

Gospel Acclamation

Jn1.41

Alleluia, alleluia! We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace. Alleluia!

Gospel

1:35-42

The holy Gospel according to John

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today we consider the call to discipleship. The readings outline the various stages of this call and provide a sketch of some of the characteristics of each stage: the invitation, the discerning process and the resulting transformation.

The call is an invitation from God. It might come to us as inner sensitivity, a kind of a dream or inspiration. Our interest might be captured by a person or an event that first attracts us and then beckons us to investigate further. It can come in the innocence and naivete of childhood, in the vigour of young adulthood, or in the wisdom of years. It comes when God calls.

The second stage involves discernment. Most of us need help recognising moments of religious importance and so we seek out women and men who are practiced in the ways of God, who can help us test the spirit. They might be recognised religious leaders or prophetic guides, or they could be friends or loved ones who know us well and who are also attuned to the workings of God in their own lives.

Finally, when we respond to the call, we discover that we no longer belong solely to ourselves; as disciples, we belong to the body of Christ. We belong to the reign of God; we are now part of the mission of Christ. As disciples, we are called to proclaim to the world the justice of God. What a glorious honour this is!

Why have disciples?

Gregory Sunter

Why did Jesus call a group of people to follow him closely and share in his ministry? Certainly, it was not uncommon at the time that a charismatic leader might attract a group of followers and 'hangers-on' but Jesus appears to have deliberately called some people to travel with him and share in what he was about.

So much of what Jesus spoke about was living in right relationships: with God; and with one another. Rather than simply being a 'back-up group' for Jesus, the disciples provided a lived example of trying to live in right relationships. They didn't always get it right, but they were on the way.

Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

2nd Sunday (Year B) ~ Season of the Year

18 January 2009

First Reading

3:3-10,19

A reading from the first book of Samuel

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am.' Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.' Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of

his fall to the ground.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 39

R/ Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord. and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. (R.)
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. (R.)
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. (R.)
4. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. (R.)

Second Reading

6:13-15. 17-20

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you since you have received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

The word of the Lord.



St Michael's Parish Contacts

Fr Patrick Faherty, <i>Parish Priest</i>	4423 1712
Fr Richard Healey, <i>Assistant Priest</i>	4423 1712
Fr Leo Duck, <i>Resident in Vincentia</i>	4441 5571
Fr Ronan Kilgannon, <i>Resident in Kangaroo Valley</i>	
Mr Duane Fernandez, <i>Seminarian</i>	4423 1712
Mrs Robbie Forsythe, <i>Secretary</i>	4423 1712
Sr Margaret Prendergast sgs	4421 2260
Sr Patricia Lawless sgs	4421 2260
Sr Val Green rsc	4441 7035
Mrs Lyn West, <i>Catechist Coordinator</i>	4423 1009
St Michael's Primary School	4421 3630
St John the Evangelist High School	4423 1666

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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.

Second Sunday of the Year (B)

18th January 2009

Sunday Masses: (Holiday time):

NOWRA 6pm Vigil; 8am, 9.30am & 6pm
BERRY.....8.00am
BOMADERRY.....9.30am
CULBURRA..... 6pm Vigil & 8.00am
VINCENTIA..... 6pm Vigil, 8.00am & 9.30am
KANGAROO VALLEY.....11.00am
SHOALHAVEN HEADS: Friday Masses at 3.30 will resume 30 January.

MASSES DURING THE WEEK

Nowra: Mon 7.00am Tues/Wed/Thurs 8.15am
 Friday 7.00am and 11.30am Sat 9.00am
Berry: Tues 5.30pm..... **Culburra:** Thurs 5.30pm
Bomaderry: First Friday only 5.45pm
Vincentia: Mon, Thur, Fri 8.00am . Tues, Wed 5.30pm
Kangaroo Valley: Mon/Tues/Thurs/Sat 8.00am;
 Wed 6.15am. Divine Office is chanted 15 mins prior to Mass. No Mass on Fridays.

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 - 5.30pm.

Feastdays of the week

Wed 21st - St Agnes - martyr
Fri 23rd - Sts Timothy and Titus
Sat 24th - St Francis de Sales



We prayerfully remember: the recently deceased: **Lisa Roberts** (nee McMillan. Lisa's funeral will take place at St Michael's on Thursday at 11.00a.m.). **Wayne Foley**, (Culburra) **Ron Wilson** (Bay & Basin), **Shirley Moore**, **Norman Milham** (Sydney). Also **Natale Ferraris** and **Vic Sutherland** whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May they rest in eternal peace.*

RETREAT DAY FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION on Sat 28 March- most likely at Kerever Park, Burradoo – please mark this date on your calendar.

BISHOP PETER INGHAM INVITES YOU to hear his presentation on “The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church” following his attendance at the Synod of Bishops in Rome in October 2008. Two venues – **Campbelltown** on Wed 28 Jan at 7.30pm in St John's Parish Hall and **Albion Park**, Wed 11 February at 7.30pm in St Paul's Parish Hall. RVSP Campbelltown 4625 8044 or Albion Park 4256 2038 if you wish to attend.

ASH WEDNESDAY 2009 is on 25 February. So our 6 week Lenten program will commence on Monday 23 February. We ask that regular Lenten Group leaders and/or hosts, as well as anyone willing to be a leader or host this year contact Peggy 4421 3417 or Francene 4421 5962 as soon as possible.



Pope Benedict's words on Baptism – Sunday last

Jan. 11th- The Baptism of the Lord. *“This morning, following tradition, in the Sistine Chapel, I administered the Sacrament of baptism to three newborn children. To the parents, and the Godparents, the celebrant customarily asks: “What do you ask of the Church of God for your children?” They answer “baptism,” and the celebrant replies: “And what does Baptism give us?” They answer: “Eternal life.” This is a stupendous thing: Through Baptism the human person is brought into Jesus’ unique and singular relationship with the Father, in such a way that the words that are spoken from heaven about the only-begotten Son become true for every man and woman who is reborn from the water of the Holy Spirit: You are my sons and daughters, my beloved.....”* The Pope then spoke of the resulting responsibility of parents and Godparents of raising their children in the faith.



THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG, through **Centacare** is offering a Pastoral Care Training Program to be held one day a week for those visiting older people in parishes or who would like to acquire pastoral care skills; on Tues 10 Feb to 17 March from 9.30am to 3.30pm at Gerringong Parish Centre. It is hoped to conduct a similar program in Nowra after Easter, probably in May. Please contact the Diocesan Aged Care Advocate Carmen Karauda on 4254 9331, 0448 930 287 or carmenk@centacare.woll.catholic.org.au or more information.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

ANNIVERSARY (35 YEARS) MASS and St Valentine's evening celebrations on Sat 14 Feb at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church, St Andrews Rd., Varroville. Mass at 6pm followed by celebrations in the parish hall from 7pm. BYO drinks, food to share and dancing shoes! All welcome. Cost: donation on the day. RSVP 7 Feb to Marian or Andrew 9823 8059 or juliena@optusnet.com.au

GENERAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS –

coordinated by the Pastoral Council Sunday February 15th. – 7.15.p.m. Parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend this gathering as an expression of your interest in and support for, the life and ministries in the Parish. There will be some brief reports delivered on the evening; however all organisations within the parish are invited to send in a brief written report on their respective work/ ministry by the end of January. All such reports will be coordinated and made available on the night. (They can be e-mailed: office@nowraparish.org.au)

The Year of St Paul: “We first encounter Saul/Paul as an associate of those who stoned to death St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. After Stephen's death, Paul “was trying to destroy the church; entering house after house and dragging out men and women, he handed them over for imprisonment” (Acts 8:3). The young man's anger toward Christians was ferocious: But God had other plans for Paul. On the road to Damascus, the Risen Christ himself showed up, in an appearance so powerful that it knocked Paul to the ground and blinded him.....”



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Second Sunday of the Year (B)
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Paul was confronted with the reality that the Man of Nazareth who had been crucified truly was raised from the dead, as His followers claimed. This Man, he came to realize, was in fact the divine Son of God in the flesh, the Christ (or Messiah) long promised to His people. In opposing the Church, Paul had been opposing the God he had wanted to serve

PAUL: THEN AND NOW with Fr Ron Peters. St Francis Xavier's Cathedral in the parish meeting room. 4 sessions, 10.30am – 12 noon Fri 6, Wed 11, 18 & 25 March or 7.30pm – 9pm Thurs 5, 12, 19 & 26 March. Light refreshments provided. RSVP Michael Dwyer 4228 6511 or Wollongong@parish.woll.catholic.org.au