

Gospel Acclamation 2 Th 2:14

Alleluia, alleluia! God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

Gospel 9:30-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel thoughts

by Dianne Bergant CSA

Who are the righteous? This is a question that holds little interest today. We are more concerned with the successful and the famous. We want people to be honest, at least in their dealings with us, but we are more apt to applaud those who are clever. We commend people for making a good deal, for knowing how to get ahead or striking it rich. We extol the beautiful, the strong, the self-assured, those who have made a name for themselves, those who entertain us. We encourage people to be ambitious. Seldom is popularity based on righteousness.

Yet righteousness is a pillar of the reign of God. Those who would enter that reign must be gentle and merciful, faithful and sincere, lovers of peace. They must be willing to take the last place, to be the servant of all. The righteous are not often held in high regard. They are often ridiculed and even persecuted. When they are considered a reproach to the standards of society, they may even be put to death.

There are times when we might be inclined to envy and resentment, not wanting to feel morally inferior, and we might relish the opportunity of putting the virtue of others to the test. We may say that we want to draw forth their strengths, when we really hope their weaknesses will be revealed and they will prove to be no better than we are. Sometimes the righteous have nowhere else to turn but to Jesus, whose life they are following and into whose death they have been plunged.



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Our Sunday Word

The Year for Priests

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

www.nowraparish.org.au

25th Sunday (Year B) - Season of the Year

20 September 2009



Responsorial Psalm Ps 53

R/ The Lord upholds my life.

1. O God, save me by your name; by your power, uphold my cause. O God, hear my prayers; listen to the words of my mouth.
2. For proud men have risen against me, ruthless men seek my life. They have no regard for God.
3. But I have God for my help. The Lord upholds my life. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart and praise your name for it is good.

Second Reading 3:16-4:3

A reading from the letter of St James

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

The word of the Lord.

First Reading 2:12,17-20

A reading from the book of Wisdom

The goddess say to themselves, 'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing. Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what kind of end he himself will have. If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies. Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof. Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after - we have his word for it.'

The word of the Lord.

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25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

20 September 2009

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.

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 5.30pm
Vincentia: No Mass during this week
Shoalhaven 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: –

recently deceased; **Stanley Quinn** (Vincentia), **Anthony Garnuszek** (Vic - father of Margaret Edwards) also, **Ray Abood, Sarah Le Ban, Emilia Labador, and Ivan Kalic**, whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in eternal peace.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY – are you looking

for a gift for a child making their 1st Holy Communion in November? The Society has a range of suitable gifts or if there is something in particular you want they can usually get it in for you.

HOLY SPIRIT CONFERENCE of St Vincent de Paul Society invites all past and present members to the

9.30am Mass on Sun 27 Sept on the feast of St Vincent de Paul. Morning tea will follow Mass.

PARISH FEASTDAY – a Festive 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). 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. Book a table or just come along and meet new friends! **BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY – time is running out!**

CATECHISTS' Retreat- Gerringong – Friday 25

September from 9.45am to 2.00pm. BYO lunch and a mug. The topic, led by Fr G Schmitzer is Prayer. Ring Lyn 4423 1009 to register

Dates to Note:

Sat 26 Sept – Parish Dinner – 7.30pm
 Wed.30th Year 12 Mass –St John's – 6.00.p.m.
 Wed 21st Oct. Prayer Evening – 1st. Holy Communion
 Sat 24 Oct – Parish Retreat at St Michael's
 Sun 1 Nov – First Holy Communion.
 Sat 7 Nov – Memorial Liturgy at Worrigeer Cemetery

AN INCLUSION/AWARENESS MASS – TODAY – in the

Parish Hall at 6pm. 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 Heininger 4654 8709 or jeanieh@materdei.org.au

1ST SATURDAY MARIAN DEVOTIONS – 3 Oct –

Reconciliation 8.30am followed by Mass at 9.00am. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Rosary and Benediction at 9.30am. Morning tea will be available in the Parish Centre after devotions. **All welcome.**

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY will be celebrated on 27

Sept. Copies of the Statement – **“And you will be my witnesses: young people and justice”** is available for a cost of 50cents. **The launch** of this year's Australian Bishops' Statement occurs at the Cathedral at 10.30 Mass on Sunday 27th. All are welcome to attend the launch and join the conversation which will follow in the H all.

THE PARISH RETREAT DAY will be held on **Sat 24**

October at Nowra, and will be led by Sr Eileen Brown. Parishioners are encouraged to attend the 9.00am Mass which will be followed by morning tea and then the retreat will commence at 10.00am concluding at 3pm with Evening Prayer and Benediction in the Church. Morning tea provided, BYO lunch.

CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE provides care for the aged residents of our community at Villa Maria, Unanderra, St



Mary's Berkeley and Bishop McCabe at Towradgi. We are holding a combined **OPEN DAY & SPRING FAIR** on Sat 17 Oct with all funds raised on the day going towards the upgrading of the bus that all facilities share – from 9.30am to 2.30pm at Villa Maria, Tannery St., Unanderra. **Your support would be very much appreciated!**

Pastoral Care of the Sick and Aged. In addition

to the Hospitals and Palliative Care unit, there are at least eight Retirement Centres /Nursing Homes throughout the parish. We depend very much on being notified by parishioners regarding relatives, friends and fellow parishioners in residential care, who may need pastoral visitation and the Sacraments. Please do not presume that they are on our lists; ensure they are!

ONE LIFE: WHY JESUS? WHY THE CHURCH? An

evening will be held at Ss Peter & Paul Parish, Manning St, Kiama on Thurs 22 Oct from 7.30 – 9.00pm. Gatherings include music, supper and discussion. This event is a great opportunity to deepen your own faith and understanding. You are also encouraged to bring along a friend who may want to know more about Jesus Christ and our Catholic faith. This event is being run in conjunction with the **Jesus. All About Life Campaign.**



Feast Days of the Week:

Mon 21 – Matthew, apostle
Wed 23 – Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, priest