

so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 28:19-20

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel 16:15-20

from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the

.....
The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, ©1966-1968 Darton Longman and Todd Ltd. Extracts from the Lectionary for Mass ©1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. Used with permission; all rights reserved. ©2009 liturgyhelp.com.au & St Michael's Parish, Nowra

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

right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel thoughts

by Dianne Bergant CSA

The Feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times; a moment when we have left one place in our journey, but have not yet arrived at a second. While the narratives that describe the Ascension fit well into the unfolding story of redemption, the feast itself celebrates one aspect of the resurrection itself, namely, the exaltation of Jesus. The readings help us through this paradox. They allow us to focus on this theological point while we commemorate a turning point in the life of the church. We do this by considering both the enthronement of Christ in the heavens and the new body of Christ on earth.

Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at God's right hand. Today we are overwhelmed by the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Amidst shouts of joy and exaltation, Christ is enthroned in heaven in both his divinity and his glorified humanity. Now he is present with us in a new way, in a new body, in the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists; he ministers through its prophets and pastors. Through us he continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have each other; together we make up the new body of Christ.



Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

Ascension Sunday (Year B)

24 May 2009

First Reading 1:1-11

A reading from the book of Acts

In my earlier work, *Theophilus*, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 46

R/ God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets from the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. (R.)
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)
3. God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

Second Reading 4:7-10

from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all.

Each one of us, however, has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it. It was said that he would:

When he ascended to the height, he captured prisoners, he gave gifts to men.

When it says, 'he ascended', what can it mean if not that he descended right down to the lower regions of the earth? The one who rose higher than all the heavens to fill all things is none other than the one who descended. And to some, his gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers;



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

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.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD (Year B)

24TH 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 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: 5⁰⁰ - 5³⁰ pm.

THE NOWRA CWL is conducting 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), knitted
 beanies and scarves and new warm socks.

WE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER **Irene Legato, Barry Maguire, Juanita Salva**,
 recently deceased; also **Catherine Brown, Murray Hay** and **Reginald Berry** whose
 anniversaries occur. May they rest in eternal peace.



1ST SATURDAY MARIAN DEVOTIONS – Sat 6 May.
 Reconciliation 8.30am followed by Mass at 9.00am.
 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Rosary and
 Benediction 9.30am. Morning tea will be available in
 the Parish Centre after devotions. **ALL WELCOME.**

The Ascension of the Lord:



*“Jesus Christ is the same
 today as he was yesterday and
 as he will be forever.”*

(The Letter to the Hebrews 13:8)

*“...And know that I am with
 you always; yes, to the end of
 time.” Matthew 28:20*

*What was visible in Christ has now passed
 over into the Sacraments of the Church. - (Pope
 St. Leo the Great 5th century)*

PENTECOST TAIZE will be held at St
 Michael's Church on Friday next 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.**



**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!!!!!!



**BIBLICAL SPIRITUALITY, LIVING A LIFE OF FAITH
 TODAY** – presented by international guest speaker
 Barbara Bowe rscj, Professor of Biblical Studies, Boston
 College on Sat 6 June at St Mary Star of the Sea College
 Library, W'gong from 10am to 3pm. Gold coin donation.
 Please bring own lunch. RSVP Jane Edwards 42530900
 or jane.edwards@woll.catholic.org.au

**THIS SUNDAY 24 MAY – there will be
 NO Sunday evening Mass this week
 in the Parish Church. Bishop Peter
 will celebrate Mass at St John's High
 School to commemorate the 20th anniversary of
 its foundation. – Mass at 4.00pm at St Johns. All
 are cordially invited.**



**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
 Developments.** You may have noticed
 building activity on the old Muller's Funerals
 site in Berry St, Nowra. The Society is building
 a new Centre of Charity there, with a retail facility at the
 front and a family assistance area at the rear as the old
 centre has become very congested. We hope to be in
 the building in Oct this year. Later in the year, John
 Purcell Hostel is to be redeveloped and expanded with
 completion expected sometime in early 2010.



YOUNG ADULTS GROUP – next meeting Mon 1 June at
 8pm in the Parish Centre. Guest speaker Duane
 Fernandez, seminarian, currently residing in the Parish
 will give a talk about his journey towards the priesthood.

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and
 women who share their experiences, strengths and
 hopes with each other that they may solve their common
 problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The
 only requirement for membership is a desire to stop
 drinking. Our primary goal is to stay sober and help
 others alcoholics to achieve sobriety. Meetings;
 Sundays – 6.30.p.m. 134 Kinghorn St., Tuesday: 7p.m.
 11 Junction St., Thursday 5.00.p.m. Demountable
 adjacent to the Presbytery 20 North St Nowra.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY &
 RECONCILIATION 24 MAY - 31 MAY 2009: “That
 they may become one in your hand”.**
(Ezekiel 37:17) We have a wonderful opportunity to
 renew and deepen our relationships in the one God
 in whom we share together through Jesus Christ in
 the power of the Holy Spirit.