

Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Jn 15:4-5

Alleluia, alleluia! Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

**Gospel** 15:1-8

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

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-dresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more.

You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.

As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you,

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**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

you may ask what you will and you shall get it.

It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Gospel thoughts**

by Dianne Bergant CSA

**T**oday we reflect on the way salvation brings an ecclesial community into being. This community is joined to Jesus as branches are part of the vine. It is a multi-faceted community, devoted to good works and to prayer.

The image of the vine and the branches is an intimate characterisation of the community of believers who share the same divine life. This community thrives on Christ's resurrected life that surges through all of its members. The early church was a multi-ethnic community. It included inhabitants from Jerusalem, Judea, Galilee, Samaria and even Damascus. Some of these people were firmly rooted in Jewish customs, others were more Greek in their culture. It was the fulfilment of the promises made so often in the past, that the saving power of God would reach the whole world.

Our own ecclesial community of believers is also multi-ethnic. Where formerly parishes or liturgical assemblies might be made up of people of only one ethnic identity or economic status, today there is much greater diversity and rapid change of character. Like the early Christians, we too are often suspicious of newcomers. In the face of all of this variety, we are called to open our hearts to the various manifestations of God's power and to fashion a community that gives glory to God. Today's readings remind us that we demonstrate our love for God and for each other in the way we live. Joined to Christ as branches are part of the vine, we too are enlivened and thereby bear fruit in abundance.

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

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# Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

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

10 May 2009

**First Reading** 9:26-31

**A reading from the book of Acts**

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 21

**R/** I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him. May their hearts live for ever and ever! (R.)
2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, all families of the nations worship before him. They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. (R.)
3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him. They shall tell of the

Lord to generations yet to come, declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn: 'These things the Lord has done.' (R.)

**Second Reading** 3:18-24

**A reading from the first letter of St John**

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.



My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to.



**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.

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

**10 May 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: 5<sup>00</sup> - 5<sup>30</sup> pm.

**CATECHIST EVENTS:**

- 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.

**WE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER** the recently deceased: **Muriel Courtney, Don Terry, Felicity Knight, Esther Hereward, Bruce Kennedy.** Also **Joe Fogarty, Joseph Kashmer, Bill Egan, Kevin Robinson, Elizabeth & George Elters, Gwynne & Abdulla Elters, Michael Magdelene** whose anniversaries occur. May they rest in eternal peace.



**SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB - Mon 11 May 7.30pm,** at the Jamberoo Pub. Speakers Ian Pearson and Zara Tai on “What Use Is Prayer?”



**A fond farewell:** We are leaving St Michael's Parish on the 12 May and are going to live with our family, Geraldine and John in Gerroa. We would like to express our appreciation to the Priests and parishioners for their much valued guidance, good example and friendship over the 40 + years we have spent in our beloved St Michael's Parish. Helen and Fred Ring.

**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)



- **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.
- **SUNDAY 24 MAY – there will be NO Sunday evening Mass in the Parish**

**THE NOWRA CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE** is holding a drive for **YOTS** (Youth Off the Streets) – boxes will be available at all Mass centres on **17/24 May** or you can leave at the Parish Centre. Suitable items are toiletries (**NO PRESSURE PACKS**), toothpaste, washing powder, socks (new) scarfs and beanies etc.

**THE MOTHER RUTH SCHOLARSHIP**

**FUND** 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 Annual Missions Appeal** is being conducted



throughout the Parish this weekend. There is a great tradition in our parish of generously and prayerfully supporting the Missions. We encourage parishioners to continue to support this very deserving

and on-going need of the Church. Vatican statistics show that **20 Missionaries were killed in 2008.**

**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.



**THE “COME & SEE” SPIRITUALITY** group meets on Wed 20 May, 7.30pm at the Parish Centre. Special guest, Marie Milne, will lead us in creative prayer through the mandala experience. All welcome. Rego by 18 May - Moira 4423 6077 or Liz 4422 1279. Please bring plate to share for supper and \$5 to cover material costs.

**MOTHERS' DAY PRAYER**

God of love, listen to our prayer,  
 God of Mary the mother of Jesus  
 bend down Your ear to this request and bless the mothers of our community.  
 Bless them with the strength of Your spirit,  
 they who have taught their children to stand and to walk,  
 to love and to pray.  
 Bless them today, now, in this life with security and good health. Bless them with love, laughter and pride in their children. May they who carried life in their womb be carried one day to Your divine embrace; there for all eternity to rejoice with their family and friends. May this blessing and all graces descend upon the mothers of our parish, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**JUSTICE, PEACE, ECOLOGY & FAITH GATHERING –** How are we called to respond in faith as individuals and communities? Sat 23 May from 10am – 12.30pm at 3 Bond St., Bellambi. RSVP Jane Edwards 4253 0900 or [jane.edwards@woll.catholic.org.au](mailto:jane.edwards@woll.catholic.org.au)