

appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Alleluia!

Gospel 12:38-44

from the holy Gospel according to Mark

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called to his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel thoughts

by *Dianne Bergant CSA*

The willingness to give all that one has is the central theme of today's readings. They offer us three models.

Jesus is the ultimate example of heroic generosity. He first offered himself as expiation for our sin. Now, as the eternal high priest, he stands before God as our mediator, pleading on our behalf, bringing salvation to those who eagerly await him.

It is interesting to note that the other two models of selfless giving are widows, individuals who are doubly disadvantaged by the patriarchal societies of which they are members. Their generosity is religiously inspired, and it comes from women who had the least material possessions to give. This kind of giving requires that we reach deep into ourselves and almost strip ourselves of our hold on life, and that we do this for religious reasons. The giving that is pictured in today's readings is nothing less than heroic generosity.

God will not be outdone in generosity. Sometimes we become the beneficiaries of obvious blessing, as was the case in the story of the woman of Zarephath who was granted a year's supply of flour and oil. At other times, we simply continue living life as usual, like the woman in the temple who was unaware of the commendation that Jesus had given her. The truly generous do not look for reward. They carry out their responsibilities and place the rest in God's hands.

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Our Sunday Word

The Year for Priests

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

www.nowraparish.org.au

32nd Sunday (Year B) - Season of the Year

8 November 2009

First Reading 17:10-16

A reading from the book of Kings

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said, 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives', she replied, 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent, jug of oil shall not be emptied, before the day when the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145

R/ Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever 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 bowed down. It



is 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 9:24-28

from the letter to the Hebrews

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he

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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.

32nd Sunday of the Year (B)

8 November 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 7.a.m./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 of the month only...5.45pm
Vincentia: Wednesday 5.30pm
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 11.30-12.30pm & 5.00 – 5.30pm
Culburra Beach: Sat 5.30pm. **Berry:** Tues 6.00pm
K.Valley: Sat 4.30 – 5⁰⁰ pm **Vincentia:** Sat: 5⁰⁰ - 5³⁰ pm

WE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER: – Frances Blake
 (Vincentia) **who died this week**; also **Iris Egan, and George Sullivan** whose
 anniversaries occur at this time. May they
 rest in eternal peace.



CWL – the next meeting will be on Tues 10 Nov in the
 Parish Centre – 9.30am for morning tea with the
 meeting commencing at 10.00am.

**THE NOWRA BRANCH OF THE CATHOLIC
 WOMEN'S LEAGUE** will be holding an Ecumenical
 Evening in St Michael's Hall on 27 November at
 7.30pm – Coffee and dessert. More information to
 follow.

**END OF THE YEAR PARTY – 1st Saturday Marian
 Group** will be holding their Christmas party at the
 Postman's Tavern on Sun 29 Nov at noon. Cost \$12
 or \$18 with dessert. Ring Jo 4422 4883 or Anna 4447
 0382 to book by 28 November.

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL FETE will be held **TODAY** Sun
 8 Nov commencing at 10.30am (after 9.30am Mass)
 ▪ Jumping Castle, Giant slide and games
 ▪ Stalls – cakes, gourmet delights, Plant & Produce, Gift
 Baskets, books, trash & treasure, Toys and more
 ▪ Students busking, face painting, animal farm & reptile
 Display.

**YOUNG ADULTS GROUP – CHRISTMAS CARD
 MAKING NIGHT** – Mon 16 Nov in the parish centre – to
 order your card making pack (Cost \$15 to make 10 cards)
 RSVP to Jody by Mon 9 Nov - jodyedwards@yahoo.com.



TAIZE PRAYER NIGHT will be held at St
 Michael's Church on Friday 4 December. A
 wonderful opportunity for spiritual preparation
 for Advent and Christmas.

AN ELDERLY PARISHIONER residing at Greenwell
 Gardens Retirement Village, 4 Brereton St Nowra requires
 transport to the 8am Mass on the 3rd and 4th Sundays of
 the month, she has transport for the other Sundays. If you
 are able to assist would you please contact Robbie or one
 of the Priests.

**FOSTER CARER RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN – Give
 hope to a child – become a Foster Carer.** CatholicCare
 is urgently appealing for foster carers to provide a safe
 home to care for children and adolescents who are unable
 to live with their parents due to abuse or neglect. For more
 information call Tammy on 4628 0044 or
www.catholiccare.woll.catholic.org.au

SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB Mon 9 Nov at 7.30pm (meals
 from 5.30) at Jamberoo Pub. **Topic:** "A Flat Screen God –
 The Media and the Message". Speakers Kim Wilkinson
 spreading the message of Jesus; and Graham Rossiter,
 Professor of Religious and Moral Education at ACU,
 Sydney.

CATECHIST NEWS: The Annual Catechist Mass will be
 held on Sat 14 Nov at 2pm at St John Vianney's Fairy
 Meadow. RXVP Lyn by 9 Nov 4423 1009
 ▪ **Our Thanksgiving Mass** and morning tea – Mon 23
 Nov at 9.30am at St Michael's. Please bring some
 Christmas fare to share.

SHOALHAVEN CROSSROADS will next meet on Fri 13
 Nov from 7.15pm – 9.15pm at Nowra Baptist Church on
 Old Southern Rd., South Nowra. St Andrew's
 Presbyterian Church will be hosting this meeting. **All
 very welcome to participate.**

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED in finding out how you
 could be involved with families of children with Autism?
 Expressions of interest in special training are invited –
 please contact Robbie or one of the Priests...

ADVENT PROGRAM – the Diocesan program "**The
 Lord is Near**" will be available – full colour featuring
 reflections on the 4 Sundays of Advent, a personal
 examination of conscience leading into 2010. Cost \$1

LENT 2010 – BORN FOR THIS! The Diocese will be
 staging this pilgrim production – a moving, modern
 theatrical interpretation of the Stations of the Cross.
 Young people wishing to take part are asked to attend
 auditions on **Sat 5 Dec** at the Cathedral meeting room
 (W'gong from 3pm – 5pm) Info avail
www.dow.org.au/youth or Loretta 4253 0809 or
lorbrinkman@woll.catholic.org.au

**THE DIOCESE OF W'GONG is vying for the NSW
 State Tourism Award** (WYD 2008) – a marvellous
 way to highlight WYD 2011 at Madrid. Also in the
 running to win the People's Choice Award – to vote go to
www.dailytelegraph.com.au and click NSW Tourism
 People's Choice Awards" – bottom RHS of the homepage

**Commenting on this Sunday's Gospel -"the Widow's
 mite" one commentator writes: "The luxuries of one
 generation become the necessities of the next".**

Extract from the message of Pope Benedict: Nov 1st.
 Dear friends, how beautiful and comforting is **the
 communion of Saints!** It is a reality that instills a
 different dimension into our whole life. We are never
 alone! We are part of a spiritual "company" where
 profound solidarity reigns: It is a mystery which, in some
 measure, we can already experience in this world, in the
 family, in friendship, and especially in the spiritual
 community of the Church. May Mary Most Holy help us to
 walk quickly on the way to holiness, and may she be the
 Mother of mercy for the souls of the departed.