

Gospel

3:10-18

from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel thoughts

by Dianne Bergant CSA

We are at the midpoint of Advent. Today we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. The principal theme of the day is joy. According to Paul, joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit (cf. Gal 5:22). Such joy is a religious sentiment, not emotional happiness. Along with gratitude, it is the heart's response to God's goodness. Zion is told to shout for joy because it has been saved by God from its enemies and because God is in the midst of the people. The psalm response proclaims the same message; the reading from Philipians announces that the Lord is near. This is cause for joy.

Advent is a time for joy, not primarily because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Christ, but because God is already in our midst (Immanuel). The readings for this Sunday assure us that God is with us, not as a judge but as a Saviour. We rejoice over the saving acts of God that make us confident of God's care and unafraid of whatever may cross our paths. We rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. Advent joy is like the delight that fills a woman who has just given birth, even if it occurred in the throes of birthpangs. Advent joy springs from the realisation that the presence of God in our midst can so transform our lives that the promises of peace and security will be fulfilled. Advent joy is the way we live in the tension between already and not yet.

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Our Sunday Word

The Year for Priests

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

www.nowraparish.org.au

3rd Sunday (Year C) - Season of Advent

13 December 2009

First Reading

3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!

Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior.

He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Is 12

R/ Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

- 1. Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name.
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Gaudete! Rejoice! Sunday



Second Reading

4:4-7

from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

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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.



**Third Sunday of Advent - Year C**  
**13<sup>th</sup> 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 11.00-12.30pm & 5.00 – 5.30pm  
**Culburra Beach:** Sat 5.30pm. **Berry:** Tues 6.00pm also on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> 9.00- 10.a.m.  
**Bomaderry** Sat 19<sup>th</sup>. 10.30-11.30 a.m.  
**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  
**2<sup>ND</sup> RITE OF RECONCILIATION** – 18 December at 7.00pm, Nowra. There will be 4 priests available.



**WE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER: Margaret**

**McMillan** and **Iris Simpson** who died this past week; also **Bruno Wiczowski, John Lenehan, Jo Hillyard, Wesley Rodrick** and **Beryl Ison** whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in eternal peace.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

- **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** \$4864.70 was raised in the Nowra / Bomaderry area, with donations continuing to arrive. A big thank you for your generous support.
- **CHRISTMAS BOOKSTALLS** – the last one for this year in the Parish will be held at B'derry on 12/13 Dec.



**MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS Auxiliary** - annual Christmas Raffle – tickets available at the Church. Any donations would be gratefully received.

**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.

**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 12/13 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!**

**SHOALHAVEN HEADS:** following 3.30pm Mass on Friday 18 Dec, all are invited to share in afternoon tea at the Community Centre. Please bring a plate.

**BAY & BASIN CWL:** would like to thank parishioners for their generous support. \$1187.75 was raised for the Sr of Charity for drought stricken farmers and St Vincent de Paul.

**CHRISTMAS MASS:** children who would like to participate as angles or shepherds are asked to attend practice on Wednesday 23 Dec at 10am in St Michael's School Hall. Parents must supervise. No wings or tinsels for angels please. Contact is Rosanne Mullany Ph 4446 0349.



**CATHOLICCARE:** are running a free course on 'Post Separation Co-operative Parenting'. It runs for 2 x 2 hours sessions commencing 6 Jan. Ph 4423 1018 to book.

**EAST TIMOR COFFEE:** Thank you for your generous support in purchasing East Timor coffee. \$519 has been sent to the Carmelite Mission.

**DIOCESAN LENTEN MUSICAL:** 2 male actors (with optional singing), aged 16-30, are needed for the travelling musical 'Born For This'. Contact Loretta Brinkman on Ph 4253 0809, 0418 238 486 asap if you are interested.

Please note the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Rite of Reconciliation at St Michael's on Friday next 18 December: 7.00pm



**Christmas Mass Time-Table.**

**CHRISTMAS EVE – 24 Dec VIGIL MASSES**

**Shoalhaven Heads** ..... 6.00pm  
**Culburra**.....6.00  
**Nowra** .....7.00pm  
**Kangaroo Valley**.....9.00pm  
**Berry**.....9.00pm  
**Vincentia** .....6.00pm & 8.00pm  
**Midnight Mass**  
**Nowra** .....12.00 (midnight)



**CHRISTMAS DAY – Friday 25**

**Nowra**.....8.00am & 9.30am  
**Berry** .....8.00am  
**Bomaderry**.....9.30am  
**Culburra** .....8.00am  
**Vincentia**.....8.00am & 9.30am

**ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT 2009-10**

Commencing next week and during the School holidays and into the first term of the New Year there will be an extensive building and refurbishing program taking place at St Michael's School following the Federal Government BER capital works grant. This will necessitate the removal of the camphor laurel tree for safety reasons. Based on the Arborist's report the tree has extensive decay 'greatest in the central and eastern stem', and consequently a very limited life span. All of this will have some impact on parking for weekend Masses. However there is always ample park across the road.