

Gospel Acclamation Jn 6:63

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

Gospel 6:60-69

from the holy Gospel according to John

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.'

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel thoughts

by Dianne Bergant CSA

The decisions called for in today's readings are life decisions. The people at the time of Joshua had to decide which god they would worship. The disciples of Jesus had to decide if he was the one who would fulfill their messianic expectations. We have life decisions to make as well. How will we choose?

The choices we make determine the character of our union with God. God called us out of the slavery of sin and protected us throughout the journey of our lives. Jesus walked with us through the challenges of life and performed wonders for us. Why should we look elsewhere? Because we face new challenges. The new demands placed on us may be so great, or the commitment required of us may be so demanding that we feel that we can no longer walk with him. The church may be changing in ways we do not appreciate, or it may not be changing in the ways we believe it should, and so we may feel that we can walk with him no longer.

If we decide to commit ourselves, we will enter into a union with God that is deeper than anything we have previously known. However, this union will be based on faith. We may understand no more than we did in the past, things may be no more to our liking. But, 'to whom shall we go?' Jesus is God's holy one; he has the words of eternal life.



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Our Sunday Word The Year for Priests

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

www.nowraparish.org.au

21st Sunday (Year B) - Season of the Year

23 August 2009

First Reading 24:1-2,15-18

A reading from the book of Joshua

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 33

R/Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

- 1. I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad.
2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal.
3. They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

4. Many are the trials of the just man but from them all the Lord will rescue him. He will keep guard over all his bones, not one of his bones shall be broken.

5. Evil brings death to the wicked; those who hate the good are doomed. The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

Second Reading 5:21-32

from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives submit to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body - and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

The word of the Lord.

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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.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

23rd August 2009

Sunday Masses:

NOWRA 6pm Vigil; 8am, 9.30am & 6pm
BERRY8.00am
BOMADERRY9.30am
CULBURRA6pm Vigil
VINCENTIA 6pm Vigil, & 9.30am
KANGAROO VALLEY.....11.00am

MASSES DURING THE WEEK

Nowra: Mon 7am, Tues/Wed/Thurs 8.15am, Friday 7.00am and 11.30am; Sat 9.00am
Holy Hour: Fri 10.30am
Berry: Tues 5.30pm **Culburra:** Thurs 5.30pm
Bomaderry: 1st Friday only 5.45.p.m.
Vincentia: Mon, Thurs, 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 11³⁰-12³⁰pm & 5⁰⁰ - 5³⁰pm
Culburra Beach: Sat 5³⁰pm. **Berry:** Tues 6⁰⁰pm
K, Valley: Sat 4³⁰ – 5⁰⁰pm **Vincentia:** Sat: 5⁰⁰ - 5³⁰pm.

WE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER:

Nell Lee who died in the last week. Also **Joe Basha** whose anniversary occurs at this time. May they rest in eternal peace.



MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS 2009: If you are celebrating 25,40,50 or 60 years of marriage this year and would like an invitation to the Mass celebrated by Bishop Peter at the Cathedral on Sun 13 Sept at 2.00pm, please contact Helen Bennett and an invitation will be sent to you. Helen.bennett@woll.catholic.org.au or Ph 4253 0934

1ST SATURDAY MARIAN DEVOTIONS – Sat 5 Sept – Reconciliation 8.30am prior to Mass at 9am. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Rosary & Benediction 9.30am. Morning tea will be avail in the Parish Centre after devotions. **ALL MOST WELCOME!**

PARISH FEASTDAY – Celebratory Mass at St Michael's Nowra and Annual Dinner at Worrigeer House will be celebrated on Sat 26 Sept. Tickets will be \$35pp and \$10 per child (subsidised by the Parish). The speaker will be Sr Margaret Fitzgerald who is the Director of Outreach Programs for the Sisters of Charity. Tickets will be available from the weekend 15/16 August – **book a table or just come along and meet new friends!**

PARISH DISABILITY CONNECTION GROUP – a meeting for volunteers, families and other interested parishioners will be held at the Parish Centre from 12pm to 1.30pm for planning of the Inclusion Mass on Sun 20 Sept. Feel free to drop in for part of the meeting if you are short on time. Sandwiches and a cuppa provided. rsvp for catering Sr Jeanie 4654 8709 or jeanieh@materdei.org.au

CULBURRA FAMILY GROUP – the next function will be a picnic lunch (12.30) preceding attending the musical Annie at the Entertainment Centre at 2pm on Sat 29 Aug. If you would like to come along please contact Marg or Paul 4446 4117

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP - the next activity will be **"Quiz the priest."** Got questions? Need clarification? Come along and fire your questions at Fr Leo in a fun relaxed atmosphere – 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.
 ▪ **YAG** will be booking a table for the Parish Dinner on 26 Sept. Money and numbers to Shannon.

REFUGEE & MIGRANT SUNDAY - you are invited to celebrate with Bishop Peter at Mount Carmel Parish Church, Varroville on Sun 30 Aug at 1pm. International food and entertainment will follow in the school Hall.

Today in addition to the Mass attendance count, there is a simple card which you are being asked to complete i.e. Age and Gender. Please place the number of household members at Mass in the appropriate age and gender spaces provided. Only one form is necessary per household. This is to be completed anonymously - for Diocesan planning purposes.



THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL Doorknock – Thank you again to all who have so far volunteered to assist with our annual 'doorknock' appeal, especially the large number from **St John's High School**.

However we still **need more volunteers** – please call into the Parish Centre any time after 9am **this weekend or next**. For anyone who would like to help out in areas other than Nowra/B'derry/Cambewarra, please ring 4421 0053 or 4422 1129 and arrangements will be made. Any queries to the same phone numbers. **PLEASE HELP – WE REALLY NEED YOU.**

ST MARY STAR OF THE SEA COLLEGE will be having a **Decade's Reunion morning tea** on Sat 29 Aug from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the Polding Learning Centre, Market St W'gong. RSVP Marie 4228 5011 or marie.pulford@stmarys.nsw.edu.au by Mon 24 August



A sincere thank you to all who made Sister Val's Golden Jubilee celebration such a joyful, prayerful and convivial occasion on Sunday last. We are especially grateful for the magnificent response from the Holy Spirit Community, and your obvious appreciation of Sister's ministry in your midst. It was also great to have with us so many Sisters of Charity.

Dates to Note:

Aug 26th Wed 7.30.p.m. Parent Meeting for First Holy Communion - Parish Hall.
 Priests' Retreat Tues. Sept 1st-- Thurs Sept.4th. - Morning Mass at St Michael's at 7.00.a.m.
 Sun Sept 20th. Awareness Mass – 6.00.p.m. (Hall)
 Sept 26th. (Sat).....Parish Dinner.
 Oct. 24th. Sat – Parish Retreat at St Michael's
 Nov 1st. (Sun) First Holy Communion.

Feast Days of the Week:

Mon 24 – Bartholomew, apostle
Thurs 27 – Monica
Fri 28 – Augustine, bishop, doctor
Sat 29 – Beheading of John the Baptist, martyr