

**Second Reading** 21:1-5  
*A reading from the book of the Apocalypse*

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.'

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new.'

The word of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation** Jn 13.34

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

**Gospel** 13:31-35  
*from the holy Gospel according to John*

When Judas had gone Jesus said:  
'Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified.  
If God has been glorified in him,

.....  
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God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon.  
My little children,  
I shall not be with you much longer.  
I give you a new commandment:  
love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another.  
By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Gospel thoughts** *by Dianne Bergant CSA*  
**E**verything is new! There is a new law of love, a new heaven and earth that is established in the church, a new depth of communion there, and a new glory of God that shines forth from its members.

The new commandment that Jesus announces is more than tolerance or mutual respect. It requires self-sacrificing love. Perhaps the greatest obstacle to this love is the diversity discussed last Sunday. It is hard enough to love those who are like us; how can we possibly love those who are different? And how can we love those who do not love us? It is no wonder that the commandment is called new. It calls for something completely different.

The new commandment is the law of the new heaven and the new earth that are established in the new Jerusalem. Standards are entirely different there. The greater ones serve; the meek possess the earth; happy are the poor; woe to those who laugh. This is clearly a city that comes down from heaven, not one made by human hands. It is a city that embraces all who come to it. God dwells in the midst of this city, in the heart of this people. God dwells with them and they dwell with God.

Through this new love, this new heaven and new earth, this new depth of communion, the glory of God is manifested in a new way. The eschatological future is anticipated in the present. The age of fulfilment has dawned.

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# Parish Life

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

**Fifth Sunday (Year C) - Season of Easter**

St Michael's  
Nowra

www.nowraparish.org.au

2 May 2010

**First Reading** 14:21-27

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

The word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 144

**R/** I will praise your name for ever,  
my king and my God.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures.
2. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God, to make known to men your mighty deeds and the glorious splendour of your reign.
3. Yours is an everlasting kingdom; your rule lasts from age to age.



J.Close'07



**St Michael's Parish**, Nowra – Tel: 4423 1712 E-mail: [office@nowraparish.org.au](mailto:office@nowraparish.org.au)

**Website: [nowraparish.org.au](http://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.

**Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year C)**

**2 May 2010**

**Sunday Masses:**

Nowra ..... Vigil 18<sup>00</sup> | 08<sup>00</sup> | 09<sup>30</sup> | 18<sup>00</sup>  
Berry ..... 08<sup>00</sup>  
Bomaderry ..... 09<sup>30</sup>  
Culburra Beach ..... Vigil 18<sup>00</sup>  
Vincentia ..... Vigil 18<sup>00</sup> | 09<sup>30</sup>  
Kangaroo Valley ..... 11<sup>00</sup>

**Weekday Masses:**

Nowra: **Mon - No Mass.** ..... Tues, Wed, Thurs 08<sup>15</sup>  
Friday 07<sup>00</sup> & 11<sup>30</sup> ..... Sat 09<sup>00</sup>  
**Morning Prayer:** Wed 07<sup>50</sup> ..... **Holy Hour:** Fri 10<sup>30</sup>  
Berry: Tues 17<sup>30</sup> ..... **Culburra:** Thurs 17<sup>30</sup>  
Vincentia: Mon, Thur, Fri 08<sup>00</sup> ..... Tues, Wed 17<sup>30</sup>  
**Shoalhaven Heads:** ..... Fri 15<sup>30</sup> Community Centre  
**Kangaroo Valley:** ..... Mon, Tues, Thurs, Sat 08<sup>00</sup>  
Wed 06<sup>15</sup> ..... Divine Office is prayed 15 mins before Mass.

**Confession ~ Reconciliation**

Nowra ..... **Sat 09<sup>30</sup>-10<sup>30</sup> (new time)** & 17<sup>00</sup> - 17<sup>30</sup>  
Culburra: Sat 17<sup>30</sup> ..... **Berry:** Tues 18<sup>00</sup>  
Kangaroo Valley: ..... Sat 16<sup>30</sup> - 17<sup>00</sup>  
Vincentia: ..... Sat 17<sup>00</sup> - 17<sup>30</sup>

We prayerfully remember **Kevin Bindon** who died recently; also **Patrick Firmstone** (St Georges Basin), **Don Allen**, **Esther Hereward** and **Neil McIntyre** whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in eternal peace.



**Young people and others interested in Youth Ministry.** There will be a gathering today (**Sun 2 May**) @ 16<sup>30</sup> in the Parish Centre. This is a time to discuss and share: *Your dreams for the youth of the Parish*; The possibility of starting a Youth Group; *How young people can be involved in the Parish*; WYD 2011 in Madrid. Email Catriona [youth@nowraparish.org.au](mailto:youth@nowraparish.org.au)

**NOWRA CWL:** The next meeting will be held on Tues 11 May in the Parish Centre, commencing at 09<sup>30</sup> with morning tea.

**Date claimers and coming events:**

- **Sr Bridie's Retreat.** Holy Spirit Hall 5 May 9<sup>30</sup>-3<sup>pm</sup>
- **Holy Hour** before Mass @ Culburra. 6 May at 4<sup>30</sup>.
- **Shoalhaven Crossroads** – Nowra Baptist Church – Fri 14 May, 7<sup>15</sup> - 9<sup>15</sup>
- **Year of the Priest Dinner** to honour the priests and religious of the parish. Nowra Golf Club, Wed 19 May, 6<sup>30</sup> for 7<sup>pm</sup>
- **Taizé for Pentecost** - Fri 21 May 7<sup>30</sup> Holy Spirit Church Vincentia.

**BLESSED PIER GIORGIO RETREAT**

All Parishioners are invited to a retreat on The Life and Spirituality of Blessed Pier Giorgio. **Sat 22 May** 09<sup>30</sup> - 16<sup>00</sup> & **Sun 23 May** 08<sup>00</sup> - 13<sup>00</sup>, St Patrick's Berry. Cost \$25 includes morning & afternoon tea & BBQ lunch on Sunday. **This retreat is for everyone! Please join us!**

RSVP to Jody 4422 3318 or

[compass@nowraparish.org.au](mailto:compass@nowraparish.org.au)

**Mary National eConference on Tues 18 May 2010, 10<sup>15</sup>-15<sup>15</sup>,** at St John's High School, Nowra. **It's free!** Fr Frank Moloney will engage you as he shares his insights into Mary as disciple, woman and mother. RSVP to Jane Edwards - [info@dow.org.au](mailto:info@dow.org.au) or 4253 0899.



**Project Compassion Appeal:** Thank you to the generosity of all parishioners who contributed. More than \$14,355 was raised! A truly wonderful effort.

**Petition in Support of Catechist Classes**

The NSW Government is trialling a secular ethics class in state schools that will draw kids out of SRE classes. Churches across NSW are petitioning the government to move the ethics classes to another time. Please sign the petition available at all churches today in support of the position being taken by the NSW Catholic Bishops. More information available @ [makeastand.org.au](http://makeastand.org.au)

**Parish Pastoral Planning Team.** Thanks to Kevin Bourke, Cath Elton, Robbie Forsythe, John Honner, Katherine Jelavic and Veronica Tarling for their gracious nominations to the new Team. We will meet this week to begin preparing for *Our Journey Ahead* Parish Consultation on Wed 26 May, St Michael's Hall, 7<sup>pm</sup> - 9<sup>pm</sup>. **Please claim the date and plan to be there!**

**Inviting Catholics Home**

A six-week *Catholics Returning Home* program run by Kiama Parish starts on 11 May 2010. The informal program is one of support and compassion for those who have been away and would like to return (or just want to know more about the Church). Please call Ann 4234 2704 or Joan 4232 2414.

**LOST: Rosary Beads** – ruby red glass beads, reverse of crucifix says 'Fatima'. Last seen 16 April in Sanctuary Point area. Contact Pat 4443 0258.

**COMPASS GROUP: Pizza and Planning Gathering** Mon 3 May 7<sup>pm</sup> followed by a DVD on The Life of St Gianna Molla. Meet at Shannon's house. Call 4447 0990 to RSVP and for more details.

**Fundraiser for Holy Spirit Hall: Sun 23 May 1<sup>pm</sup>.** A luncheon of soup & slice with tea or coffee will be followed by the movie *When in Rome*. Suitable for all ages at Huskisson Cinema. Cost \$15 / \$12. Tickets available now – see Eileen Oliver 4443 8008 or Sr Val.

**SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB:** Mon 10 May 19<sup>30</sup> Jamberoo Pub. Topic: **Islam and Christianity – Reclaiming a Liberating Vision: A Woman's perspective.** Speakers are Trish Madigan, a Dominican sister, and Tamkin Ansari, an Australian of Afghan heritage.

**Mary McKillop Place & Museum.** There are **6 seats remaining** for the Kennedy Bus Tour, **Wed 12 May.** Cost is \$50 incl. morning tea. Book on 4421 7596.

