

Gospel Acclamation

Matt 17.5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

9:2-10

The holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Gospel thoughts

by Dianne Bergant CSA

We all have dreams for the future, dreams about success and well-being. We all want a better world for our children and grandchildren. Our religious tradition sets before us aspirations that call for personal transformation. However, sometimes when we follow the inspiration of our most devout aspirations, obstacles are thrown in our path preventing us from following our dreams. Still, God does not call us out of our dreams into a vacuum. If we are asked to relinquish a possible future, it is only to be offered God's future. Our aspirations may be noble, but the possibilities that God offers will outstrip them in excellence. Abraham was promised an heir; he relinquished his hold on his heir, and he was granted heirs beyond counting. Jesus came as a Rabbi; he allowed himself to be handed over to death, and he was revealed as the beloved Son of God.

Those preparing for Baptism might be asked to relinquish the dreams that they previously held in order to embrace the future God has in store for them. We who are already joined to Christ will be asked to recommit ourselves to this transformative experience. Do we have faith, or do we need a glimpse of Christ's transfiguration in order to believe in his resurrection? Do we have to see and touch Jesus, or are we able to believe because we have heard his message? God's future in Christ is open to us, but we must accept it in faith, even when we do not fully understand what it means.

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

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Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

Second Sunday of Lent (Year B)

08 March 2009



First Reading

22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 115

R/ I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.' O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. R./
2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the Lord's name.
3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. R./

Second Reading

8:31-34

A reading from St Paul to the Romans

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

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.

2nd Sunday of Lent (B)
March 8th 2009

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/Wed/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, /Wed 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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS –

Holy Spirit Church following 8.00am.
Mass on Fridays.
Kangaroo Valley : Fri. 5.00pm



PROJECT COMPASSION: As Christians we are called to walk with those who are in need. This week's story introduces us to Prabha, who lives in one of India's poorest tribal areas. Prabha participates in a Caritas Australia-supported program that is empowering families to increase their livelihoods and regenerate their environment.

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

LORD TEACH US TO PRAY Seeking

an answer to our problems and difficulties through prayer is nothing new. We are all familiar with Jesus' words "ask and you shall receive". This week in our Lenten program "we consider why we do not always get what we pray for and how God may answer our prayers".



ENROLMENT for Kinder 2010 at St Michael's Primary school – application packs available from the school now. Interviews will be held in May.

ST MICHAEL'S YOUTH Lenten gathering will be held in the demountable (near the Presbytery) on Fri 13 Mch from 7.30 – 9.30pm. Please bring supper to share. Come along for a fun night, learn more about what you can do for Lent and reflect on the Stations of the Cross.

MOTHER RUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND - claiming the date! The next Gala Theatre night will be held on Wed 24 June – "She Stoops to Conquer"

CHOIR FOR THE EASTER CEREMONIES on Thursday at 5.30pm in the Church – all singers and musicians welcome.



SHOALHAVEN CROSSROADS on Fri 13 March at the Nowra Baptist Church. The Christian Motorcyclists will be the host group.

NOWRA CWL next meet on Tues 10 March, 9.30am for morning tea followed by meeting at 10.00am.

CULBURRA AUXILIARY will be selling tickets for their Easter raffle this weekend. Any donations towards the prize would be gratefully received.

We prayerfully remember: **Harry Butler (Berry)** and **Paul Sultana** who died this past week. Also **Donald Rosenberg, Jim Dempsey, Jack and Marie Greene, and Antipas Rojas** whose anniversary occurs. *May they rest in eternal peace.*

AN AMENDED ROSTER from 8 March for Church cleaning and flower arranging at Bomaderry is available at the front of the Church.

THE HOPE OF NEW CREATION: What on earth are we doing for heaven's sake? Fr Richard's talks continue on Tuesday evenings, from 7.30 – 9.00pm in the Parish Hall until 31 March. Audio from the 1st talk is available on the Parish website.



We wish Colleen Ryan every blessing and happiness on the celebration of her 80th birthday.!!!

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION- Regional Meetings:

- **Berry** Tues 10th March – 6. 15p.m, after Mass
- **Nowra/Bomaderry;** At St. Michael's Church: Wed 11 March and Thur 12 March, both at 7.00.p.m. Also following the 6.00 p.m. Vigil Mass, at St Michael's Saturday 14th. March
- **Culburra** – Saturday 14 March, following the Vigil Mass at 6.00p.m.
- **Vincentia:** Sun March 15th following 9.30.a.m Mass

ST PATRICK'S DAY Tues 17th. MASS will be celebrated at Berry at 6.30pm. Mass will be followed by a short DVD - **The Footsteps of St Patrick** and supper. A cordial invitation to all.

ONE DAY CARERS' COURSE on The Nature of Dementia, Effective communication and Activities, Local services available. Thurs 19 Mch at the Steelers Club. Ring 8875 4686 to register. If respite required ph 1800 059 059. Cost – free.

BECOME A CENTACARE FOSTER CARER – an information session will be held on 17 March at Centacare Campbelltown at 6.00pm. Ring 4227 1122 if you would like to attend or would like information.

2nd Rite of Reconciliation (Penance) – Thursday April 2nd at 7.00.p.m. at St Michael's. 4/5 priests available for the Sacrament.

SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB – Mon 9 March, 7.30pm at Jamberoo Pub. Theme for 2009 "Does God Really Matter?" Topic for the night "Serving Two Masters – The Curse of Consumerism".