacredness of our Churches – places of prayer and worship. Let us ensure that we uphold the great tradition of due reverence and silence in our churches, necessary for prayerful reflection. In the words of Thomas Merton: **“Silence will unite you to God himself.”**

**Cross Roads:** Our last meeting for this year is on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Nov** at **Nowra Baptist Church**. (7:15pm) **St Andrew's Presbyterian Church** will lead the program for the night. We know that our numbers will be down because of two other functions for people with a disability on the same night BUT we will still have a good time and look forward to seeing you if you can make it. (Beth Dodd)

**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@woollongong.catholic.org.au](mailto:jane.edwards@woollongong.catholic.org.au) or 4253 0900 by Fri 14 Nov.