

be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4,6

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel 1:1-8

The holy Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.
A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Reflection by *Dianne Bergant CSA*

In the wilderness God's salvation comes to a broken people. In the midst of what is seemingly an impossible situation, hope emerges with vigour. In this context, hope is an openness to surprise, the surprise that God is in no way limited to the imaginings of human minds and the consequences of human history. This is the kind of hope that is proclaimed in the wilderness by John; it is the kind of hope that trusts that from the impossible, God can work a new creation.

There is something of a time warp in Christianity. What is future is made present. The prophetic oracle announces the future as if it is already happening. This sense of the future-present prompts new ways of living. As the future takes root in human lives, the present is transformed into a new creation and the Day of the Lord appears.

God's future comes through the wilderness into the broken city and inspires a broken-hearted people. The contrite heart is a broken heart, an emptied-out heart, a hope-filled heart. It is a heart that is unencumbered by the past and that lives currently in the passing of time and the fragility of being alive. The contrite, broken heart can be filled only by what is promised in the future. This is the paradox of Advent. In the middle of the wilderness, God works the impossible in those whose hearts are ready for the surprise of hope.

The context of Mark by *Greg Sunter*

The gospel of Mark is sometimes portrayed as a 'no fuss' gospel. Nowhere is this more clearly seen than in this week's passage. We have the first eight verses of the gospel and the author wastes no time in announcing the purpose, 'The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.' The gospel of Mark does not give any infancy narrative or genealogy like Matthew or Luke, nor a theological foreword like John. It jumps straight in with a declaration that Jesus is the Son of God and almost immediately begins to explore his ministry.

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Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)

7 December 2008

First Reading 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 84

R/ Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall

spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. (R.)

3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

Second Reading 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will





St Michael's Parish, Nowra – Tel: 4423 1712 E-mail: office@nowraparish.org.au **Second Sunday of Advent Year (B)**

Website: nowraparish.org.au Incorporates the Church Communities of St Michael, Nowra; St Patrick, Berry **7 December 2008**

Sacred Heart, Bomaderry; Mary, Help of Christians, Culburra; St Joseph, Kangaroo Valley; Holy Spirit, Vincentia.



SUNDAY Masses:

NOWRA: Vigil; 8am, 9.30am & 6pm
BERRY8.00am
BOMADERRY9.30am
CULBURRA..... 6pm Vigil
K. VALLEY 11.00am

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. 8.00am 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

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION prior to Christmas will be held on Friday 19 Dec at 7.30pm in St Michael's Church.

Feastdays of the week

Mon 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary
Sat 13 – Lucy, virgin, martyr



We prayerfully remember: **Carmel Gleeson**, and **Krystyn Brimmer** (Guildford/Culburra) Also **Maurie Hanley and Keith Phillips** whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May they rest in eternal peace.*

CATECHIST NEWS.

- Friday 12 Dec – the Catechists' awards will be held at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral Wollongong
- Thankyou to the 6 new Catechists so far:** 2-4 more will be needed for 2009. **WILL YOU HELP?** Ring Lyn 4423 1009 for more information.

THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

- NOWRA** is conducting the **Christmas Appeal this weekend.** 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 2 weeks – please wrap presents with a tag with indication of Male/Female and age group - there will be a box for collection at the rear of the Church.



PRE-CHRISTMAS BOOKSTALLS will be held on **13 Dec at Culburra and 14 Dec at Bomaderry.** A great gift idea!

YOUNG ADULTS Christmas Party -

- 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.

ST MICHAEL'S YOUTH GROUP will be holding their 'Christmas Party Night' at 164 Penguin's Head Road, Culburra Beach at 7.30pm to 9.45pm. **Please bring food to share.**

CWL NOWRA BRANCH Nowra branch will be holding their next meeting on Tues 9 Dec – morning tea at 9.30am in the Polding Room, Parish Centre. The members would like to thank everyone for their support during 2008 and extend Christmas Greetings to all Parishioners.



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!**

CULBURRA CHURCH CLEANING;

A special pre-Christmas cleaning effort will be conducted on Saturday 13 Dec commencing at 8.30am. Every assistance will be appreciated.

Laptop computer needed by Missionary priest in East Timor- Fr David In the parish of **REMIXIO**. If you can help please contact the Parish Office 4423 1712 or Fr Ronan.

TWILIGHT TAIZE AT BERRY – Thank you to all who participated, in particular thankyou to the choir and musicians, Greg Troy, Sharon Ambrus and Fr Richard for their computer skills in helping to make the evening such a success. A special thanks to Les Ambrus for his commitment, enthusiasm and hard work.

JOURNEY – news from the Diocese of Wollongong will be available from this weekend. This edition contains a reflection by Bishop Peter on his time at the Synod on the Word of God; an article on Social Justice and the latest news from our parishes, schools & agencies.

Thank you to the 2 volunteers for the cleaning.



St Michael's also needs people to go on a roster once every 6 weeks to do the Church lawns. If you can assist we would be most grateful; please contact the Parish Office 4423 1712

MEN'S RETREAT – "A Distant Drum" will be held at Hartzler Park Bowral on w/end 27/28 Feb & 1 March 2009. Fr John Sullivan leads this retreat. Contact Alan 9544 4108 or Fr John 9521 6172.

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.

The Christmas–New Year Mass Timetable will be available next weekend