

Gospel

13:33-37

The holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection *by Dianne Bergant CSA*

Today's readings contain several images: the faithfulness of those who suffer, even as they lament their predicament; the admonition to watch and wait; the expectation of the coming of the Day of the Lord. As trustees of the one who is coming, we live in the 'in between' time of ambiguity and hope. The placement of these readings at the beginning of Advent shapes the context for understanding the entire season. They fix our gaze on the world of human pain and then moves beyond it to the hope of a brighter future. Lamentation and expectation find fulfilment in the Day of the Lord.

Waiting is a prominent image this Sunday. Some people wait to be released from suffering, others await the second coming of Christ. Waiting saps our energies and stifles our enthusiasm. Yet wait we must, and as we wait, we wonder: 'What should I be doing?' The readings suggest that we should wait with patient expectation for the

day of reconciliation and peace; we should wait in joyful hope that what is to come will come soon. While we wait, we should faithfully fulfil our responsibilities. We believe that we have a future worth waiting for, that there are promises that God will keep. And so we look expectantly to the Day of the Lord, that future day of ultimate fulfilment.

Beginning Advent *by Greg Sunter*

By the time the Church begins to celebrate Advent as a period of preparation towards Christmas, the stores have been filling with Christmas paraphernalia for weeks. It starts out small with a few decorations and wrapping paper and eventually takes over every retail outlet. In the midst of this excess of Christmas consumerism, it is often difficult to draw attention to the season of Advent and the need to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christmas. It is important to stay awake, as we are cautioned in this week's gospel. Awake to what is happening around us in the world and awake to what is happening within us.

The Doorkeeper

The image of the doorkeeper from this week's gospel is an interesting one. It is not unusual to hear references to people being 'gatekeepers' today in relation to projects or groups working together. The role of the gatekeeper, or the doorkeeper, is to maintain a watching brief – to be alert to dangers or distractions and to ensure that everyone who is important to the process is invited to participate. Today's gospel reminds us that as believers we are to be the doorkeepers, or gatekeepers, of the Kingdom, watching for dangers and welcoming in all those who wish to enter.

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Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

First Sunday of Advent (Year B)

30 November 2008



Happy New (liturgical) Year!

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79

R/ Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

Second Reading

1:3-9

The first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Ps 84.8

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

First Reading

63:16-17; 64:1-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name.

Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.

We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind.

No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins.

And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.



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.

First Sunday of Advent Year (B)

30th November 2008



SUNDAY Masses:

NOWRA: Vigil; 8am, 9.30am & 6pm
BERRY:8.00am
BOMADERRY:9.30am
CULBURRA:.....6pm Vigil
K. VALLEY11.00am

VINCENTIA:..6pm Vigil, & 9.30am

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

Feastday of the week

Wed 3 Dec – Francis Xavier, patron of our Cathedral.



We prayerfully remember: **Josephine Koppman, Luigi Pozzar and Chris McKeveatt.** Also **Marija & Edward Alamango, Dolores & Joseph Gravino**

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

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 :

Berry: after Mass Tues 2nd Dec. 6.15pm

Culburra: Sat. Dec. 6th 5.30pm

Vincentia: Wed Dec 3rd 7.00p.m.

THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

- **NOWRA** will be holding their Annual Christmas Appeal on the weekend of 6/7 December. There will be a collection at all Masses. Please support the Society generously so they can assist many families to enjoy a peaceful and joyful Christmas. If you would like to donate food or toys please deliver to the Centre.
- **VINCENTIA** will be holding their Annual Toy Appeal for the next 3 weeks – please wrap presents with a tag with indication of Male or Female and age group - there will be a box for collection at the rear of the Church.



PRE-CHRISTMAS BOOKSTALLS.

We apologise to parishioners who were unable to view the books at last Sunday's 6pm Mass but it wasn't possible to get the books to the Church. However the books will be available for the **6pm Mass at Nowra this Sunday and then Culburra on 13 Dec and Bomaderry on 14 Dec.**

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

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** – commencing at 5.30pm. Bring all the family, meat, drink & a salad/dessert and some Christmas cheer!! RSVP by 12 Dec to Jody or Shannon.

CATECHIST NEWS.

- 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 4423 1009 for more information.

"GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING NIGHT" – **Fri 5 Dec from 6.00pm in the Parish Centre.** (Please note the change in time and venue). The 'Take home' kits **may** be ready to collect from Thurs 4 Dec, if not they will be available on Mon 8 Dec. Please ring the Parish office to check availability.



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

A small Ecumenical Group in Kangaroo Valley who support the parish of **REMIZIO** in East Timor has had a request from Fr David, the Parish Priest there, for a second hand Lap-Top computer. If you can help please contact the Parish Office 4423 1712 or Fr Ronan.



Parishes are dependent on the support and participation of parishioners, covering a wide spectrum of ministries from Liturgy to maintenance.

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 we would be most grateful; please contact the Parish Office 4423 1712

Notification regarding the Sick and /or Aged:

While we are fortunate in this parish to have great cooperation from the local Hospitals and Nursing Homes in terms of notification of people wishing to receive the Sacraments, lists can however often be incomplete. We urge Families and parishioners to let us know when a family member or fellow parishioner is hospitalised or goes into residential care.

DIOCESAN RETREAT & MASS ON THE BEACH – you are invited to join Bishop Peter together with our WYD choir for a Diocesan Vigil Mass on Sat 6 Dec, 5.30pm at North Beach, W'gong. **The Retreat** - from 2pm to 5pm – join a day of reflection to centre yourself in God with Sr Hilda Scott at St Mary's College, W'gong. After the Mass a light supper will be served. **RSVP for retreat only** to Jane - jane.edwards@woll.catholic.org.au or 4253 0900 by Mon 1 Dec. **Note:** in the case of wet weather Cathedral Mass will be celebrated at 6.00pm.