

## Gospel

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master’s business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.’

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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

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### St Michael’s Parish Contacts

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Sr Margaret Prendergast sgs	4421 2260
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## Gospel thoughts

by Dianne Bergant CSA

**T**he boundlessness of God’s love is seen in the fact that God loved us even before we were deserving of God’s love. In fact, it was God’s love that made us able both to receive and to give love in return. Love is of God; love is God. Divine love is constant and trustworthy. How easily we can think this thought or speak these words, yet how difficult, even impossible, it is to comprehend what it means. We can only really recognise love in its many concrete manifestations. Love is patient, kind and forbearing; it believes, it hopes, it endures. The love of God breaks down the barriers between Gentile and Jew, between slave and free, between the poor and the prosperous, between women and men, between the healthy and the ailing, between young and old.

Embraced by such love we are gradually transformed. We begin to recognise God’s love in places we never suspected it would be found. We discover that what we once judged unclean may merely be an unfamiliar openness to God’s truth. We discover that our own insistence on legitimate religious practice may really be spiritual elitism. Our eyes are opened to ways we have tried to confine God’s love to the conventional boundaries we ourselves have set. As we are drawn into God’s love, we eagerly embrace the commandments that help us to live righteous lives. To the extent that we love as universally as God does, we will know that we live in God and that God lives in us.



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# Our Sunday Word

St Michael’s Parish, Nowra

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

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

17 May 2009

**First Reading** 10:25-26;34-35;44-48

*A reading from the book of Acts*

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. ‘Stand up,’ he said, ‘I am only a man after all!’

Then Peter addressed them: ‘The truth I have now come to realise’ he said, ‘is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.’

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, ‘Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?’ He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 97

**R/** The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. (R.)
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. (R.)



3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. (R.)

**Second Reading** 4:7-10

*A reading from the first letter of St John*

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love.

God’s love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God’s love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!



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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.

## Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

17 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.

**THE NOWRA CWL** is holding a drive for **YOTS** (Youth Off the Streets) – boxes available at all Mass centres on **17/24 May** or leave at the Parish Centre. Suitable items are toilet paper, tissues, toothbrushes, combs, toilet soap, shampoo & conditioner, moisturiser, razors, deodorant (no sprays),

WE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER the recently deceased **Bruce Kennedy**; also **Jack** and **Beryl Ison**, **Jean Walsh Joan Ashby**, **Alan McRae**, **Pat O'Leary Win** and **Ray Spargo**, dec members of the **Schembri** and **Gauci** families whose anniversaries occur. May they rest in eternal peace.



**THE "COME & SEE" SPIRITUALITY** group meets on Wed 20 May, 7.30pm at the Parish Centre. 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.

### ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST HIGH SCHOOL

celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its Foundation 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** – Fri 22<sup>nd</sup>. 9.30.a.m.
- **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 next 24 May at 4.00pm.

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

### THE SACRAMENTAL TEAM OF VINCENTIA

is inviting parishioners from Bay & Basin to participate in a prayer- partner program for the children who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation 2009. This will involve participants (child and parishioner) having a card with the Christian name only inscribed - you would be asked to pray in tandem with the child for the Guidance of the Holy Spirit leading up to Confirmation on 21 June commencing asap – hopefully Wed 20 May. Contact Carmel 4443 9368



**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. **Pentecost preparation Prayer Cards are now available at the Churches. Please collect them.**



**PARISHIONERS HAVE A JVC VICTRON ORGAN**, hardly used – free to a good home – just arrange transport. Please ring Bill & Val 4443 3819.

Young Men Of God Movement presents **SEIZE THE MOMENT Formation Weekend**. An opportunity for young men aged 16-35 to develop in their faith and live in the moment – 22-24 May, at Gerringong. \$50 will get you a weekend away all inclusive of meals and accommodation. Email [yng08@y7mail.com](mailto:yng08@y7mail.com) or call Ben 0410 403 763 to register.

**HOLY SPIRIT** Auxiliary will be holding a meeting on Sat 23 May – **1pm** (not 1.30pm as usual). All welcome – this is a general meeting NOT just for Committee.

**HOLY SPIRIT VINCENTIA FEAST DAY – Pentecost Sun 31 May** – A BBQ will be held in the Church grounds from 12 noon. Sausages/bread supplied. BYO other picnic necessities. A great opportunity for a community gathering.



### AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA

at Vonnie Muller's home, 360 Princes Highway, Meroo Meadow from 10am to 12 noon on Thurs 28 May. \$5 donation towards Cancer Research – everyone

knows this is a morning tea to enjoy!!!!!!

**YOUNG ADULTS** - next meeting 18 May – a Games Night at 8pm in the Parish Centre – Bring along your favourite game and something to share for supper



**Culburra Family Group next function** will be a bread-making morning at Nola and Gary Maher's home, 23 Carson Crescent, Callala Bay, at 10.30 am on Friday, 22 May.

**JUSTICE, PEACE, ECOLOGY & FAITH GATHERING** – what are the issues affecting our diocese and wider world in the areas? How are we called to respond? What support is available? Meet at 3 Bond St Bellambi on Sat 23 May from 10am to 12.30pm with morning tea. RSVP to Jane Edwards on [jane.edwards@woll.catholic.org.au](mailto:jane.edwards@woll.catholic.org.au) or 4253 0900.

**BEGINNING THEOLOGY INFORM. SESSIONS** – do you want to study your faith at a deeper level? This certificate level course requires no previous theological background. Find out more at inform session held at St Paul's Meeting Room, Albion Park Thurs May 21st. 10.30am – 12.30pm. Contact Jane Edwards on 4253 0900

**LENTEN GROUPS** – The Coordinators would like to extend a very belated thankyou to all those wonderful, loyal parishioners who once again contributed to the success of our Parish Lenten program and Paschal Meal