

Gospel

1:26-38

The holy Gospel according to Luke

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

St Michael's Parish Contacts

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Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The world in which we live and the events of which we are a part are the stage upon which the drama of salvation is enacted. God works through real flesh and blood people, those like David, who occupy the seats of power and influence as well as those like Mary and us, who are unseen and unknown. All can be agents of salvation. God's future is in our hands. Human history is really the history of salvation. Each turn of God's revealing causes us to wonder at what might come next. In this tension, mystery is revealed. What was hidden is now made known. Jesus establishes a people of covenant promise. Still, the mystery is unknown, for it continues to come to us from the future, revealing more and more of itself in the junctures of history.

The waiting of Advent is over. In the face of the impossible, God works the possible. During Advent, we have been waiting for the realisation of the promise made to David. We have been waiting for Mary's yes. With this yes, hope is enlivened, and history is changed. There is an unimaginable future for all people, a future that comes from God. Salvation is created among us, and the fate of history is altered by a godly presence. This salvation resides in the hearts of those who believe in the gift, and who stay awake eagerly to know its coming. With David we await it, with the nations we long for it, with Mary we behold it.

Hymn: Come, Lord Jesus

Come Lord Jesus; Come Lord Jesus; Come Lord Jesus: Come and be born in our hearts.

Come, O Prince of Peace; Come, O Prince of Peace; Come, O Prince of Peace: Come, and be born in our hearts.

Our hearts are open; Our hearts are open; Our hearts are open: Come and be born in our hearts.

Come, Emmanuel; come Emmanuel; come Emmanuel: Come and be born in our hearts.

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Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)

21 December 2008

First Reading

7:1-5, 8-16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

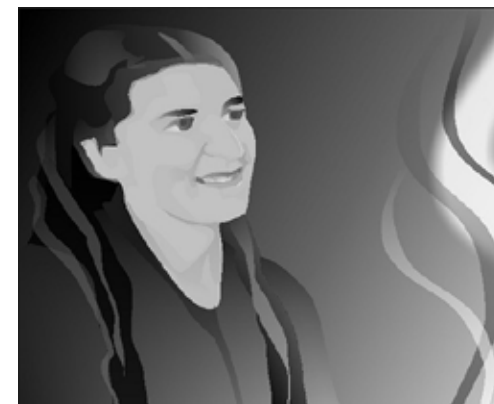
The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Luke 1

R/ For ever I will sing
the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the



heavens. (R.)

2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)

3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.' I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.

Second Reading

16:25-27

...from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!



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.



**Fourth Sunday of Advent Year (B)
21 December 2008**



CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES:

Nowra: 7.00pm
Culburra: 6.00pm
Vincentia: 6.00 & 8.00pm
K Valley: 9.00pm
Berry: 9.00pm
S'haven Heads : 6.00pm

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS: Nowra

CHRISTMAS DAY:

Nowra: 8.00 & 9.30am
Berry: 8.00am
Bomaderry: 9.30am
Culburra Beach: 8.00am
Vincentia: 8.00 & 9.30am

PLEASE NOTE:

There is no evening Mass on Christmas Day.

SUMMER SUNDAY Masses (to Sun 25 Jan)

NOWRA: Vigil 6.00pm; 8am, 9.30am & 6pm
BERRY 8.00am
BOMADERRY 9.30am
CULBURRA 6pm Vigil & 8.00am
K. VALLEY 11.00am
VINCENTIA 6pm Vigil & 8.00am & 9.30am
SHOALHAVEN HEADS: 6.00pm

MASSES DURING THE WEEK:

Nowra: Mon 7.00am, Tues/Wed. 8.15am, Fri. 8.00am., Sat. 9.00am
Berry: Tues 5.30pm;
Vincentia: Mon/Fri. 8.00am Tues. 5.30pm
K. Valley: Mon/Tues/Sat 8.00am, Wed 6.15am.

Confession/Reconciliation

Christmas Eve: Nowra: .9.00 – 10.00.a.m.
Berry: Tues 6.00pm
K'Valley: Sat 4.30--5.00pm
Vincentia: Sat 5.00pm – 5.30pm

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH will cease until February 2009. Date to be advised



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS Culburra are holding their Christmas Hamper raffle, to be drawn this weekend. Your last chance to get a ticket and support the auxiliary!

The Culburra ST VINCENT DE PAUL Conference will be holding their Christmas appeal next weekend 27/28 December. Please support the work of the society as they seek to assist those in need.



We prayerfully remember: **Bruno Wiczowski** (Culburra) and **Garry Avery**. Also **Richard Guthrie, and Michael Robertson** whose anniversaries occur at this time. *Mass will be offered over the Christmas period for all parishioners who have died over the past 12 months. May they rest in eternal peace.*

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS – children wishing to be angels or shepherds in the 7pm Vigil Christmas Mass, please come to a practice on Tues 23 Dec in the Parish Hall starting promptly at 10am for approx 1 hour. Parental supervision is necessary. If anyone has a spare angel costume please take to the practice. The angels are **NOT** to wear tinsel or wings. Ring Katja 4423 5935 or Rosanne 44460349
SINGERS / MUSICIANS participating in the Christmas Vigil Mass at 7pm in St Michael's Hall are invited to a practice at 6.30pm on Mon 22 Dec



Feastdays of the week

Fri 26 - Stephen, first martyr: Mass 8.00.a.m. only
Sat 27 – John, apostle, evangelist

THANK YOU. As an expression of appreciation and gratitude for the support and generosity of so many parishioners throughout the year, and especially at Christmas time, a **Triduum of Masses** will be offered for your intentions and needs over the Christmas season. ***Our prayer is that you and your families will have a blessed, peaceful and joyful Christmas.*** (Frs. Pat, Richard, Ronan, and Leo).

CHRISTMAS MASS 2ND COLLECTION – a portion of the second collection is distributed to some of the Nursing Homes in the area to assist in caring for the aged, among the residents are many parishioners. We will also contribute to **Caritas**

YOUTH MINISTER POSITION. Nowra Parish and St John's High School are jointly seeking to employ a suitably qualified youth minister for 15 hours a week to start in 2009. The position would be focused on integrating students and young adults aged 15 to 25 years into the life of the parish. The youth minister would train and empower a core team of volunteers to run youth groups/ formation/prayer events. They will be available to work at St John's in RE support, school retreats and reflection days and a lunchtime prayer group (up to 6hrs/week). In the Parish they will support existing Youth and Young Adult ministries and facilitate additional events. Application Forms are available from the Parish Office. Visit nowraparish.org.au for more information and application form.

THE SHOALHAVEN NURSING HOME MASS SUPPORT GROUP wishes to thank the several parishioners who so generously and spontaneously assist in conveying the residents back to the Nursing Home at the end of Mass at Sacred Heart Bomaderry each Sunday. This assistance is invaluable and very greatly appreciated.

CHRISTMAS TELEVISION – ABC1 TV will provide live coverage of the Pope's Midnight Mass from St Peter's Basilica at 11.00am on Christmas Day.

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL! – The New Year can be a time to pause and ask God and others what life we are being called to live. God calls us all to live life to the full in our chosen vocation. Enquiries about the priesthood can be directed to Fr Mark O'Keefe 4271 1068 or Fr Richard Healey 4423 1712. For more information about married life, religious life or committed single life visit Life Choices for Catholics www.catholicozvocations.org.au