

Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year B)

29 March 2009

First Reading

31:31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 51

R/ Create a clean heart in me,
O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. R./
2. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. R./
3. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. R./

Second Reading

5:7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

John 12.26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

12:20-26

The holy Gospel according to John

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

Now my soul is troubled.

What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

*An opportunity to
prepare for Easter by
celebrating the mercy
and forgiveness of our
Saviour*

**St Michael's, Nowra
Thursday 2 April 2009 -
7.00pm**



Gospel thoughts

by Dianne Bergant CSA

The moment of eschatological fulfilment gathers together the sense of the past ('the days when Christ was in the flesh'), the future ('the days are coming'), and the present ('the hour has come'). We live in the time when the past and the future are made present; we live in the 'already-but-not-yet' time of anticipation/fulfilment. This is a moment of great ambiguity, of fear and trepidation but of electric excitement. It is a moment of decision. We hover at the edge of dawn, weighing whether or not to step forward into the new day or to return to the darkness of night.

This 'hour' brings a new covenant, a deep interior relationship with God that is not based on law but which overflows from a commitment of the heart. It brings an abundant harvest that springs from a simple grain of wheat. It brings a promise from God's own Son that those who serve him will be honoured by God, and those who obey him will enjoy eternal life.

Although the 'hour' brings all of these blessings, it only does so with a price. The new covenant could only be written on new hearts; the abundant harvest sprang from the dying grain of wheat; eternal salvation was won at the price of Christ's blood. As challenging as the message of these readings may be, the last note is one of hope. It can overcome the demons that control us, because it is the power of the almighty God.

Stations of the Cross

- Nowra - Friday 3 April, 7pm
- Culburra - Wed 1 April, 10.30am
- Vincentia - Friday 3 April, 8.30am
- Kangaroo Valley - Friday 3 April, 5pm



Sunday Masses:

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

Masses During The Week

Nowra Mon 8.00, Tues/Wed/Thurs 8.15am
..... Fri 7am & 11.30am, Sat 9.00am
Morning Prayer: Wed 7.50am **Holy Hour:** Fri 10.30am
Berry Tues 5.30pm; **Bomaderry** 1st. Fri : 5.45.p.m.
Culburra Thurs 5.30pm
Vincentia Mon/Thurs/Fri 8.00am, Tues/Wed 5.30pm
Shoalhaven Heads Fri 3.30pm
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 11.00am – 12.30pm, 5.00 – 5.30pm
Culburra Sat 5.30pm
Berry..... Tues 6.00pm
Bomaderry 1st Fri of the Month 5.15pm
Vincentia Sat 5.00pm – 5.30pm
Kangaroo Valley..... Sat 4.30pm – 5.00pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS –

Holy Spirit Church – following
8.00am Mass on Fridays
Nowra – Friday 3 April 7.00pm
Kangaroo Valley – Fri 5.00pm
Culburra – Wed 1 April 10.30am



2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION will be held on
Thursday 2 April, 7.00pm at St Michael's Church.
4 or 5 priests will be available for the Sacrament.
Reconciliation at Berry: Saturday 4th April: 9.00-
10.00a.m.

THE HOPE OF NEW CREATION: The final
evening for Fr Richard's talks will be next
Tuesday evening from 7.30 – 9.00pm in the
Parish Hall. Audio and handouts from the first 4
weeks are available on the Parish website. The CD
set of the talks will be available this week for \$5.

**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.



gratefully received.

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



**PARISH
COMMEMORATION OF THE
PASCHAL MEAL** – Sunday

5 April 7.00pm for 7.30pm in
the Parish Hall. **EVERYONE
WELCOME!** This simple and
joyous Parish celebration that

connects the Christian Last Supper with the
Old Testament Passover, is a great lead-up to
all the events of Holy Week and the Easter
ceremonies.

Please contact Maree 4421 8516, Francene
4421 5962 or Peggy 4421 34127 or any group
leader, to be placed at a table – or form your
own group.

Attention Group Leaders – final numbers by
Monday 30 March **please.**

HELPERS (especially a few younger ones)
needed to set up the hall next Sunday after the
9.30am Mass.

**LORD, TEACH US TO
PRAY.** In the final week of
our Lenten Program we
discuss the sense of



abandonment that we can
feel at those terrible times when God seems
absent from our lives. The need for prayer, in
all its forms, can be seen as central to our well-
being. But we must also “trust in the guidance
of the Spirit that God will seek us out.”

**PALM SUNDAY YOUTH MASS & SPANISH
FIESTA – 5 April.** Dioceses around the world will

be celebrating the 24th WYD with the theme “We
have set our heart on the living God.” At St Peter's
Basilica, Pope Benedict will witness as a
delegation of young Aussies farewell the WYD
Cross and Icon and pass it on to the young people
of Madrid. In Wollongong, a Youth Mass will be
celebrated in the Cathedral at 5.00pm followed by
a Spanish Fiesta. At 8.00pm we will witness the
handover.

CHOIR FOR HOLY WEEK/ EASTER

CEREMONIES – Wednesday next - 1 April at
5.00pm in the hall – all singers and musicians
welcome.

CLAIMING THE DATE: Nowra Catholic
Women's League is having an Autumn/Winter
Fashion Parade on Saturday 18 April 09 at 2pm in
St Michaels Hall

PARISH DISABILITIES CONNECTIONS –



volunteers, families, carers and interested parishioners are invited to join us for a meeting at the Parish Centre on Wed 1 April from 12 noon – 1.30pm. Fr Greg Burke ocd, the newly appointed Diocesan Chaplain for People with Disability

and their Families will be joining us. Tea, coffee and sandwiches provided. To RSVP or for information contact Sr Jeanie 4654 8709.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

will celebrate their 20th Anniversary on 22/23 & 24 May with a variety of celebrations. All ex-students, staff and parents are warmly invited to attend. For further info please visit the school website www.sje.woll.catholic.edu.au, email info@sje.woll.catholic.edu.au or phone 4423 1666.



A COCKTAIL PARTY – to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of St John the Evangelist High School will be held at Nowra Golf Club on Sat 23 May commencing at 7.00pm

until midnight. Tickets \$35 per person (includes finger food and entertainment – available from Debbie McKenzie from 30 March until 15 May or at the school office 4423 1666 or dmckenzie@sje.woll.catholic.edu.au

We prayerfully remember: **June Rowe** and **Mim McCorquodale** who died this past week; also **Myra Brandon, Trudy Chalker, Nell Wright, Maude Crossingham, John O'Shaughnessy** and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May they rest in eternal peace.*



WELCOME HOME – CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME PROGRAM –

Are you a baptised Catholic who is still to find your home in Christ among other Catholics? Do you know someone who needs support to return to the Active practice of their faith? Have you experienced pain or hurt

but wish to re-connect with God and a faith community? **Ss Peter and Paul Parish Kiama** is running a program commencing on 28 April "Welcome Catholics Home" – all warmly invited to attend. For inform Ann 4234 2704 or Joan 4232 2414.

CATECHISTS: urgently needed still – 1A Student Activity Books. Please send into the Parish Centre. Thank you for your efforts in collecting the census information.



EASTER CEREMONIES – ST MICHAEL'S NOWRA

– all ceremonies will be held in the Parish Hall to facilitate the increase of parishioners attending.

The Easter Vigil Mass will be especially a joyful celebration – baptising Elizabeth White and welcoming Ken Golinski into the Church.

PROJECT COMPASSION -

God calls us not only to life, but to live life to the full. This week's story introduces us to Bluey, who lives in one of Australia's most isolated desert communities, Wirrimanu (Balgo). He is participating in a project supported by Caritas Australia that encourages Indigenous youth to participate in employment and training, social and crisis support, and cultural and spiritual activities. Your Project Compassion donation enables Caritas Australia to continue addressing the social and emotional wellbeing of young people in Indigenous Australian communities.



INSPIRED BY PROJECT COMPASSION to seek Justice? Contact **Palms Aust** to find out how you can volunteer overseas or in Australia to reduce poverty. Ph 9518 9551, www.palms.org.au or email palms@palms.org.au

COLUMBAN PRAYER BOOKS – a variety of books are available through the Columban Mission Centre – 039375 9475, www.columban.org.au or email prayerbooks@columban.org.au. 28 pages \$3 ea + postage – Lord, Handle Me with Care; Lord; I Need Your Healing Touch; Lord, Make Haste to Help Me; In Loving Memory

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED in playing **500** (a card game)? If so please contact Cathy Elton on 4422 1784. It is envisaged that group/s would meet at players' homes on a regular basis. If you aren't rusty – you could help those who are!

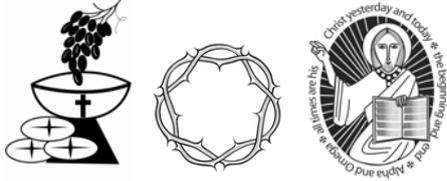
MARY HELP OF CHRISTIAN CHURCH-Culburra: a working –bee to prepare the Church for Holy Week and Easter Sat. April 4th at 8.30.a.m. Your assistance will be gratefully appreciated.

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

holy week

THE GREAT WEEK | 5 – 12 APRIL 2009

NOWRA PARISH TIMETABLE



Holy Week is regarded as the most sacred week in the Church Year. The last three days of the Week constitute an inner sanctuary known as the Paschal Triduum (3 days).

In the early centuries Holy Week was known as the GREAT WEEK or PASSION WEEK.

Our participation in the Liturgy of Holy Week is both a wonderful privilege, and our Christian responsibility.



2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday 2 April at 7.00pm at St Michael's Church Nowra – 4 or 5 priests will be available for the sacrament.



PALM SUNDAY VIGIL

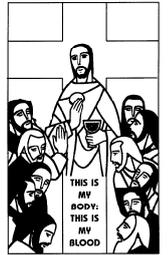
MASS - 4 April
NOWRA, CULBURRA BEACH and VINCENTIA :: 6.00 pm

PALM SUNDAY – 5 April

NOWRA: 8.00am, 9.30am, & 6.00pm
BERRY 8.00am
BOMADERRY 9.30am
KANGAROO VALLEY 11.00am
VINCENTIA 9.30am

HOLY THURSDAY – 9 April Mass of the Lord's Supper

Nowra:	7.00pm
Berry:	7.00pm
Kangaroo Valley	5.00pm
Culburra Beach	6.00pm
Vincencia	7.00pm



GOOD FRIDAY – 10 April Stations of the Cross

NOWRA	10.00am
VINCENTIA	10.00am
BOMADERRY	8.30am
KANGAROO VALLEY	10.00am

Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion Good Friday – 10 April

NOWRA (Hall)	3.00pm
BERRY	3.00pm
CULBURRA BEACH	3.00pm
VINCENTIA	3.00pm



THE EASTER VIGIL

Holy Saturday – 11 April

NOWRA:	7.00pm
CULBURRA BEACH:	6.00pm
VINCENTIA:	7.00pm
BERRY	7.00pm

Mass of the Resurrection

EASTER SUNDAY – 12 April

NOWRA (Hall)	8.00am, 9.30am & 6.00pm
BERRY	8.00am
BOMADERRY	9.30am
CULBURRA BEACH	8.00am & 9.30am
VINCENTIA	8.00am & 9.30am
KANGAROO VALLEY	11.00am