

Gospel
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

9:38-48

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel thoughts

by Dianne Bergant CSA

The question of legitimacy of ministry is not a new one. There is a certain amount of tension between the institutional and the charismatic aspects of the church. To say that one is Spirit-driven and the other is not is to misunderstand Jesus' promise to remain with the church until the end of time. God normally calls ministers through the structures of the community. The authorities of the church are usually the ones who make the ultimate decisions about the needs of the church, how these needs are to be met, and who is to meet them. That is one of the responsibilities of their office.

However, God calls in other ways as well. A solid biblical tradition maintains that the Spirit is not confined to human structure or custom. We see this in the judges, the prophets, and even the early kings. The Pentecost story describes the coming of the Spirit upon all people – sons and daughters, young and old, slaves and free. When God calls it is up to us to recognise that call and to test its spirit. Perhaps the primary criterion we have for judging is the biblical measure: By their fruits you shall know them.

Today we also see that those who benefit from exploitation of the vulnerable will reap the fruits of their sin. This warning stems from the belief in the justice of God. Just as we believe that God will not allow the righteous to go unrewarded, so we are confident that neither will the wicked escape punishment.



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Our Sunday Word

The Year for Priests

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

www.nowraparish.org.au

26th Sunday (Year B) - Season of the Year

27 September 2009

First Reading

11:25-29

A reading from the book of Numbers

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look', he said, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.'

Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18

R/The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)

2. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. (R.)

3. So in them your servant finds instructions; great reward is in their keeping. But who can detect all his errors? From hidden faults acquit me. (R.)

4. From presumption restrain your servant and let it not rule me. Then shall I be blameless, clean from grave sin. (R.)



Second Reading

5:1-6

A reading from the letter of St James

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 17:17

Alleluia, alleluia! Your word, O Lord, is truth: make us holy in the truth. Alleluia!

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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.

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Social Justice Sunday 27 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 5.30pm
Bomaderry 1st Fri Oct 2nd. 5.45.p.m.

Vincentia: Mon/Thurs/Fri. 8.a.m. Tues/Wed/ 5.30.p.m.

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; **Neville Markham, Stanley Quinn, Deirdre Moore, and Anthony Garnuszek** (Vic - father of Mary Edwards) also **Helen Power**, whose anniversary occurs 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.



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 in the Parish Centre after devotions. **All welcome.**

PARISH PLANNED GIVING - Regrettably the Parish Office was broken into on Tuesday morning 3.00a.m. Fortunately due to the Security System the damage was minimal. The only items taken were the 'empty' Planned Giving Envelopes – numbers 1 to 400. Contributions had not been recorded. If you used your envelope on the weekend of the 20 Sept and you want the amount recorded against your number, please write the date and amount on **next week's envelope** or contact Robbie at the Office. **If you paid by cheque** – we have details from the banking records.

HOLY SPIRIT CONFERENCE of St Vincent de Paul Society invites all past and present members to the 9.30am Mass on this Sun 27 Sept on the feast of St Vincent de Paul. Morning tea will follow Mass.

CATECHISTS: a Catechist is needed for years 5 & 6 for Nowra Primary on Wednesdays from 11.30 – 1.00pm. If you can help please ring Lyn 4423 1009

THE PARISH RETREAT DAY will be held on **Sat 24 October** at Nowra, and will be led by **Sr Eileen Brown**. Parishioners – men and women, 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!**

Feast Days of the Week:

Tues 29 – Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels

Wed 30 – Jerome, priest, doctor.

October the month of the Rosary.

Thurs 1 Oct – St. Teresa of the Child Jesus

Fri 2 - Guardian Angels

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY - 2009 Social Justice Sunday Statement..."and you will be my witnesses: **young people and justice**" – a limited number of copies are available at Mass Centres for 50cents a copy paid to St Vincent de Paul Society Nowra.

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.**



Dates to Note:

Sept. Wed. 30th St John's Year 12 – Thanksgiving Mass at St Michael's – 6.30.p.m.

Oct. Tues 20th. **Berry** – 11.a.m. Mass and Anointing of the Sick

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

HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH is holding a raffle – tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5 – available on **w/end 3, 4 Oct Masses**. Prizes are Vouchers for Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb, Hairdresser, 1hr Remedial Massage, \$20 Pizzeria voucher. Come for morning tea after the 9.30am Mass, buy some tickets and be there for the draw at 11.00am. **ALSO THANK YOU BBQ!** Sun 11 Oct from 12 noon – at 115 Naval Pde, Erowal Bay – BYO salad/sweet to share. For catering purposes **RSVP 6 Oct** to Judy 4441 7456 or Michael 4443 7732.

FESTIVAL MASS BOWRAL Sun 4 Oct 10.30am St Thomas Aquinas Church. Part of the annual Food, Wine & Music Festival (Tulip Festival) featuring the Macarthur Singers with string orchestra. **All welcome.**