

Our Sunday Word

The Year for Priests

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

www.nowraparish.org.au

22nd Sunday (Year B) - Season of the Year

30 August 2009

There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations. You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel thoughts

by Dianne Bergant CSA

The overarching theme of the readings for this Sunday is 'words spoken in truth'. On one level, the laws are the words of the covenant. They are part of the contract that was drawn up between God and the people. They are words of truth, because they are the reliable revelation of God and because they genuinely reflect righteous living. The biblical covenant laws are truly humane. Obedience to the words of the covenant leads to life and blessings, while disobedience results in the opposite.

Our religious customs always carry some profound religious meaning, but we may not know or care what it is – and yet we perform them. Do people know or care why we stand or sit or kneel during liturgy? Do people have a 'church' wedding because it is a religious event, or because 'that's the way we have always done it'? Religious practices do not always flow from a deep religious conviction. But once we realise our need for God, these practices become genuine expressions of religious sentiment.

When the word of God has taken root in us, everything becomes a religious practice. This word can come to us through the teachings of our faith, through the example of good people around us, through the wonder and mystery of creation. When it does take hold of us, our inner eye is opened, our hearts are softened, and we turn instinctively to God like a flower turns to the sun. When we are brought to birth in this way, covenant law becomes sacred, religious practices are cherished, and we are filled with the power that saves.

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First Reading

4:1-2, 6-8

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 14

R/ The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain? He who walks without fault; he who acts with justice and speaks the truth from his heart.
2. He who does no wrong to his brother, who casts no slur on his neighbour, who holds the godless in disdain, but honours those who fear the Lord.
3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may; who takes no interest on a loan and accepts no bribes against the innocent. Such a man will stand firm for ever.

Second Reading

1:17-18,21-22,27

A reading from the letter of St James

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoiled religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Jam 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia! The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. Alleluia!

Gospel

7:1-8,14-15,21-23

from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves.

St Michael's Parish Contacts

Fr Patrick Faherty, Parish Priest	4423 1712
Fr Richard Healey, Assistant Priest (on holidays)	
Fr Leo Duck, Resident in Vincentia	4441 5571
Fr Ronan Kilgannon, Resident in Kangaroo Valley	
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



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.

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

30 August 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/Tues/Wed/Thurs 7am,
 Friday 7.00am and 11.30am; Sat 9.00am
Holy Hour: Fri 10.30am
Berry: and Culburra **no Mass during the week**
Bomaderry: No Mass this 1st Friday
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:

Douglas Courtney, Marj Murray (of
 Canowindra – sister of Eithne Wood) &
George Felton who died in the last week.
 Also **Freda Reynolds, John McGlinchy**
and Vic Young whose anniversaries occur 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 Ph 4253 0934 or
Helen.bennett@wooll.catholic.org.au

1ST SATURDAY MARIAN DEVOTIONS – Sat 5 Sept
 – Mass at 9am. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with
 Rosary & Benediction 9.30am. Morning tea available in the
 Parish Centre. **ALL MOST WELCOME!**

THIS WEEKEND is the last for the Mass attendance
 count – this is for Diocesan planning purposes!

**PARISH FEASTDAY – a Festive Mass at St Michael's
 Nowra and Annual Dinner** at Worrigea House will be
 celebrated on Sat 26 Sept. Tickets will be \$35pp and \$10
 per child (subsidised by the Parish). There will be a set
 menu but those with special dietary needs will be catered
 for as last year. Dinner music will be 'easy listening music'
 by Christina, Kate and Phillip Mullany. 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!

**DON'T LEAVE YOUR BOOKING UNTIL THE LAST
 MINUTE - PLAN AHEAD FOR A FUN NIGHT!!!!!!!!!!!!**

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 on
Wed 2 Sept 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

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 – Sept 7th.7.30pm in the Parish
 Centre.

- **YAG** will be booking a table for the Parish Dinner on
 26 Sept. Money and numbers to Shannon.

Dates to Note:

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

THIS WEEK CATHOLIC WEEKLY features our Diocesan
 supplement. Bishop Peter writes on "Beauty – Insight into
 the Divine, making our life a Work of Art & Serving the
 Common Good". Other articles include the Diocese
 winning a Tourism Award; Sr Val's Golden Jubilee
 celebration and the latest from our schools.

THANK YOU TO MRS IRENA BLINKHORN:

In recent weeks the Director of Catholic Schools Mr.
 Peter Turner has been in discussion with Mrs. Irena
 Blinkhorn, our Principal at St Michael's and myself
 regarding the need to appoint a support person to
 assist School Principals during this very challenging time
 of implementing the Federal Government's Building
 Program. Irena is the person chosen, based on her great
 skills in the spheres of planning and financial
 management.

Irena's association with St Michael's School spans 31
 yrs., nine of which have been as Principal. On behalf of
 the Parish I wish to thank Irena for the time and energy,
 the dedication and professional leadership she has
 infused into St Michael's School. She has always
 fostered the support of the parish, she has zealously
 promoted the goals of Catholic Education, and has at
 all times personally and pastorally supported struggling
 families and children in need. We wish Irena every
 blessing and fulfilment in her new appointment...Fr Pat.

THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL Doorknock

– Many thanks to all those who took some
 exercise last weekend and collected
 money at the same time! It was a really
 good start. We hope for even more
 volunteers this weekend. **NOT TOO LATE!!!!** Anyone
 wishing to help, please just call into the parish centre.
 Also there are probably those who enjoyed themselves
 so much last weekend they might feel like doing it all
 over again!



**HOLY SPIRIT SPRING FAIR, St
 George Ave, Vincentia – Sat 5
 Sept** from 8.30am to 1.30pm.



- Cheap books – chocolate wheel
- Kids Zone - \$5 – rides, show bag
 & games activities
- Face painting and jumping castle

- Plants – produce- cakes – jams & pickles
- Devonshire teas – hot international food
- model aeroplanes – fire engine – Nowra town band
- **AND LOTS MORE**

Feast Days of the Week:

Thurs 3 Sept – Gregory the Great, pope.