

Our Sunday Word The Year for Priests

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

www.nowraparish.org.au

Fourth Sunday (Year C) - Season of the Year

31 January 2010

mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known.

In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

Gospel 4:21-30
from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, "This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen." And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips.

They said, "This is Joseph's son, surely?" But he replied, "No doubt you will quote me the saying, "Physician, heal yourself" and tell me, "We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside." And he went on, "I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.

"There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And

in the prophet Elisha's time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.'

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel thoughts

by Dianne Bergant CSA

In the readings for this week we see the reaction of those who hear the word of God. Jeremiah was told that he had been called to be a prophet even before he was born. Yet he had to fight against the people to whom he was sent. Those who heard Jesus were first amazed at his words and then later sought to throw him off a cliff. We too are often quite resistant to the word of God.

Neither Jeremiah nor Jesus recoiled from the implications of their call, regardless of the resistance they experienced. Instead, they entered even more deeply into the call to love. Lest he brood over his injuries, Jeremiah is reassured of God's protection. And, without aggressively demonstrating his strength when he was threatened with harm, Jesus exhibited patience and kindness. Both men bore and endured their bitter misfortunes. This is the image that is placed before us as an example for us to follow.

The call to discipleship is a call to live in the eschatological age of fulfilment inaugurated by Jesus. We can say with certainty that God calls us to a new way of living. We may chafe under the suffering that it could cause us, but we will not be left alone in our distress. As God was with Jeremiah so we can depend upon God to be with us in our need. We must remember that, however we do react, our response must be born out of love.

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First Reading 1:4-5, 17-19

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying,

'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you; I have appointed you as prophet to the nations. So now brace yourself for action. Stand up and tell them all I command you.

Do not be dismayed at their presence, or in their presence I will make you dismayed. I, for my part, today will make you into a fortified city, a pillar of iron, and a wall of bronze to confront all this land: the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests and the country people. They will fight against you but shall not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you – it is the Lord who speaks.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 70

R/ I will sing of your salvation.

1. In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your justice rescue me, free me: pay heed to me and save me.

2. Be a rock where I can take refuge, a mighty stronghold to save me; for you are my rock, my stronghold. Free me from the hand of the wicked.

3. It is you, O Lord, who are my hope, my trust, O Lord, since my youth. On you I have leaned from my birth, from my mother's womb you have been my help.

4. My lips will tell of your justice and day by day of your help. O God, you have taught me from my youth and I proclaim your wonders still.

Second Reading 12:31-13:13

- the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge – for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a

St Michael's Parish Contacts

Fr Patrick Faherty, <i>Parish Priest</i>	4423 1712
Fr Richard Healey, <i>Assistant Priest</i>	4423 1712
Fr Leo Duck, <i>Resident in Vincentia</i>	4441 5571
Fr Ronan Kilgannon, <i>Resident in Kangaroo Valley</i>	
Mrs Robbie Forsythe, <i>Secretary</i>	4423 1712
Mrs Cath Elton, <i>Secretary (Part time)</i>	4423 1712
Mrs Liz Nimmo, <i>Secretary (Part time)</i>	4423 1712
Sr Margaret Prendergast sgs	4421 2260
Sr Patricia Lawless sgs	4421 2260
Sr Val Green rsc	4441 7035
Mrs Lyn West, <i>Catechist Coordinator</i>	4423 1009



St Michael's Parish, Nowra – Tel: 4423 1712 E-mail: office@nowraparish.org.au

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.

4th Sunday - Year C
31 January 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

MASSES DURING THE WEEK

Nowra: Mon 7.00am; Tues/Wed/Thurs 8.15am; Fri 7.00am and 11.30am; Sat 9.00am.

Morning Prayer will commence at 7.50am on Weds.

Berry: Tues : 5.30.p.m. 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. Mass. No Mass on Fridays

S'haven Heads: Friday: 3.30.p.m.-

No Mass at Bomaderry on Friday 5th.

Regional Schools' Staff Mass at St Michael's at 6.p.m. - Bishop Peter

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.p.m **Vincentia:** Sat. 5 5.30pm

FIRST SATURDAY MARIAN DEVOTIONS: Sat 6 Feb; Reconciliation at 8.30 and Mass at 9am, followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with rosary and Benediction at 10.30am. Morning Tea is available in the Parish Centre. Everyone is most welcome.

WE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER Eithne Wood, Margaret (Peggy) Brown and Rhoda Warren who died during the week; also **Bill Sullivan** (S'haven Heads 2nd. anniversary) **Mary Brady, Anka Vahovec, Mark and Gasper Pereira** whose anniversaries occur. May they rest in eternal peace.



Eithne Wood (B'derry) a dearly loved and faithful parishioner -died on Australia Day Her funeral will be held on Tues 2 Feb at St Michael's at 10.30am. Eithne and Bob were in their 60th. Year of marriage.

A very warm welcome to Mr Paul Croker who has taken up his position as new Principal at St Michael's. As mentioned previously Paul comes to us from Holy Family Parish, Gowrie, ACT. May the Lord bless and guide Paul in his responsibilities.



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 leaders' 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
- Callala, Joyce Buttel 4446 5569
- Culburra Bch, Jean Helliwell 4447 3018 or Harry Ray 4447 2941
- Currarong, Noel Reid 4448 3215
- K Valley, Fr Ronan
- Vincentia, Fr Leo 4441 5571

Booklets will be available for \$5.

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 Culburra Family Group. A planning meeting will be held 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.

BOMADERRY CLEANERS: There is an urgent need for additional volunteers to help with Church cleaning. Anyone interested, or anyone wanting to change their roster, is requested to contact Colleen Blundell on 4421 4448, or give your details to Lyn West after Mass

Parish Farewell-

On Wednesday Feb 10th parishioners are invited to supper in the Parish Hall at 7.00.p.m. to extend as a parish a very grateful farewell to Robbie Forsythe on her retirement after 18 years of faithful and zealous ministry as Parish Secretary. Please take a plate to share.



WELCOME TO THE 2010 CATECHIST YEAR:



Our 1st meeting will be Mon 8 Feb 9.30-11am in the Parish Centre. We are looking forward to seeing each of you at the meeting. Orientation, including the new Child

Protection Policy will be Thursday 25 Feb 9.30-2.30pm. It is essential that all new Catechists attend this meeting as well as any Catechist who has not updated their Child Protection status within the last 3 years. At this meeting we will have the opportunity to meet and welcome Mr Jude Hennessy, our new director. Please make a special effort to attend.

THE HAITI EARTH QUAKE APPEAL: Over \$12,000 was raised within the parish last weekend to support the many needs of the Haitian people. This was a magnificent effort. Thank you for your generosity. This money has been forwarded to **Caritas Australia** who will provide assistance following the tragic earthquake.



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). Tickets need to be paid for to guarantee a seat.