

**Gospel**  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

24:35-48

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread. They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would

be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'  
**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Gospel thoughts**

by Dianne Bergant CSA

**T**he first sentence of the gospel reading sets the context for the themes of today: 'Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.' Who is the Jesus that they recognised? And what does this recognition require?

Jesus is the servant of the God of the early ancestors, the long awaited messiah, and the innocent sufferer portrayed in the prophetic tradition. He is the fulfilment of our deepest aspirations. When we gather around the table for the sacramental meal, we encounter the Risen Lord. There the sacred traditions of our religious heritage are opened for us and we are enabled to recognise him in the traditions and in the breaking of the bread.

In order to encounter the Risen Lord in the breaking of the bread and in the breaking open of the word, we need docile hearts ready to embrace the deepest meaning of our religious heritage. We need hearts that have been purified in the love of God; hearts that have been totally transformed. The commandment of love requires nothing less.

Having recognised the Risen Lord, we, like the people described in the first reading, must live reformed lives. Having recognised the Risen Lord, we, like the people addressed in the second reading, must be obedient to God's commandment of love. Having recognised the Risen Lord, we, like the disciples portrayed in the gospel, must preach the good news of God's forgiveness to all nations. Easter faith assures us that all of this is possible.

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

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# Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

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

**Third Sunday of Easter (Year B)**

26 April 2009

**First Reading**

3:13-19

*A reading from the book of Acts*

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 4:2-9

**R/** Lord, let your face shine on us.  
(Alleluia)

1. When I call, answer me, O God of justice; from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me! (R.)
2. It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves; the Lord hears me whenever I call him. (R.)
3. 'What can bring us happiness?' many say. Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. (R.)
4. I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. (R.)

**Second Reading**

2:1-5

*A reading from the first letter of St John*

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's.

We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Lk 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!



J. Close '06

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**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.

**Third Sunday of Easter (Year B)**

**26 April 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 Friday – 5.45pm  
**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.

**Sacrament of Confession ~ Reconciliation**

**Nowra:** Sat 11<sup>30</sup> - 12<sup>30</sup> pm & 5<sup>00</sup> - 5<sup>30</sup> pm  
**Culburra Beach:** Sat 5<sup>30</sup> pm. **Berry:** Tues 6<sup>00</sup> pm  
**Bmderry:** 1<sup>st</sup> Fri 5<sup>15</sup> pm; **K, Valley:** Sat 4<sup>30</sup> – 5<sup>00</sup> pm  
**Vincentia:** Sat 11<sup>00</sup> – 11<sup>30</sup> am & 5<sup>00</sup> - 5<sup>30</sup> pm.

**JUST BEFORE EASTER** two parishioners - Mary O'Connor and Kitty Henkelman of Bay & Basin - were seriously injured in a car accident on Jervis Bay Rd. We are delighted to report that both ladies have shown very significant improvement during the past week

**CULBURRA FAMILY GROUP** - on Sun 26 April at 1.30pm at Marg and Paul Casey's home at Callala Bay. It will take the form of a story-telling, poetry-reading and book/film-reviewing time, followed by afternoon tea.

**THE MOTHER RUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND** will be holding a Gala Theatre Evening "**She Stoops to Conquer**" on Wed 24 June from 7.30pm for 8.00pm at Nowra Players Theatre, B'derry. Champagne on arrival and extended interval supper. Tickets \$25 or \$20 for students. Contact Denise Jones 0419 248 889 or 4423 2299 (leave a message.)

**THE NOWRA CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE** cordially invites you to Mothers' Day afternoon tea at St Michael's Parish Hall Saturday 2 May at 2.00pm. All Mothers and Grandmothers are most welcome.

**The Catholic Women's League** is also facilitating a Pastoral Care Course for men or women, by Carmen Caruda of **Centacare**, a 6-week-course from Thurs 21 May, 9.30 – 3.30pm at the Parish Centre. Bookings have now closed. Marie Hanley 4448 5347.

**MenALIVE** – a weekend retreat – Sat 30 and Sun 31 May at St Therese Parish, West W'gong (non-residential) – concludes with Mass at 12noon. Cost \$49. Be inspired, encouraged and rediscover God's purpose for your life. Contact Vince 0417 249 741 or Peter 0418 123 824.

**1<sup>st</sup> SAT MARIAN DEVOTIONS – 2 May.** Commencing with Reconciliation 8.30am followed by Mass at 9.00am. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Rosary and Benediction at 9.30am. Morning tea will be available in the Parish centre after devotions. **ALL WELCOME.**

**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION – Vincentia.** The 1<sup>st</sup> lesson will commence on 4 May, however the children from Vincentia school (only) will commence on 3 May at 9.00am, incorporating the Mass as they have a school activity on 4 May.

**CENTACARE** – courses for May

- **Young Parents Group** (aged 15-23) – Learn, Play, Support, Friends - Tuesdays commencing 5 May. Bookings 4254 9316
- **Poppy Playgroup** - for mothers with mental health issues with children from 0-5yrs. Fridays commencing 8 May. Bookings 4254 9316
- **123 Magic** – 3 Thurs from 7 May. Bookings 4254 9316.

**WE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER** the recently deceased: **Peter Nield** (Berry), **Helen Maddox** (formerly Greenwell Pt) and **Eric Devereaux**; and **Patrick Firmstone** whose anniversary occurs. May they rest in eternal peace.



**ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST HIGH SCHOOL** will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 22-24 May. All past pupils, staff and parents are warmly invited to attend. For info please visit the school website: [www.sje.woll.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sje.woll.catholic.edu.au)

- **Staff Spirituality Day** – Monday 11/5
- **School Foundation Day Mass** – Friday 22/5
- **Cocktail Party** - Sat 23/5 \$35pp incl. finger food and entertainment. Contact Debbie ph: 4423 1666 or [dmckenzie@sje.woll.catholic.edu.au](mailto:dmckenzie@sje.woll.catholic.edu.au)
- **OPEN DAY AND MASS** – an Open air Mass on Sunday 24 May at 4.00pm. **(No Sunday evening Mass in the Parish)**

**No Youth Group meeting this Friday 8 May.**

**Benedict commemorated the 25th anniversary of the World Youth Day Cross**, the symbol to young people across the globe.



In the general audience with pilgrims in St Peter's Square, the Pope noted that since Pope John Paul's gift, "the cross was accepted in the international youth centre of San Lorenzo, and from there began to travel to the continents, opening the hearts of many young men and women to Christ the Redeemer." Pope Benedict repeated this gesture, once again giving the cross to youth representatives, telling them: "Dear friends, I entrust this cross to you again! Continue to carry it to every corner of the earth, so that the next generation may also discover the Mercy of God and have the hope in Christ crucified and risen renewed in their hearts!"

Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, was present during the handing over of the cross. The cardinal acknowledged that the history of this cross is a "true miracle of grace. All are surprised at how this simple and poor cross is capable of giving a spiritual force so great that it gathers thousands of young people in all places."