

separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life."

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

- .....
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**Reflection**

by Dianne Bergant CSA

**W**e have now come to the end of the liturgical year, the point that marks the transition from one period to another. Today we see that the kingdom of God is inclusive. Its embrace is as comprehensive as is the embrace of God. Criteria for membership are not based on obedience to the commandments or on conformity to ritual obligation, but on the bonds of love and concern.

What we do for others, we do for Christ, because Christ is identified with those in need. We very seldom see the face of the glorified Christ in the faces of the needy; it is more often the face of the disfigured Christ that is turned to us. We see his fear and his shame, his brokenness and sense of loss. As difficult as it may be to look into such eyes, it is precisely the needy with whom Christ is identified.

Having entered into the frailty of human nature, identified himself with the needy, and handed himself over to death, in the end Christ will have conquered all. It is a curious kingdom that he has won, a kingdom of the weak rather than the strong. He has turned the standards of the world upside down. He has shown that it does not take strength to ignore or to exploit the needy, but it does take strength to overcome our own selfishness in order to serve them. The kingdom that Christ hands over to God is a kingdom of love and care.

**Context**

**T**his week's gospel passage comes as the third in a sequence of passages that make up Matthew Chapter 25. The chapter addresses the gospel's intended audience who were caught in a time of uncertainty. Many had expected the promised return of the Lord within their lifetime and had seen the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple by the Romans in 70 CE as a sign that the end of days was approaching. The three gospel passages speak of continuing to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom and the need to act in a way that works to bring about the reign of God in the world.

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# Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

**Christ the King (Year A)**

23 November 2008

**First Reading**

34:11-12, 15-17

*A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 23

**R/**The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. (R.)
2. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. (R.)

**Second Reading**

15:20-26,28

*A reading from first Corinthians*

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men



will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Mk 11:9-10

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!

**Gospel**

25:31-46

*The holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will



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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.



**SUNDAY Masses:**

**NOWRA:** 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

**Feastday of the week**

**Mon 24** – Andrew Dũng Lạc, priest, martyr and companions, Vietnamese martyrs



We prayerfully remember: **Tess Mutton, Mavis Reminis, Chris McKeveatt.** Also **Margaret Pryde, Rita Smith, Richard Brown, and Frank Hall** whose anniversaries occur. *May they rest in eternal peace.*

**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.



**ALL PAST LENTEN GROUP LEADERS, Hosts and interested persons** are invited to attend one of two meetings in the Parish Centre on either **Tues 25 Nov** at 10.00am or **Wed 26 Nov** at 7.00pm. This is mainly intended for the Nowra/B'derry areas but people from outlying areas are also welcome. For further information contact Francene 4421 5962 (after 7pm) or Peggy 4421 3417.

**First Reconciliation 2008 :**

**Nowra:** 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.

- **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.



**OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS** Culburra will be holding their Christmas Hamper raffle from this weekend, to be drawn on 20 Dec. All donations gratefully received. **You have to buy a ticket to win it!**

YOUNG ADULTS will be holding 2 events in December

- **1 Dec - Movie night** in the Parish Centre – “The Nativity Movie” commencing at 7.30pm. Bring some movie food & something soft to sit on.
- **15 Dec – C'mas party at the Chittick's house.** Bring all the family, meat, drink & a salad/dessert and some Christmas cheer!! RSVP by 12 Dec to Jody or Shannon.

**The Feast of Christ the King the Year (A)**

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2008

**CATECHIST NEWS.**

- **This 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.

**I would like to very sincerely thank** the many parishioners and friends who have been very generous in their thoughts, prayers and condolences on the recent death of my mother.....Robbie

**“GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING NIGHT” – Fri 5 Dec from 7.15pm.** Cost \$25 includes all you need – **final orders by Tues 25 Nov at the Parish Centre** More info ring Shannon 4447 0990

**THE LYDIAN SINGERS** will present 2 performances of Karl Jenkins' Mass for Peace **“The Armed Man”** an exciting, modern work at the S'haven Entertainment Centre on Sat 29 at 7.30pm and Sun 30 Nov at 2.30pm. Cost \$25 a ticket.



**The Feast of Christ the King is an appropriate time to reflect on how dependent our Parishes are on the support and participation of parishioners, covering a wide spectrum of ministries from Liturgy to maintenance.**

There are a number of parishioners who have served on parish rosters for virtually a life-time. Inevitably age and health concerns take a toll. At present a number of Parish Rosters are becoming depleted. Currently the cleaning Roster at St Michael's Church needs a new team..i.e. two or more persons (women or men). The roster is on a monthly basis, the work takes approx 1.15 hrs. If you can assist please contact the Parish Office 44231 713