

Passion Gospel

22:14-23:56

from the holy Gospel according to Luke

(Extract only) When they reached the place called The Skull, they crucified him there and the two criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left. Jesus said, 'Father forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.' Then they cast lots to share out his clothing.

The people stayed there watching him. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it; we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

It was now about the sixth hour and, with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Temple was torn right down the middle; and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said, 'Father, into your hands I commit my

spirit.' With these words he breathed his last.

« All kneel and pause a moment. »

When the centurion saw what had taken place, he gave praise to God and said, 'This was a great and good man.' And when all the people who had gathered for the spectacle saw what had happened, they went home beating their breasts.

All his friends stood at a distance; so also did the women who had accompanied him from Galilee, and they saw all this happen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel thoughts by Dianne Bergant CSA

In this final Lenten Sunday we look again at the significance of Christ in our lives. We recognise him as our saviour, but we look more closely in order to discover just what kind of saviour he is. He has taken the form of a slave; he has been glorified with a name above all other names; he continues to suffer with us.

We have not been saved through military power, but through the self-offering humility of Jesus. Though he was really in the form of God, Jesus came in the form of a slave. We have a saviour who was crushed for our iniquities, nailed to a cross as a convicted felon, and there endured the sense of abandonment. In the face of this, we must ask a fundamental question: Why does God love us with such abandon?

We have a savior who was lifted up and exalted precisely because he emptied himself of his divine prerogatives. He became one of us in order to show us how we are to live. Unlike conquerors who triumph by putting down their opponents, Jesus was raised up because he himself was first willing to be put down.

We have a saviour who first offered himself for us and then continues to offer himself to us as an example to follow. As he was willing to empty himself for our sake, so we are told to empty ourselves for the sake of others.

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Parish Life

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

Palm Sunday (Year C) - Passion Sunday

St Michael's
Nowra

www.nowraparish.org.au

28 March 2010



First Reading

50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21

R/ My God, my God,
why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let

him release him if this is his friend.'

2. Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones.

3. They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me!

4. I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. 'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.'

Second Reading

3:8-14

- the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Phil 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

St Michael's Parish Contacts

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

Palm Sunday & Holy Week
28 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 THIS WEEK

(Note NO Weekday Masses after Wednesday)

Nowra: Mon 7.00am & Tues/Wed 8.15am

Berry: Tues 5.30pm

Vincentia: Mon 8.00am; Tues 5.30pm

Kangaroo Valley: Mon, Tues, 8.00am, Wed 6.15am.

Mass of the Lord's Supper- 1 April

Nowra: 7.00pm
Berry: 7.00pm
Kangaroo Valley 5.00pm
Culburra Beach 6.00pm
Vincentia 7.00pm

GOOD FRIDAY – Stations of the Cross

Bomaderry: 8.30am; Nowra 10.00am
Kangaroo Valley & Vincentia..... 10.00am

Good Friday - Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

Nowra (Hall) 3.00pm
Berry..... 3.00pm
Culburra Beach..... 3.00pm
Vincentia..... 3.00pm

THE EASTER VIGIL MASSES – 3 April

Nowra: 7.00pm
Culburra: 6.00pm
Vincentia: 7.00pm
Berry..... 7.00pm

EASTER SUNDAY MASSES – 4 April

Nowra (Hall) 8.00am, 9.30am & 6.00pm
Berry: 8.00am Bomaderry: 9.30 am
Culburra Beach:..... 8.00am & 9.30am
Vincentia:..... 8.00am & 9.30am
Kangaroo Valley: 11.00am

World Youth Day is celebrated today in all dioceses of the world. The message of the Holy Father for this 25th



World Youth Day has as its theme 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' The Holy Father commented: 'The World Youth Day represents a stage on the journey towards the next World Youth Day, which will take place in August 2011 in Madrid, Spain, where I hope many of you will come to experience that event of grace.'

PARISH PASCHAL MEAL CELEBRATION, Passion Sunday 28 Mar. 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. Join a group or form your own group. HELPERS (especially a few younger ones) are needed to set up the hall on Sunday 28 March after the 9.30am Mass. P.S. EVERYONE! **If you have a name tag please wear it!**

Catholic Women's League: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 April in the Parish Centre, starting at 9.30am for morning tea, and a 10am start.

Vincentia BBQ 'Thank You' Sunday 11 April from 12



noon at 115 Naval Pde, Erowal Bay. The BBQ is being held in appreciation of your support of raffle and volunteering at Triathlon. WELL DONE! Sausages/ Bread/ Tea/Coffee supplied. BYO drinks /salad & sweet to share. Chairs too!

Day of Reflection: 'In the stillness... my heart waits for you.' A day of meditation and stillness drawing inspiration from the Taize community in France. Saturday 17 April 9.30am–4pm. Benedictine Abbey, 695 Jamberoo Mountain Rd, Jamberoo. Cost is \$20 (includes morning tea and lunch) payable in cash on the day. **RSVP by Tues 13 April** by calling 4232 1034 (Pat Boniface) or email gogarty@exemail.com.au.

PROJECT COMPASSION: More than half of Malawi's population lives below the poverty line, making it one of the poorest countries in the world. Australia is supporting the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi to run an Integrated Community Development Program that is improving the living standards of 450 poor families. **Your donations to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion** empowers vulnerable households, like Bule and his son Wesley, to have hope. **Please support Project Compassion**

MOTHER RUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND Theatre Gala: The trustees wish to thank all those who contributed to this year's profit of over \$1750. Thank you also to those who donated to the supper, those who could not attend and donated money, *and* those who came along and were part of the great audience.

Shoalhaven 'Crossroads' will be meeting at the Baptist Church Old Southern Road 7.15pm-9.15pm on Fri 9 April. **St Michael's parish will be hosting the evening.** Please come to join us - everyone is most welcome.



Born for This CD's: There are only a few CD's available from the Parish Office. Cost is \$25. Also now available, the full **GOSPEL OF LOVE CD** – a double CD with 14 tracks plus 14 instrumental tracks by Br James Maher (as featured in the Lenten Program). Normally \$29.95, yours for **only \$15** @ Parish Office.

WANTED: 10 X 1A Student Activity Books. If you have some spare 1A activity books could you please forward them to Lyn at the Parish Centre.

Confession/Reconciliation

Nowra: Sat 3 April 9.00 - 10.00am.

WE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER John Basha, Maud Crossingham, Joseph Trotter, June Rowe, Peter Garratty and Miriam McCorquodale whose anniversaries occur. May they rest in eternal peace.

For all Holy Week & Easter Ceremonies please refer to the timetable on last week's bulletin. Extra copies on a separate page are available in each Church.