



## FIRST READING 43:16-21

### *A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it?

Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink.

The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

The word of the Lord.

## 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 3:8-14

### *- the letter of St Paul to the Philippians*

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the

resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus. The word of the Lord.

## ACCLAMATION Jl 2:12-13

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## GOSPEL 7:53-8:11

### *from the holy Gospel according to John*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

## GOSPEL thoughts by Dianne Bergant

**L**ent ends on a note of wonder. In the face of all the mighty works that God has already performed for the people, God promises something even more magnificent.

Throughout this season we have reflected on the marvels that God accomplished in the lives of the people, cutting a covenant with Abraham, leading the people out of bondage, revealing God's own personal name, bring them into a

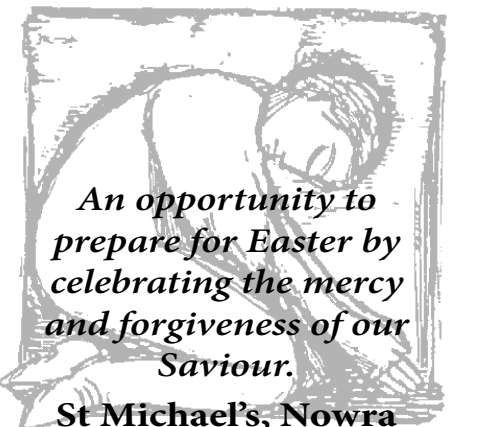


land that is bursting with life. Now God says: You haven't seen anything yet.

The first reading proclaims that something new is about to appear. In the gospel, this new thing unfolds before our eyes. Here we see Jesus neither rejecting the law nor changing it. Instead, he shows that the law, as good as it might be, serves something higher. He shows that the mercy and compassion of God exceed the authority of the law. Once again we see that the readings of Lent are less concerned with mortification and penance than they are with divine graciousness and our response of joy and thanksgiving.

Paul is not satisfied with the blessings of the past. In fact, he considers them rubbish when compared with knowing and being united with Christ. Life with Christ transforms us from people who are caught in sin to women and men who have been forgiven. Life in Christ is the new thing that God has fashioned for us. God is the one who creates something new; we are the ones who are re-created.

## SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION



*An opportunity to  
prepare for Easter by  
celebrating the mercy  
and forgiveness of our  
Saviour.*

**St Michael's, Nowra**

**Friday 26 March 2010 -**

**7.00pm**

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 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, 6.00pm  
**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  
 Thursday 25 March is also the Feast of the Annunciation

**Confession/Reconciliation**

**Nowra:** Sat 11.30am-12.30pm & 5.00 - 5.30pm  
**Culburra:** Sat 5.30pm.  
**Berry Saturday March 27th 9.00-10.00.am.**  
**Vincentia:** Sat 11.00-11.30am & 5 - 5.30pm  
**K Valley:** Sat 4.30 – 5pm.

**Stations of the Cross:**

**Vincentia:** Fri after 8am Mass. **Kangaroo Valley:**  
 Stations of the Cross and Benediction, 5pm during the Fridays of Lent.

**Stations of the Cross - Shoalhaven Heads:**  
 Wednesday March 31<sup>st</sup> (Holy Week): 3.00pm

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

**A roster sheet** is also available in Nowra for readers, extraordinary ministers and volunteer feet to be washed during the Holy Thursday Mass.

**THE CHRISM MASS** will be celebrated at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Wollongong on Wednesday 31 March at 7.30pm. All parishioners are invited. This is a most significant Mass for the entire Diocese.



**HOLY WEEK and EASTER CEREMONIES – ST MICHAEL'S NOWRA** – all ceremonies will be celebrated in the Parish Hall to facilitate the increase of parishioners attending.  
**HOLY THURSDAY** - at the end of Mass we will process

to the Parish Centre to the Altar of Repose for a brief vigil until 9.00pm

**2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION**

**Friday 26 March - 7.00pm**

St Michael's Church Nowra – 4 or 5 priests will be available for the Sacrament. Parishioners are encouraged to avail of this opportunity to prepare sacramentally for Holy Week and the Feast of Easter.

**Passion Sunday 28 March - PARISH COMMEMORATION OF THE PASCHAL MEAL. 7 for 7.30pm in the Parish hall.**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME to join this simple celebration that reminds us of the connection between the Christian Last Supper and the Old Testament Passover. Please contact Maree 4421 8516, Francene 4421 5962 or Peggy 4421 3417, or any Lenten group leader. Join a group or form your own group. Attention Lenten Group Leaders – final numbers by Mon 22 March please. HELPERS (especially a few younger ones) are needed to set up the hall on Sunday 28 March after the 9.30am Mass.



**DO YOU LOVE ME?**

Week 6 of our Lenten program repeats the question that is the title of the whole program. **Do you love me?** We are yet again faced with answering this question put to us by our Saviour who suffered the agony of death on the cross to show His love for us. The reflection suggests that true service in response to this question requires the 'surrender... the gift of our time in service of the other.' Simple acts of daily human care for others (like Jesus washing the feet of the disciples) can become 'the holiest moments of our lives.'



**PARISH DISABILITY CONNECTIONS MEETING.**

Volunteers and Parents who have children with a disability from Nowra, Vincentia, Bomaderry and Berry are invited to a luncheon to meet on Wed. March 31<sup>st</sup> with Sr Fran Nolan sgs, the new assistant to Sr Jeannie in the Diocesan Office of Disability. RSVP for catering purposes by Mon 22 March on 4654 8709 or email [jeanieh@materdei.org.au](mailto:jeanieh@materdei.org.au)

21 March 2010

Fifth Sunday in the Season of Lent, Year C

### First Holy Communion Meetings:



**Nowra: Wed 24 March, 7pm**, in St Michael's Hall. An information night for parents of children making their First Communion. Children need to have made their First Reconciliation. (Parents only)

**Vincentia: Mon 22 March, 3:45–5pm**, Holy Spirit Vincentia meeting room. Attendance at this First Communion enrolment session is essential for parents and children.

### Mary McKillop Place - Museum.

Kennedy's Tours has planned a trip to the museum on **Wed 12 May**. Cost is \$50 incl morning tea. Book on 4421 7596.



### CELEBRATE WYD 2010 – Palm Sunday 28 March, Minnamurra Rainforest.

Theme: *'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' (Mk 10:17)*. Youth and young adults (and your families) of St Michael's parish are invited to come along to share in walking the rainforest and having lunch.



Meet at 11.30am near the Information Centre. Cost is \$11 per car – 'make your own way there'. Please BYO lunch or bring money to buy from the kiosk. This event has been organised in conjunction with St Paul's Parish, Albion Park. Email [youth@nowraparish.org.au](mailto:youth@nowraparish.org.au) for more information and to RSVP.

**FR DAVID CATTERALL will celebrate the 10th anniversary of his ordination on Thursday 25 March, with a Thanksgiving Mass at 7.30pm in St Paul's Church, Albion Park.** This anniversary is very significant for Fr David in light of the way his priesthood began – with his diagnosis of cancer and the treatments that followed.

Fr David ministered in St Michael's parish after his ordination. This is an opportunity to celebrate this milestone in his ministry, to thank God for his service in our parish, and to pray for his continued good health. The Mass will be followed by supper in St Paul's Parish hall.

**SOME COPIES OF THE HOLY WEEK- EASTER TIMETABLE are available separate to the Bulletin** – if you are able to distribute some of these to the local Motels and Caravan Parks, this would be very much appreciated.

### PROJECT COMPASSION Week 5 of Lent

Archbishop Philip Wilson, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference thanked the thousands of Australians who have given so generously to the recent disasters in Haiti and Chile. "Yet, the biggest crisis of all is that one billion people are living in poverty and without access to food, clean water, housing, health care and education. These are basic human rights being denied." It is estimated that every year, ten million children under the age of five die from preventable causes. Archbishop Wilson added, "Caritas, the official Catholic agency for international aid and development, is one of the great successes of our Church and it is through appeals like Project Compassion that this good work can continue well into the future." "During Lent this year, I appeal to our community to put their faith into action and support Project Compassion".



**Little White Books**, containing 6 minute reflections on the Resurrection Narratives according to Luke, are on sale in the church. Cost is \$4, with proceeds to St Vincent de Paul.

### Catechist Reminders:

- Another opportunity for Orientation exists. If you wish to attend, ring Lyn 4423 1009. Venue and date TBA.
- Needed: 4 x 3A workbooks asap. Please forward to Parish Centre.

**POSITION VACANT:** Bishop Ingham invites applications for the position of **Ministry Support Coordinator** for the Diocese of Wollongong. This position will work as part of the Parish Services Team in the Office of the Bishop. An information package can be obtained by emailing [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au) or by phoning 42 53 0900. Applications close Fri 9 April 2010.

We prayerfully remember: who died this past week;



**Peter McRae** (K Valley), **John Muller** (Sydney) **Rosemary Campton** (Old Erowal Bay / Wentworthville), **Beryl Williams** (Mollymook)

Also **Ted & Kath Kenny and Ted Jr., Thomas Stevens, John O' Shaughnessy and Desmond McDevitt** whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May they rest in eternal peace*

# holyweek @ St Michael's

THE GREAT WEEK | 28 MARCH - 4 APRIL 2010



H O L Y · W E E K

*Holy Week is regarded as the most sacred week in the Church Year. The last three days of the Week constitute an inner sanctuary known as the Paschal Triduum (3 days).*

In the early centuries Holy Week was known as the

**GREAT WEEK** or **PASSION WEEK.**

Our participation in the Liturgy of Holy Week is both a wonderful privilege, and our Christian responsibility.



Be forgiven @ the  
**Second Rite of Reconciliation**

Friday 26 March -  
7.00pm

St Michael's Church Nowra – 4 or 5 priests will be available for the sacrament.



**PALM SUNDAY**

**Vigil Mass**  
- Saturday 27 March

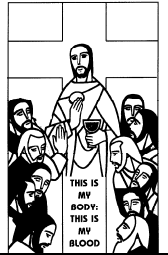
NOWRA ..... 6.00 pm  
CULBURRA BEACH ..... 6.00 pm  
VINCENTIA ..... 6.00 pm

**Palm Sunday – Sunday 28 March**

NOWRA: ..... 8.00am, 9.30am, & 6.00pm  
BERRY ..... 8.00am  
BOMADERRY ..... 9.30am  
KANGAROO VALLEY ..... 11.00am  
VINCENTIA ..... 9.30am

**HOLY THURSDAY – 1 April**  
**Mass of the Lord's Supper**

NOWRA (HALL) ..... 7.00pm  
BERRY ..... 7.00pm  
KANGAROO VALLEY ..... 5.00pm  
CULBURRA BEACH ..... 6.00pm  
VINCENTIA ..... 7.00pm



**GOOD FRIDAY – 2 April**  
**Stations of the Cross**

NOWRA (CHURCH) ..... 10.00am  
VINCENTIA ..... 10.00am  
BOMADERRY ..... 8.30am  
KANGAROO VALLEY ..... 10.00am

*Solemn Commemoration*  
**of the Lord's Passion**  
**Good Friday – 2 April**



NOWRA (HALL) ..... 3.00pm  
BERRY ..... 3.00pm  
CULBURRA BEACH ..... 3.00pm  
VINCENTIA ..... 3.00pm



**THE EASTER VIGIL**

**Holy Saturday – 3 April**

NOWRA (HALL) ..... 7.00pm  
CULBURRA BEACH ..... 6.00pm  
VINCENTIA ..... 7.00pm  
BERRY ..... 7.00pm



*Mass of the Resurrection*

**EASTER SUNDAY – 4 April**

NOWRA (HALL) ..... 8.00am, 9.30am, & 6.00pm  
BERRY ..... 8.00am  
CULBURRA BEACH ..... 8.00am & 9.30am  
BOMADERRY ..... 9.30am  
KANGAROO VALLEY ..... 11.00am  
VINCENTIA ..... 8.00am & 9.30am