

Gospel

2:1-12

The holy Gospel according to Mark

When Jesus returned to Capernaum, word went round that he was back; and so many people collected that there was no room left, even in front of the door. He was preaching the word to them when some people came bringing him a paralytic carried by four men, but as the crowd made it impossible to get the man to him, they stripped the roof over the place where Jesus was; and when they had made an opening, they lowered the stretcher on which the paralytic lay. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, 'My child, your sins are forgiven.' Now some scribes were sitting there, and they thought to themselves, 'How can this man talk like that? He is blaspheming. Who can forgive sins but God?' Jesus, inwardly aware that this was what they were thinking, said to them, 'Why do you have these thoughts in your hearts? Which of these is easier: to say to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven" or to say, "Get up, pick up your stretcher and walk"? But to prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,' – he said to the paralytic – 'I order you: get up, pick up your stretcher, and go off home.' And the man got up, picked up his stretcher at once and walked out in front of everyone, so that they were all astounded and praised God saying, 'We have never seen anything like this.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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St Michael's Parish Contacts

Fr Patrick Faherty, <i>Parish Priest</i>	4423 1712
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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

Gospel thoughts

by Dianne Bergant CSA

The man who suffered from paralysis was an evangeliser both while he was afflicted and after he had been cured. Before the healing, he witnessed to his faith in Jesus by the mere fact of allowing himself to be brought to the healer. After he had been cured, his very presence announced to the world the healing power of God.

Those who are suffering have much to teach us. They can be living examples of patience in the midst of pain, human dignity in the presence of poverty or diminishment, thoughtfulness toward others even when in great need. People who have learned to accept the hardships that they cannot change often radiate a quality of peace that is astonishing. Perhaps the greatest lesson that they can teach is total dependence on God.

Whether or not we are relieved of our misfortunes, the fundamental message of the reign of God is newness of life. It is the radical shifting of human existence – those whose lives were wasteland, see them flowing with refreshing waters; those who are searching for meaning, have the word of God preached to them; those who are paralysed, stand up and walk; the promises that God made are fulfilled. Most important, those who have sinned are forgiven. The redemptive power of God is set loose in the world. We can prepare for it. We can remove the roof and lower the mat, but the radical newness comes from God. This is the good news. May this Eucharist give us the love and compassion of Christ to fight for others' dignity because of the dignity we have received from Him. May we trust our anger and pray that it be like that of Jesus, and so turn us into agents of change for a more just church and for a more just world.

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Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

7th Sunday (Year B) ~ Season of the Year

22 February 2009



First Reading 43:18-19. 21-22. 24-25

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises. Jacob, you have not invoked me, you have not troubled yourself, Israel, on my behalf. Instead you have burdened me with your sins, troubled me with your iniquities.

I it is, I it is, who must blot out everything and not remember your sins.

The word of the Lord.

dow.org.au/year-of-st-paul/

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 40

R/ Lord, heal my soul,
for I have sinned against you.

1. Happy the man who considers the poor and the weak. The Lord will save him in the day of evil, will guard him, give him life, make him happy in the land and will not give him up to the will of his foes. (R.)

2. The Lord will help him on his bed of pain, he will bring him back from sickness to health. As for me, I said: 'Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul for I have sinned against you.' (R.)

3. If you uphold me I shall be unharmed and set in your presence for evermore. Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel from age to age. Amen. Amen. (R.)

Second Reading

1:18-22

A reading from second Corinthians

I swear by God's truth, there is no Yes and No about what we say to you. The Son of God, the Christ Jesus that we proclaimed among you – I mean Silvanus and Timothy and I – was never Yes and No: with him it was always Yes, and however many the promises God made, the Yes to them all is in him. That is why it is 'through him' that we answer Amen to the praise of God. Remember it is God himself who assures us all, and you, of our standing in Christ, and has anointed us, marking us with his seal and giving us the pledge, the Spirit, that we carry in our hearts.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!



St Michael's Parish, Nowra – Tel: 4423 1712 E-mail: office@nowraparish.org.au

7th Sunday of the Year (B)
22nd February 2009

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.

Sunday Masses:

NOWRA 6pm 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/Thurs 8.15am
Friday 7.00am and 11.30am..... Sat 9.00am
Morning Prayer: Wed 7.50am **Holy Hour:** Fri 10.30am
Berry: Tues 5.30pm..... **Culburra:** Thurs 5.30pm
Bomaderry: First Fridays – 5.45.p.m.
Vincentia: Mon, Thur, Fri 8.00am Tues, 5.30pm
S/Heads: Fri 3.30pm Community Centre
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. 11...00 – 11.30 a.m & 5 - 5.30pm.

MASS TIMES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY a day of fast
and abstinence – 25 Feb



Nowra: 7.00 & 11.30am, 7.00pm
Culburra: 8.00a.m. **B'derry:** 8.30am
Berry: 6.30pm **K/Valley:** 8.00am
Vincentia: 8.00a.m. & 7.00p.m.

Stations of the Cross –Holy Spirit

Church following 8.00.am. Mass on Fridays beginning
on Feb 27th.

Project Compassion Sunday, 22 Feb

Project Compassion promotes peace by
pursuing justice. Please take home a
Project Compassion box and/or a set of
envelopes and give generously this Lent.
Your donations allow Caritas Australia, the
Catholic Agency for International Aid and
Development, to work with communities to
reduce poverty and hunger around the
world



LORD TEACH US TO PRAY The first

week of our Lenten program asks the
question "What is Prayer?" "It suggests
that "prayer, for Jesus, is not just a pit-
stop along the way, but the response to the Spirit's driving
force". We are challenged to respond to this force and to
examine "what is really needed in prayer".



**Group Leaders are reminded to contact all group
members to confirm the time and place of 1st meeting.**

Contacts for information:
Francene 4421 5962 or Peggy 4421 3417.
Berry/S/heads: Sr Patricia 4421 2260 or after Mass
Culburra Bch: Jean Helliwell 4447 3018 or Harry Ray
4447 2941
Currarong: Connie Heap 4448 3157
K/Valley: Fr Ronan
Vincentia: Fr Leo 4441 5571
Callala: Joyce Buttell 4446 5569
Books are still available for \$5 each.

BUSHFIRE APPEAL! Another

wonderfully generous
response by parishioners to
last weekend's Bushfire
Appeal – a total of \$8091.40
was contributed in the second
collection.



CULBURRA FAMILY GROUP will next meet on Sun 1st.
March at 9.00am for breakfast at Tilbury Cove.

**The Family Group has arranged a 2 hour up-river
Cruise (9.45.a.m- noon) for March 22nd. Cost \$22 per
person; morning tea will be served. Open to all.
Contact Terry 44474411 for booking. A minimum
number is required**

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2009 is hosted by All Saints
Anglican Church this year on Fri 6 March at 2.30pm – Cnr
Plunkett & Berry Sts. Afternoon tea to follow.

Older Children seeking Baptism: Primary School
children and older who with their parents are keen to
approach Baptism, are invited to meet at St Michael's
Church with Fr Pat on Saturday Feb. 28th. at 1.00.p.m.

THE HOPE OF NEW CREATION: What on earth are

we doing for heaven's sake? Fr Richard Healey presents
this five-week course which will look at the significance of
the resurrection of Jesus for our lives today. What
happens when we die? What do we hope for after death?
Is heaven the ultimate destination, our final 'home'?
Often our vision of heaven, the way that we imagine it,
looks so terribly boring – is that true? Is the point of the
Christian life just to 'save souls?' Does heaven have
anything to say about things like global warming and the
mission of the Church? Come along for a great Biblical
journey from the dawn of creation to the second coming
of Jesus and the final judgement to discover what it really
means to be a citizen of heaven.
Tuesday evenings, from 7.30 – 9.00pm in the Parish
Centre from 3 March – 31 March.
RSVP: Please write your name on the sheet in the foyer.

CHOIR FOR THE EASTER

CEREMONIES will begin on Thurs 26
Feb at 5pm in the Church – all singers
and musicians welcome.



We prayerfully remember: **John Paul Oliver, Katarina
Broz, Eileen Dengate, Ray Longford (Kevin's brother
Hornsby), Robert McCulloch (Dover U.K.).
Also Ramon Petilla** whose anniversary occurs
at this time. *May they rest in eternal peace.*

**RETREAT DAY FOR EXTRAORDINARY
MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION** conducted by Fr
Ronan at St Patrick's Berry, Sat April 4th from 9.30am –
2.30pm. Cost \$5. BYO lunch, tea & coffee provided.
Please book by ringing 4253 0900

SUPPORT FOR EARTH HOUR – join in on Sat 28 Mch
at 8.30pm as people around the world turn off their lights
for one hour to show how by working together we can
make a difference in the fight against climate change.

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