

## Gospel thoughts

by Dianne Bergant CSA

**I**t is not easy to recognise a true prophet. Frequently those with prophetic insight are treated without honour. The people to whom Ezekiel was sent were hard of face, obstinate of heart, a rebellious house. The Galileans who heard Jesus' words were no better. They questioned his authenticity because they thought he was no better than they were and, therefore, he had no right to act superior. We so often resent people who can do what we cannot. This resentment can be magnified when the person is someone with whom we have grown up, a member of the family or of the community.

True believers recognise and admit their human frailty. They also know that genuine weakness does not impede the saving action of God. In fact, God seems to prefer to act where pride and self-satisfaction do not prevail, for such attitudes are obstacles to personal transformation. However, when we open ourselves in humility and honest piety, the power of God can flood our minds and our hearts and shine forth from us to all around. When this happens, there will be no doubt in any mind as to the origin of this wondrous reality. It will be very clear that though it comes through us, it comes from God. The receptivity of Paul in this matter is in sharp contrast to the rebellion of the people at the time of Ezekiel and the resistance of those who thought that they knew Jesus so well.

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# Our Sunday Word

The Year  
for Priests

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

www.nowraparish.org.au

14th Sunday (Year B) - Season of the Year

5 July 2009

## First Reading

2:2-5

### *A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you up to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, "The Lord says this." Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them.'

The word of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 122

**R/** Our eyes are fixed on the Lord,  
pleading for his mercy.

1. To you have I lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in the heavens: my eyes, like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords. (R.)
2. Like the eyes of a servant on the hand of his mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God till he shows us his mercy. (R.)
3. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. We are filled with contempt. Indeed all too full is our soul with the scorn of the rich, with the proud man's disdain. (R.)

## Second Reading

12:7-10

### *A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, 'My grace

is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.' So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

The word of the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation

Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

## Gospel

6:1-6

### *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark*

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith. The Gospel of the Lord.



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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.

**14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)**

**5 July 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 . 9.00.a.m.  
**Morning Prayer:** Wed 7.50am **Holy Hour:** Fri 10.30am  
**Berry:** Tues 5.30pm **Culburra: No Mass this Thursday**  
**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.

**WE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER: Agnes Osborne (S'haven Heads), Laurie Jones (K Valley), Suzanna Eisenburg (Tina's mother Toowoomba) who died recently. Also Ray Mitchell and Ron Nelson whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in eternal peace.**



**MOTHER RUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND trustees** wish to thank all who contributed to this year's huge \$2400 profit. Thank you also to those who donated to the supper; those who could not attend and donated money AND those who came along and were part of a great audience. This is a great boost for the Fund especially with the current low interest rates.

**SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB** – Mon 13 July, 7.30pm at the Jamberoo Pub – theme **“Male Spirituality – Do Real Men Pray?”** Info Eileen 4232 3121. Meals avail 5.30pm.

**END OF FINANCIAL YEAR!** Thank you to all the Parishioners who currently contribute to the Parish Planned Giving Program – without your very generous support the Parish would not be able to meet its commitments – Liturgical, Catechetical, R & M of the many buildings, etc. etc. Receipts will be available at all Mass centres mid- July for collection – **RECEIPTS ARE NOT POSTED OUT.** If you have changed your address please advise the office. **New subscribers always most welcome**

**HOLY SPIRIT COMMUNITY VINCENTIA:**

- **'Soup & Slice' Luncheon** Sunday 5 July Meeting room. 12noon. "Food - fundraising - FUN!
- **'SPRING FAIR'** Saturday 5 September See notice board at Holy Spirit for more details & 'how you can help!'

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NOWRA** – as we celebrate our 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday, Branch members would like to thank everyone for their support over the past year. Special thanks to those who donated goods to the Fr Chris Riley YOTS appeal.

**THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY** throughout the Diocese is seeing a large increase in the numbers of people seeking help. For the first time in a number years, expenditure is outstripping income. So our **Winter Appeal** has a greater urgency this year than ever. There are basically 2 ways parishioners might help:

- **Make a donation** – to any known Society member, hand into any of our shops or use envelopes provided at Church exits and mail to 79 Plunkett St Nowra or drop into the Parish Office
- **Become a helper** with our annual door knock in August (last 2 weekends)

**S'HAVEN CROSSROADS'** next meeting will be Fri 10 July, 7.15 to 9.15pm hosted by All Saints Anglican and B'derry Anglican at Nowra Baptist Church, Sth Nowra.

**NAIDOC ECUMENICAL LITURGY.** ('National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance) Parishioners are invited to attend the annual NAIDOC Ecumenical Liturgy to be held at St Thomas More Parish, Acacia Avenue, Ruse on Sunday, 5 July 2009. 2.00 PM

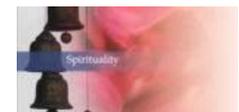
**'THINKING ABOUT DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD'** will be held at Gerringong 31 July to 2 Aug, (5.30pm Fri to 11am Sun) conducted by the W'gong Vocations Office – it is a time to consider the possibility of a priestly vocation. \$30 contribution is requested where this can be managed. For details or bookings please contact Fr Mark 4271 1068 or 0408 611 320 or Fr Richard 0401 621 591 or 4423 1712.

**CATECHIST NEWS** – Catechists for Nowra Primary, Cambewarra and Nth Nowra Schools are **DESPERATELY** needed for next term – do you have a little time to share your time and talents with these children? Contact Lyn 4423 1009 if you can help.

- **Regional Catechist Inservice** to be held at St Francis Xavier's School, W'gong on Fri 24 July from 9.15am – 2.00pm. BYO lunch, COLAL teaching materials. Volunteer mentors needed.
- **Contact Lyn 4423 1009** to book either of the above.

**Sacrament of First Reconciliation:**  
 Berry: Tuesday July 7<sup>th</sup> 6.15.p.m.  
 Culburra: Thurs July 9<sup>th</sup> 6.15.p.m.

**“COME & SEE” Spirituality group** welcomes you to join us for prayer and conversation on Wed 15 July at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. The focus is Lectio Divina, an ancient form of prayer that uses Scripture as a way to hear God's Word for us, here and now. Please bring something to share for supper. Contact Moira 4423 6077 or Liz 4422 1279



**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER weekend** will be held at Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa (near Penrith) 24 to 26 July. A weekend away for married couples to take time out of your busy schedule to invest in your most precious asset...your marriage! A unique opportunity to recharge your batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love again. Contact Ardell or Bill 4283 3425.

**CatholicCare Wollongong** is offering a program **'Seasons for Growth for Carers'** to Carers of a person who has a disability, is Aging or experiences a chronic illness. The program will run over 5 weeks beginning Mon 3 Aug. If interested contact Jacinta 4254 9351.