

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel 7:31-37 from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel thoughts

by Dianne Bergant CSA

Jesus opens our eyes to the reality of God's presence in our midst, in the goodness of people and in the tenderness of life, even in its vulnerability. He opens our ears to hear the word of God spoken to us by others, revealed to us through the created world.

There is an eschatological dimension to being open to the word of God, because we are opened to hear something from the future. The prophets always speak about this future in the present tense. They see it happening already. Isaiah proclaims, 'Here is your God!' and the world is transformed. Jesus says 'Be open.' The good news always opens us to future possibilities, to personal and communal transformation, to a new creation. With the word of God, the future invades our present.

Although the eschatological future is already present to us, it is only unfolding, it has not yet opened completely. We still judge each other by appearances. We still miss the presence of God in the poor and the dispossessed, in those who suffer from disease or war or loneliness. We still shun those of another race, or those who have been shaped by another culture, or those who worship God in a different way. Although the eschatological future is already present, we have not yet put aside all of the biases of the past, we have not yet been fully transformed. But God has spoken, God has come to save us. God is trustworthy; God keeps faith forever.

St Michael's Parish Dinner

Sat 26 September 2009 7.30pm ~ Worrigege House

Buy your tickets today!

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Our Sunday Word The Year for Priests

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

www.nowraparish.org.au

23rd Sunday (Year B) - Season of the Year

6 September 2009



First Reading 35:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145

R/ Praise the Lord, my soul!

- 1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bound down, the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger.
3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age.

Second Reading 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St James

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

The word of the Lord.



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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

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.

6 September 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 7am, Tues/Wed/Thurs 8.15am
 Friday 7.00am and 11.30am; Sat 9.00am
Holy Hour: Fri 10.30am
Berry: Tues: 5.30.p.m; Culburra : **Thurs : 5.30.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:

Christopher Delaney, William John Wilson, Paul Chalker, and Antonio Amato whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in eternal peace.



The organizers of the WATOTO CHOIR wish to thank the Berry community in particular for their generous support, and all those who attended the evening – “We felt a real unity in Christ with you all and the choir was greatly encouraged by the co-operation”.

AN INCLUSION MASS - 6pm Mass on Sun 20 Sept at St Michael's Parish Hall. The Mass will be a celebration of the gifts that each member of our Parish brings and a reminder of the importance of *including* everyone in the celebration of Mass. All are welcome! Refreshments will be served afterwards. For further inform contact Sr Jeanie Heinger 4654 8709 or jeanieh@materdei.org.au

Feast Day of the Week:

Tues 8 - Birth of the Virgin Mary

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!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, Winter/Doorknock Appeal

– The Society would like to thank all who volunteered to assist with the recent doorknock and to all those who donated in other ways. There will be a full report on the above when all figures and information have been finally processed.



The next CULBURRA FAMILY GROUP function will be a Spring Picnic Races Day (chicken and champagne lunch) at Joan & Greg Watts' home at midday on Sun 13 Sept. Please contact Marg/Paul Casey for details 4446 4117.

NOWRA CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

will hold their next meeting on Tues 8 Sept at 9.30am for morning tea with the meeting commencing at 10.00am. There will also be a luncheon to celebrate the Year of the Priest.



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 – **14 Sept 7.30pm** in the Parish Centre.

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

SHOALHAVEN CROSSROADS will hold their next meeting on Fri 11 Sept from 7.15 to 9.15pm at the Nowra Baptist Church, Old Southern Rd, South Nowra – who will also be the Host Church this month.

FATHERS' DAY – an opportunity to affirm the particular gifts that fathers bring to families, including our own fathers, grandfathers, single parent fathers, in each generation. It is easy to take our fathers for granted. The natural hurts that arise in all families can cause us to forget the wealth of goodness and commitment that is also there. Every father knows that he is human and may not have fulfilled his parental responsibility as well as he might. He needs to hear from his children that he ‘must have done something right’ – maybe magnificently. We pray for the fathers of the community; may they find, joy, fulfillment, and affirmation in their children.

This Sunday the Diocese asks you to contribute to a collection for ‘Fathers’ of the Diocese which is used towards “the increasing number of retired and sick clergy and to fund the recruiting and training of the next generation of clergy” All monies from the 2nd collection will be used for this collection.

“COME AND SEE” Spirituality group welcomes you to join us for prayer and conversation on Wed 16 Sept at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Pat O’Gorman and Beth Riolo from the Catholic Education Office in W’gong will lead us with the focus on “Our Journey – Our Story”. Please bring something to share for supper. Contact Moira 4423 6077 or Liz 4422 1279



The following parishioners all celebrate their **40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY** during 2009 and will be celebrating with Bishop Ingham on Sun 13 September
 Terri & David Quirk, 25 January
 Laurie & Robbie Forsythe, 6 September
 Alan & Pat Clark, 20 September
 Kevin & Patricia Bourke, 11 October



Dates to Note:

Sun Sept 20th. Awareness Mass – 6.00.p.m. (Hall)
 Sat Sept 26th ...Parish Dinner.
 Sat Oct. 24th – Parish Retreat at St Michael's
 Sun Nov 1st First Holy Communion.