

## Gospel

3:1-6

*from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley will be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low,  
winding ways will be straightened  
and rough roads made smooth. And all  
mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Gospel thoughts

by Dianne Bergant CSA

**T**he advent of God's coming with its promise of fulfilment happens within world history. The first reading locates God's act of restoration in the city of Jerusalem. The gospel situates the ministry of John within a particular period of world history. They point us to historical experience as the place and the time of restoration, of incarnation, of redemption. They show us that God works within everyday life,

in conventional places, during regular time. In fact, from a human point of view, the extraordinary events of salvation took place within what was quite ordinary.

John proclaims the kind of transformation that results in a change of heart. Reversals characterise such transformation: the robe of mourning is replaced by the splendour of glory; tears are turned into rejoicing; those led away by enemies are brought back by God; valleys are filled, mountains are levelled, winding roads are made straight; even nature offers itself as shelter for the people of God. Those who are shamed and discarded are made glorious; those who suffer are comforted; the oppressed are freed; all of life's obstacles are removed; the way to God is made straight; the natural world enjoys peace and harmony.

The transformation or repentance of heart takes place within human life, within relationships of justice between people and with the earth, in right living, in genuine unselfish love. It produces the fruits of righteousness of which Paul speaks. Advent is the time to prepare ourselves for this.



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# Our Sunday Word

The Year  
for Priests

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

www.nowraparish.org.au

2nd Sunday (Year C) - Season of Advent

6 December 2009

## First Reading

5:1-9

*A reading from the prophet Baruch*

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.'

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 125

**R/** The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.

2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves.

## Second Reading

1:3-6.8-11

*from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians*

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation

Lk 3:4-6

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

## St Michael's Parish Contacts

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**Website: [nowraparish.org.au](http://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.

**Second Sunday of Advent - Year C**  
**6 December 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: 5.30pm..... **Culburra:** Thurs 5.30pm  
**Vincentia:** Mon/Thurs/Fri 8am, Tues/Wed 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 – 5<sup>00</sup>pm  
**Vincentia:** Sat: 11.00-11.30 am and 5<sup>00</sup> - 5<sup>30</sup>pm

**WE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER: Valma Godwin and John Williams** who died this past week; also **Krystyn (Christine) Brimmer, Maurie Hanley, Keith Phillips, Aileen Wills and Margaret Pryde** whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in eternal peace.



**BAY & BASIN CWL** will be holding a Christmas stall after Mass on 5 & 6 Dec - proceeds to go to the Srs of Charity for drought stricken Darling Downs farmers. There will be raffles – Christmas basket and Goldilocks and the 3 bears. **Bring your money with you!**

**ST MICHAEL'S YOUTH, BEACH CHRISTMAS PARTY** – meet at 164 Penguin's Head Rd, Culburra on Sat 12 Dec 7.30 – 10.00pm. Come along, bring a friend and some food to share. Contact Matt – 4447 3197

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

- **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL** will take place in most Mass centres **THIS** weekend, 5/6 Dec. Our family assistance costs continue to rise, with a large number of people seeking assistance for the 1<sup>st</sup> time ever. We look forward to parishioners' usual generosity
- **CHRISTMAS BOOKSTALLS** – the last one for this year in the Parish will be held at B'derry on 12/13 Dec.
- **THANKYOU BBQ** – to be held at City Farm on 12 Dec – all **DOORKNOCK** volunteers are invited to lunch. Please RSVP to Peter Delaney 4422 1129 or Mary Dunn 4421 0717.
- **FOLLOWING THE OPENING** of our new store in Nowra, Vinnies are seeking new volunteers. If you have some spare time to join a great group of people working to assist those in need please call 4421 7244 or drop into the centre for a **volunteer pack**.
- **COLUMBAN CALENDARS and Christmas Cards** (\$6 pack of 10) are now available.



**MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, Culburra**

- A thorough Church cleaning, both inside and out on Sat next, 12 Dec commencing at 8.30.a.m. **All help greatly appreciated.**
- Pre-Christmas supper after Mass on Sat 12 Dec – please bring a plate of finger food to share. **All welcome.**
- **Auxiliary** - annual Christmas Raffle – tickets available at the Church. Any donations would be gratefully received.
- **A BIG THANKYOU** to Sam Falzon and Eli Saltoon for their gift of a new stable for our Church. Sam supplied the timber and made the stable and Eli supplied and fitted the lighting.

**CULBURRA FAMILY GROUP** will hold their Christmas Party at Noel Reid's home in Currarong at 12 noon on Sun 13 Dec. Please bring Christmas fare to share.

**DATES TO NOTE**

**Dec 8 Tues: (The Feast of the Immaculate Conception)**  
 Year Six St Michael's Mass – 7.00pm  
**Dec 9 Wed:** Home Mass - Currarong – 6.00pm  
**Dec 18 Fri:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation – 7.00pm

**HOLY SPIRIT VINCENTIA** Christmas raffle fund raiser (in conjunction with the Triathlon to be held in Feb 2010) – tickets will be on sale at all Masses from w/end of 11/12 Dec, proceeds towards funding of new Hall (plans progressing well). The Auxiliary thank you for your past and anticipated continued support of their activities.

Deidre & Richard Sedman are holding a **FREE CHRISTMAS CONCERT** on 13 December at Vincentia Golf Club at 2.00pm. **ALL WELCOME!**

**YOUNG ADULTS GROUP** will meet on Monday 7 Dec at the Parish Centre. The evening will be focused on the Diocesan Advent Program.



**THE LYDIAN SINGERS** will be performing a Christmas Carol Concert at St Patrick's Berry on Sat 12 Dec from 7.30pm. Entry by donation.

**EAST TIMOR COFFEE** on sale following Masses at St Michael's on 5/6 Dec, beans or ground coffee, \$8 packet or \$15 for 2. Money raised will go to the Carmelite Missions in East Timor towards replacing a damaged panel van to transport medical supplies.



**CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST MICHAEL'S NOWRA**  
 There are 2 parishioners who would like to commence Children's Liturgy at the 9.30am Mass – however to do this effectively and each week they need at least another 2 people to help them. Please contact Jody on 4422 3318

**The Annual MASS FOR INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY** will be celebrated by Bishop Peter on Sun 13 Dec at the Cathedral at 10.30am. If you would like to participate contact Jacinta 4228 9059. **All welcome.**

In his Pastoral Letter this Advent Bishop Peter speaks of "Our Journey Ahead" as the title of the **Diocesan pastor planning process**. The Bishop has already established a Pastoral Planning Steering Committee with expertise and representation from across the Diocese. See **Journey** (Diocesan Magazine)