

## Gospel Acclamation

John 3.16

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## Gospel

2:13-25

### *The holy Gospel according to John*

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

### ..... St Michael's Parish Contacts

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

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

### The Gospel of the Lord.

### Gospel thoughts

by Dianne Bergant CSA

**I**srael believed that the temple was built over the navel of the universe, the axis mundi, that spot where the world above and the world below met the world of history, thus enabling the three worlds to communicate. When Jesus called himself the new temple, he was claiming to be the centre of the universe, the spot where three-way cosmic communication occurs, the presence of God in the midst of the community. When we accept him in faith, we are accepting these claims. We may profess this belief, but do our lives reflect it?

Although some consider the law a rigid set of precepts, it is really more a collection of directives that have grown out of the experience of life. To say that Jesus is the wisdom of God means that God's wisdom is made known in him and that he is the way that points to God. While laws often embody distinctive cultural values or customs, as wisdom of God, Jesus crosses cultural boundaries and breaks down cultural distinctions. As the wisdom of God, Jesus fulfils the expectations of any and all codes of law.

Both the law and the temple witness to the power of God in the lives of believers. However, both institutions pale in the light of Jesus who is identified as the power of God. This divine power is not revealed in lofty precepts or in magnificent stones, but rather in the broken and pierced body of Jesus Christ. How willing are we to accept him?

[dow.org.au/year-of-st-paul/](http://dow.org.au/year-of-st-paul/)

.....  
The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, ©1966-1968 Darton Longman and Todd Ltd. Extracts from the Lectionary for Mass ©1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. Used with permission; all rights reserved. ©2009 liturgyhelp.com.au & St Michael's Parish, Nowra

# Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

[nowraparish.org.au](http://nowraparish.org.au)

*Third Sunday of Lent (Year B)*

15 March 2009

## First Reading

20:1-17

### *A reading from the book of Exodus*

The Lord spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against

your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.



### The word of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18

**R/** Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. R./
2. The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. R./
3. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. R./
4. They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. R./

## Second Reading

1:22-25

### *from the first letter to the Corinthians*

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

### The word of the Lord.



**St Michael's Parish**, Nowra – Tel: 4423 1712 E-mail: [office@nowraparish.org.au](mailto:office@nowraparish.org.au)

**Website: [nowraparish.org.au](http://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.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent (B)**  
**March 15<sup>th</sup> 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 10.-11.00am.** (Sat 21<sup>st</sup>). 5.00 - 5.30pm.  
**Culburra:** Sat. 5.30pm. **Berry:** Tues 6.00pm  
**B'derry:** 1<sup>st</sup> 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



**2<sup>ND</sup> RITE OF RECONCILIATION (Penance) –**

Thursday 2 April at 7.00.p.m. at St Michael's. 4 or 5  
priests will be available for the Sacrament



**PROJECT COMPASSION:** This week's story takes us to Papua New Guinea where Junior is learning organic farming skills, as well as leadership, community responsibility, cooking, health and hygiene. Two years ago he was in danger of becoming one of Port Moresby's infamous 'raskols', but since participating in the Caritas Australia project run by the Archdiocese of Port Moresby's Social Action Centre, Junior has taken a path of hope.

**LORD TEACH US TO PRAY** Part of our Lenten Program in Wk 4 states "We actually cannot be fulfilled in this life without a vibrant relationship with God". So many of us seem to regret a lack of fulfilment and yet, we are urged to make use of prayer to seek what we, at times, seem unable to find. "The scriptures....teachings, tradition and worship of our Church should also help to challenge, guide and confirm the way we are living our life".



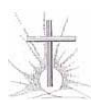
**LENTEN GROUP LEADERS** – a reminder to organise your groups for the Paschal Meal on 5 April. Numbers should be given to Maree McMillan 4421 8516, Peggy 4421 3417 or Francene 4421 5962. Final numbers by Monday 30 March.



**HELEN & FRED RING** are celebrating their 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary with Mass on Saturday 21 March at 11.30am. Parishioners are welcome to join the family on this unique and joyful occasion at St Michael's Church, Nowra

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

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



We prayerfully remember: **Les Shepherd** and **Kathleen McKenna** (Canada), who died this past week. Also **Peter Dalitz** and **Veronika Toynton** whose anniversaries occur. *May they rest in eternal peace.*

**URGENTLY NEEDED:** Copies of 1A & 2B Student Activity Books for Catechetical instruction. Books are now out of print until 2010. Please return to Resource Room.

**"COME & SEE"** – due to participation in the Lenten Program there will be no meeting during March. Resume on Wed 15 April. Ph Moira 4423 6077 or Liz 4422 1279  
**CULBURRA AUXILIARY** will be selling tickets for their Easter raffle this weekend. Any donations towards the prize would be gratefully received

**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 1<sup>st</sup> talk is available on the Parish website.

**ST PATRICK'S DAY Tues 17<sup>th</sup>. MASS** will be celebrated at Berry at 6.30pm. Mass will be followed by a short DVD - **The Footsteps of St Patrick**, please take a small plate for supper. A cordial invitation to all.

**March 19<sup>th</sup> Thurs : The Feast of St Joseph.**

**YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS** will meet in the Parish Centre on Fri 20 March at 7.30pm for a Lenten Taizé Prayer meeting. The evening will involve young people of other denominations – so please bring a friend. This is a special opportunity for Lent. Spend 1 hour with the Lord to "Watch & Pray".

**TIME TOGETHER.** This weekend for couples will help create an environment where companionship together in a life-long commitment is celebrated. Prayer & brief input on the importance of sensitivity to the heart of another,. Also an opportunity for Reconciliation and Mass. **Fri 27 to Sun 29 March** at St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park. Ph 4630 9232 ext 101 or visit [www.towersretreat.abundance.org.au](http://www.towersretreat.abundance.org.au)

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

Hospitality and cordiality are most important features of a parish community, which for the majority of parishioners can only be experienced at Sunday Mass. It is however important to balance this exchange within our Churches with consideration for the need to preserve an atmosphere of silence and reflection so that those who wish to quietly pray, can do so without undue distraction before and after Mass.

