

these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



St Michael's Parish Contacts

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Gospel thoughts

by Dianne Bergant CSA

In both the reading from Nehemiah and the Gospel passage, we see the dynamic power of the word of God. Paul's teaching originated as oral proclamation, and like the texts read by Ezra the priest and the one interpreted by Jesus himself, it was first proclaimed aloud. Only later were these proclamations written and handed down from one community to another, from one generation to the next.

The word of God elicits various responses. In the first reading, the people cried out in response: 'Amen, amen! So be it! We hear and we will obey!' From the verses contained in today's gospel, we do not know how those who heard Jesus' interpretation reacted to it. We do know that both audiences listened intently to the sacred words of Scripture. Can we do less? Are we eager to obey? Do we view the law as a treasure, as life-giving? Have we learned to live with each other as members of one body, each member being important and contributing to the total health of the entire body?

Both Ezra and Jesus proclaimed the word of God within the context of a liturgical celebration, a setting similar to the ones wherein most people today hear God's word proclaimed. According to the teaching of Vatican II, the liturgy is described as the source and summit of our lives, and the liturgy of the word is an essential part of that celebration. With the people of Ezra, we are invited to respond: 'Amen, amen! Thanks be to God!'



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Our Sunday Word The Year for Priests

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

www.nowraparish.org.au

Third Sunday (Year C) - Season of the Year

24 January 2010

First Reading

8:2-6, 8-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep'. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18

R/Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

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.
2. The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes.
3. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just.
4. May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart, win favour in your sight, O Lord, my rescuer, my rock!

Second Reading

12:12-14, 27

- the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts.

Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

The word of the Lord.

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

1:1-4, 4:14-21

from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as



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Website: nowraparish.org.au Incorporates the Church Communities of St Michael, Nowra; St Patrick, Berr Sacred Heart, Bomaderry; Mary, Help of Christians, Culburra; St Joseph, Kangaroo Valley; Holy Spirit, Vincentia.

3rd Sunday - Year C
January 24th 2010

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
(The Holiday timetable concludes this Sunday, 24 January.)

MASSES DURING THE WEEK

Nowra: Mon 7.00am; Tues/Wed/Thurs 8.15am; Fri 7.00am and 11.30am; Sat 9.00am
Berry: No Mass this Tues **Culburra:** Thurs 5.30pm
Vincentia: Mon/Thur/ Fri 8.00am; Tues/ Wed 5.30pm
Kangaroo Valley: Mon/Tues/Thurs/Sat 8.00am Wed 6.15am. Divine Office is chanted 15 mins prior to Mass. No Mass on Fridays.

Confession/Reconciliation

Nowra: Sat 11.30.-12.30pm & 5.00 - 5.30pm
Culburra: Sat. 5.30pm **Berry:** Tues 6.00pm
K Valley: Sat 4.30 – 5.00pm
Vincentia: Sat. 5 - 5.30pm

THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY is conducting a Diocesan wide raffle

in Feb & March to raise funds for its escalating expenses. Prizes are \$5000, \$2000, and \$1000. Volunteers are needed to sell tickets in Stocklands Shopping Centre on 12 Feb, 6 & 20 March 2010. Please contact John 4422 1505 or Ivor 4421 0929 if you are able to help.



HOLY SPIRIT VINCENTIA is holding a raffle fund raiser (in conjunction with the Triathlon to be held in Feb 2010). Tickets are on sale at all Masses. The raffle will be drawn on 21 Feb at the Triathlon and proceeds will go towards funding of the new hall. The Auxiliary would like to thank you for your ongoing support of their activities.

THE HAITI EARTH QUAKE APPEAL:



Over 300 Caritas local staff are continuing to deliver relief supplies to the many survivors in urgent need in Haiti despite the significant

difficulties they face. Caritas has been delivering blankets, tarpaulins for shelter, and food including peanut butter and sardines since the day following the earthquake. Jack de Groot, CEO of Caritas Australia, said “the work of the Caritas local staff on the ground has been incredible despite the many challenges they face..... The trauma of losing loved ones and living through such a disaster is a huge burden. Yet the compassion and commitment of our people to continue to work both day and night to deliver the life giving assistance they are providing, is truly inspiring. Our admiration and prayers go out in a special way to the Relief Workers; their commitment, expertise and compassion. **The parish is holding a special appeal this weekend for the Haitian earthquake victims. All loose monies in the second collection will be donated to Caritas Australia’s special Appeal.**

The Culburra Beach Family Group will be holding a planning meeting on Friday 5 February at 5.00 pm at Tilbury Cove. Please bring some finger food to share for the evening meal. For more information, please contact Marg or Paul on 4446 4117.



Youth Mass in the Vineyards will be celebrated with Bishop Peter Ingham, at 6pm on Sat 6 Feb 2010 at The Hermitage, Old Southern Rd, Mittagong. You could pack a picnic and stay for dinner under the stars. For more information call Loretta Brinkman 4253 0809 or youth@dow.org.au.

LENTEN PROGRAM 2010 ‘Do you love me?’ The diocesan Lenten Program begins the week of Monday 15 Feb. In Nowra/Bomaderry, there is a list in the church foyer with group leader’s names, and the time and place of meetings. Interested parishioners are asked to write their name against the group they wish to attend (maximum of 10 per group). Any queries contact Peggy 4421 3417 or Francene 4421 5962.



Contacts for other areas:

- Berry/S’Heads, Sr Patricia 4421 2260.
- Culburra Bch, Jean Helliwell 4447 3018.
- K Valley, Fr Ronan.
- Vincentia, Fr Leo 4441 5571.

Booklets will be available for \$5.

WE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER the following whose anniversaries occur ; Gweneth Walker, Betty Colnan, Theodoro and Esmeraldo Labrador; Mark Pereira (Malaysia), Gasper Periera (Singapore). May they rest in eternal peace.



MOTHER RUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND Theatre Gala Evening:- Wed- March 17th the Nowra Players Theatre, Bomaderry. **Details later.**

A Prayer for Australia Day:

O God, you gave us the dreaming. May we grow in appreciation and reverence for your gifts to this great land under the Southern Cross. May we value our fauna and flora, but above all, learn to value each other. May we experience forgiveness from each other, and reach out in friendship and peace. May we learn to forgive ourselves for the prejudices of the past, and work towards being a compassionate and welcoming nation. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen





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3rd Sunday - Year C
January 24th 2010

MOTHER RUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND Theatre



Gala: 'Not now, Darling'. This is an English comedy - Wed 17 March at the Nowra Players Theatre, Bomaderry. Champagne on arrival and an extended interval

supper are included. Cost is adults \$25, students \$20. Contact Denise Jones 0419 248 889 or 4423 2299 (BH).