

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

10:11-18

Jesus said:

‘I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd.

The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

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St Michael's Parish Contacts

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Gospel thoughts

by Dianne Bergant CSA

This Sunday is traditionally known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Two major themes emerge from the readings: an image of the one who saves; and the power of salvation itself. The one who saves is not a mighty warrior who comes in military array. In fact, he is the one who was rejected, who was hunted down, humiliated, tortured and hung naked on a tree, there to die in shame. The one who saves is the cornerstone of the building, holding it together, forming a firm foundation so that the structure will not collapse. The one who saves is a lowly shepherd, entrusted with sheep, not with the affairs of state. The one who saves is an unlikely saviour. This characterisation should give us pause. Is it possible that we have been looking for a saviour in the wrong places?

God's saving power flows from steadfast covenant love. It broke open the world in the death and resurrection of Jesus and it overflows as healing grace. The saving power in the name of Jesus, a name that itself means 'saviour' (cf. Matt 1:21), is for all people, even for those sheep who do not yet belong to this fold. Furthermore, it is for all time; God's mercy endures forever. Through our baptism we can bring the saving grace of God to a world in desperate need of healing. We can do this in our families, in our local communities, in the workplace, in so many situations of our lives.

A prayer for priests

Lord of all and giver of life, call to the priesthood men on fire with your divine love.

Call them to be the voice of the Good Shepherd to a scattered flock.

Bless us with holy priests: through their ministry may your life-giving presence in the Sacraments always be present in your church.

Raise up men filled with your power and with missionary zeal, so that all who dwell in darkness may come to live in Jesus' light.

Send your Holy Spirit upon the men you have chosen for priestly ministry. May they answer your call and follow you with generous hearts.

Lord of the harvest, send labourers into your harvest. Amen.

Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year B) ~ Vocation Sunday

3 May 2009



Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118

R/ The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men: it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. (R.)

2. I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

3. Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes. We bless you from the house of the Lord; I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his love has no end. (R.)

First Reading

4:8-12

A reading from the book of Acts

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

The word of the Lord.

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

Second Reading

3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of St John

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the Good Shepherd - says the Lord; I know my sheep and mine know me. Alleluia!



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

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

3 May 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/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 11³⁰ - 12³⁰ pm & 5⁰⁰ - 5³⁰ pm
Culburra Beach: Sat 5³⁰ pm. **Berry:** Tues 6⁰⁰ pm
Bmderry: 1st Fri 5¹⁵ pm; **K, Valley:** Sat 4³⁰ – 5⁰⁰ pm
Vincentia: Sat 11⁰⁰ – 11³⁰ am & 5⁰⁰ - 5³⁰ pm.

YOUNG ADULTS will meet this Monday evening at 8.00pm in the Parish Centre for a Prayer and Praise night with a Nooma DVD.

PARISHIONERS HAVE BEEN TRULY VERY

GENEROUS once again in their contribution to the following appeals over the Lenten - Easter period.

- **Good Friday Holy Places Collection** - \$3168.00
- **Project Compassion 2009** - \$16,273 (to date)

Thank you most sincerely.

WE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER the recently deceased: **Denise Dujardin, Peter Nield and, Helen Maddecks. Also Neil McIntyre, John and Kathleen Doran, Ted Armstrong, Bonnie Nelson, Don Allen, Patricia Stuckey and Patrick Firmstone** whose anniversaries occur. May they rest in eternal peace.



An extract from the message of Pope Benedict for Vocation Sunday - 3 May 2009 “Our first duty, therefore, is to keep alive in families and in parishes, in movements and in apostolic associations, in religious communities and in all the sectors of diocesan life this appeal to the divine initiative with unceasing prayer. We must pray that the whole Christian people grows in its trust in God, convinced that the “Lord of the harvest” does not cease to ask some to place their entire existence freely at his service so as to work with him more closely in the mission of salvation. What is asked of those who are called, for their part, is careful listening and prudent discernment, a generous and willing adherence to the divine plan, and a serious study of the reality that is proper to the priestly and religious vocations, so as to be able to respond responsibly and with conviction..”



PENTECOST TAIZE will be held at St Michael's Church on Friday 29 May at 7.30pm. A wonderful Spiritual preparation for Pentecost. Supper will follow in the Parish Centre.

NOWRA CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE invites all **Mothers and Grandmothers** to a **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea** in the Parish Hall on Saturday 2 May at 2.00pm



BAY & BASIN CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE will be holding a Retreat Day at St Patricks Berry on Wednesday 6 May, facilitated by Sr Bridie O'Connell – topic - Mary MacKillop, a Woman for All Seasons. **All invited.** Tea and coffee provided, please BYO lunch.

CATECHIST EVENTS:

- Confirmation lessons begin Wed 6 May, 4 – 5pm in St Michael's Hall. Please remind candidates.
- Catechist Pauline Pilgrimage, Sat 23 May. Check your Catechist Net for details and advise Lyn of your intentions asap.
- Level 2 – Wollongong – 29 May, 9.30am – 2.00pm at the Cathedral. To register ring Lyn 4423 1009.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST HIGH SCHOOL will celebrate its 20th 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



- **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
- **OPEN DAY AND MASS** – an Open air Mass on Sunday 24 May at 4.00pm. **(No Sunday evening Mass in the Parish)**

PUT YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION – volunteer to spend 2 weeks in PNG or outback Australia helping children in need – 21 June to 5 July. For information www.delasallebrothers.com for details.

JUSTICE, PEACE, ECOLOGY & FAITH GATHERING – what are the issues affecting our diocese and wider world in these areas? How are we called to respond in faith as individuals and communities? What support is available? Gather with our Diocesan Council on Sat 23 May from 10am – 12.30pm with morning tea at 3 Bond St., Bellambi. RSVP Jane Edwards 4253 0900 or jane.edwards@woll.catholic.org.au
UNFORTUNATELY there will be **NO** St Michael's Youth Group meeting this Friday, 8 May.

The Annual Missions Appeal will be conducted throughout the Parish next week-end – May 9th and 10th We anticipate two visiting speakers.. There is a great tradition in our parish of generously and prayerfully supporting the Missions.

GOT YOUR WEDDING PLANS UNDER CONTROL? But how prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life; a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. Information www.engagedencounter.org.au or 9990 3212. June 13-14, Aug 29-30, Oct 24-25, Dec 5-6.