

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel 13:1-9
from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.' He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now

I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel thoughts

by Dianne Bergant CSA

One major theme emerges from today's readings: incomprehensibility of God. We see it in the mysterious divine name, which distinguishes the God of Israel from all others and yet leaves us in the dark as to its meaning. We see it as God communicates with us through inanimate objects and the people in our lives. Finally, we see that God both pardons iniquities and decides to root out unfruitful branches, and we are confused by such inconsistency.

In the midst of this ambiguity we have one sure source of stability – Christ. It is Christ who reveals the nature and meaning of the divine name; it is Christ who intercedes for us before God. Christ, the one who set his face toward Jerusalem, there to suffer and die, is the great messenger through whom God is revealed. He is the one who reveals majesty through the simplicity of a bush; he is the one who judges with the patience of a gardener. However, the limits of the experience and mercy of God in our lives are defined by our own openness. Despite the blessings that we receive in the wildernesses of our lives, it could happen that God is not pleased with us. We must not take God's goodness for granted.

These readings close on a note of caution. Take care! We might be able to rest secure in the knowledge of the love and mercy of God, but these readings tell us that we should not dare to rest passively or complacently.

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Parish Life

The Year for Priests (2009 - 29 June - 2010)

Third Sunday (Year C) - Season of Lent

St Michael's
Nowra

www.nowraparish.org.au

7 March 2010

First Reading 3:1-8, 3-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.' Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God

of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 102

R/ The Lord is kind and merciful.
1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion.
3. The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons.
4. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him.

Second Reading 10:1-6,10-12
- the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

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

Third Sunday of Lent
7 March 2010

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.

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
Berry: Tues 5.30pm **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 prayed 15 mins prior to Mass.
No Mass on Fridays. **Shoalhaven Heads** Friday 3.30pm

Confession/Reconciliation

Nowra: Sat 11.30am-12.30pm & 5.00 - 5.30pm
Culburra: Sat 5.30pm **Berry:** Tues 6.00pm
Vincentia: Sat 11.00-11.30am & 5 - 5.30pm
K Valley: Sat 4.30 – 5pm.

Stations of the Cross:

Nowra Fri March 12th. 7.00.p.m.
Vincentia: Each Fri after 8am Mass.
Kangaroo Valley: Stations of the Cross and
Benediction, 5pm during the Fridays of Lent.

WE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER: Margaret Isobel Scarisbrick and Fr Allan Crawford (Sydney/Kiama) who died this week. Also Jim Dempsey whose anniversary occurs. May they rest in eternal peace.



Choir for Holy Week Ceremonies Practice will be held Wed 10 Mar, Thurs 18 Mar, and Wed 24 Mar, in St Michael's Church, at 5.30pm. **All singers and musicians most welcome.**



Mary McKillop - Place - Museum . Kennedy's Tours has planned a trip to the museum on **Wed 12 May**. Cost is \$50 with morning Tea on arrival. Ph 4421 7596 for bookings.



Catholic Women's League: will meet Tues 9 March, in the Parish Centre. Morning tea at 9.30am, for 10am.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION: A meeting for Confirmation Candidates and their parents will be held at St Michael's Hall on **Wed 10 March at 7pm**. Those who have already received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion are eligible to be confirmed. Our Wednesday meeting is an integral part of the preparation Program. Confirmation will be celebrated on Saturday 5th June. Interested families please contact St Michael's Parish on 4423 1712.



First Reconciliation Meeting, Vincentia for parents and children will be held Mon **8 March at 3:45pm** in the Holy Spirit Vincentia meeting room.

Project Compassion: The Chilean Earthquake



Rather than have a separate appeal for Chile at this time, we encourage parishioners to generously support Project Compassion, keeping the plight of the Chilean people in mind. At least two million people have been affected and 1.5 million homes have been destroyed. Caritas is distributing aid through its national Caritas Chile office in 23 different areas providing initially food. "In the centre of Santiago," Fr. Baeza said, "I saw at least five churches destroyed. "We fix our gaze on the Lord Jesus Christ in this moment of tragedy," Bishop Goic said. "We place our trust in Him that the communities which have suffered the most hurt may be able to lift themselves up both spiritually and materially, assisted by the solidarity of the entire country as well as the international community which generously offers us its help."

Do You Love Me? Week 4 of our Lenten Program focuses on the father of the 'prodigal son'. His love for his sons is unconditional. He provides a caring and loving environment for both his children and because of this his wayward younger son realises he can come home. This is the love that our loving God calls on us to show to others. 'Our love is called to remain constant and unconditional'.

CATECHIST Level 1 Training: Session 4 will be held Wed 10 March, 10-2.30pm, in the Polding Room.

'COME AND SEE' An afternoon to explore **Youth Ministry**, for those aged 16-25 Years. At St Michael's Parish Centre, **Sunday 7 March, 4-5.30pm**. Please come along, bring some friends and some afternoon tea to share. For more information or RSVP if you are coming youth@nowraparish.org.au



'BORN FOR THIS' is a modern interpretation of the Stations of the Cross performed by a cast of young people from the Diocese. **Don't miss your chance** to see this moving Way of the Cross as part of your Lenten journey. **19 March 7.30pm**, St Michael's Hall, Nowra. Tickets, \$10/\$5 (Concessions), will be sold at Mass Centres from this weekend and are available at the Parish Centre or online at www.dow.org.au/born-for-this.

Culburra Family Group: Meet at Roxy theatre Mon 8 March at 5.30pm to see the movie 'Precious'.

Mary Help of Christians Culburra: Easter raffle tickets on sale from Sat 6 March – raffle drawn 27 March. All donations gratefully received.

St Michael's School 2011 Enrolments: An Open Evening will be held **Mon 15 March, 7-8pm**; and an Open Day on **Tues 16 March 9.30-11am**, for parents interested in enrolling their children for 2011. Each session will include a tour of classrooms, facilities and curriculum programs

International Women's Day 7 March 2010: is a day to reflect on the dignity and role of all women; in the family, society and the church. We pray that women are appreciated for the contribution they make and encouraged to flourish within the Catholic Church.

MOTHER RUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND Theatre Gala:



'Not now, Darling' is an English comedy - **Wed 17 March, 7.30 for 8pm**, at the Nowra Players Theatre, Bomaderry. Cost \$25 adults, & \$20 students, includes champagne on arrival and an extended interval supper. Contact Denise Jones 0419 248 889 or 4423 2299 (BH).