

talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest.

So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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**Reflection** by *Dianne Bergant CSA*

**I**t is not enough that we wait patiently. We are expected to be industrious as we await the advent of the reign of God. We have all been entrusted with talents that really belong to God, and we must use these talents to the best of our ability in the interim between the Lord's departure and his final return. The ideal wisdom figure in the first reading is a model of such industriousness.

Fidelity to the reign of God requires that we be willing to take risks. We do not know the time of the Lord's coming, and so there will have to be a kind of tentativeness to all of our plans. We will never be able to be certain that they will be brought to fruition. We must spend and be spent without the assurance that we will be able to reap the rewards of our investment. To refuse to risk is to refuse to trust.

If we have been wise and have industriously employed the Lord's talents, which were entrusted to us, we will be richly rewarded. However, if we have not realised the potential that is possessed by our talents, and if we have not employed them as they were meant to be employed, we will be punished. The foolish man in the gospel knew that the householder was exacting. He had some idea of what to expect. He made his choice and he had to accept the consequences of that choice.

**Overview**

**J**esus gives a new spin to the talents story. In Jesus' time, it was considered very smart to bury a treasure or money or 'talent' because one could lose the talent. Stern consequences would have resulted. The careful servant was prudent and buried his talent. No one could take it, thus making him safe from all culpability. The other servants were more enterprising and took risks and – no surprise – received the praise of the master. What of the careful, but boring, servant? The wrath of the master fell upon him and he was punished. Maybe, a risk-free world is not so good after all.

Who took risks? Certainly, the disciples who left boats, tax collectors who left desks, everyone who left family and friends to follow Jesus and win a place in his kingdom. Unfortunately for most of them, their idea of kingdom did not coincide with what Jesus had in mind.

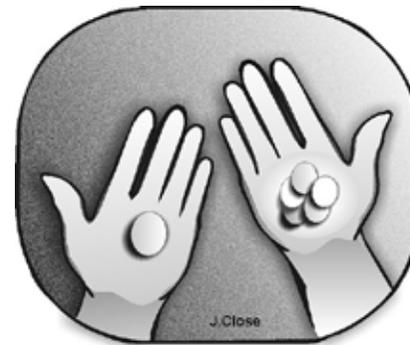
# Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

33rd Sunday (Year A) ~ in the season of the year

16 November 2008



**Second Reading**

5:1-6

*A reading from first Thessalonians*

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day; we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Jn 15:4-5

Alleluia, alleluia! Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

**Gospel**

25:14-30

*The holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.

The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five

**First Reading**

31:10-13, 19-20; 30-31

*A reading from the book of Proverbs*

A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit.

Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands.

She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 127

**R/ Happy are those who fear the Lord.**

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. (R.)

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. (R.)

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life. (R.)



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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.

**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year (A)**

**16<sup>TH</sup> 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

We prayerfully remember: **Len Hughes (K/Valley), Marjorie Evans, Joseph McGee. Preciosa Petilla** (Philippines) Also **Alec Owen Molly Cloran and Kevin Hereward** and all 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. All are welcome! Light refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the Mass.

**TWILIGHT-TAIZE** for Advent at St Patrick's Berry – 7.30pm, Friday 28 Nov. Please bring a plate of finger food to share for supper.

**ST PATRICK'S BERRY** will be hosting an Advent Christian Churches' Service on Wed 3 Dec commencing with morning tea at 10.15am. Fr Ronan will address the Service which commences at 11am. All welcome. Please bring a plate of finger food to share.

**First Reconciliation 2008 :**

**Nowra:** Tues. 18<sup>th</sup> Tues 25<sup>th</sup>. Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Nov - 7.00pm  
**Berry:** after Mass Tues 2nd Dec. 6.15pm  
**Culburra:** Sat. Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm  
**Vincentia:** Wed Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 7.00p.m.

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

- **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.

Fr Peter McGrath, the Passionist priest who founded **FAMILY GROUPS** is presenting a renewal day on Sat 22 Nov at Marg & Paul Casey's home at Callala Bay. If you would like to attend please ring 4446 4117.

**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.**

- 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.

**The Annual General Meeting of HOLY SPIRIT AUXILIARY VINCENTIA** will be held on Sat 29 Nov at 1.30pm in the meeting room behind the Church. Nominations will be accepted by Fr Leo prior to **OR** at the meeting. Please come along and be part of the decision making and activities of the Holy Spirit community.

**“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> November.** More info ring Shannon 4447 0990

**Feastdays of the week**

**Mon 17** – Elizabeth of Hungary, religious  
**Fri 21** – Presentation of the Virgin Mary  
**Sat 22** – Cecilia, virgin, martyr

**‘THE LITTLE BLUE BOOK’** for Advent is available this weekend from Nowra, Berry and Vincentia. Cost \$4 each

**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.

**Readers/ Lectors:** The Diocesan Commission on the Liturgy issued a brochure for Readers in July this year.. It is most important that ALL READERS throughout the parish ensure that you have procured a copy and that you read it diligently. Such Guidelines need to be revisited on a regular basis.

**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