

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel 24:46-53
from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel thoughts by Dianne Bergant CSA

The Feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times; a moment when we have left one place, but have not yet arrived at a second. While the narratives that describe the Ascension fit well into the unfolding story of redemption, the feast celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. The readings allow us to focus on this

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theological point while we commemorate a turning point in the life of the church. We do this by considering the enthronement of Christ in the heavens and the new body of Christ on earth.

Many of the Easter accounts have directed our attention to the appearances of Jesus which were intended to strengthen the Christians' belief in his bodily resurrection.

Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today is a day to be overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity.

Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the community of believers. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. We have not been left alone; we have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ.

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Parish Life

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

St Michael's
Nowra

www.nowraparish.org.au

Ascension Sunday (Year C) - Season of Easter

16 May 2010

First Reading 1:1-11
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my earlier work, *Theophilus*, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 46

R/ God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth.

2. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise.

3. God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne.

Second Reading 1:17-23
from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 28.19-20



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, Berry
Sacred Heart, Bomaderry; Mary, Help of Christians, Culburra; St Joseph, Kangaroo Valley; Holy Spirit, Vincentia.

Ascension Sunday (Year C)

16 May 2010

Sunday Masses:

Nowra Vigil 18⁰⁰ | 08⁰⁰ | 09³⁰ | 18⁰⁰
Berry 08⁰⁰
Bomaderry 09³⁰
Culburra Beach Vigil 18⁰⁰
Vincentia Vigil 18⁰⁰ | 09³⁰
Kangaroo Valley 11⁰⁰

Weekday Masses:

Nowra: Mon 7⁰⁰ Tues, Wed & Thurs 08¹⁵
 Friday 07⁰⁰ & 11³⁰ Sat 09⁰⁰
Morning Prayer: Wed 07⁵⁰ **Holy Hour:** Fri 10³⁰
Berry: Tues 17³⁰ **Culburra:** Thurs 17³⁰
Vincentia: Mon, Thur, Fri 08⁰⁰ Tues, Wed 17³⁰
Shoalhaven Heads Community Centre: Fri 15³⁰
Kangaroo Valley: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Sat 08⁰⁰
 Wed 06¹⁵ Divine Office is prayed 15 mins before Mass.

Confession ~ Reconciliation

Nowra Sat 09³⁰-10³⁰ & 17⁰⁰- 17³⁰
Culburra: Sat 17³⁰ **Berry:** Tues 18⁰⁰
Kangaroo Valley: Sat 16³⁰ – 17⁰⁰
Vincentia: Sat 17⁰⁰ – 17³⁰

We prayerfully remember **Cecil Peters, Margaret Whiteley, Bernard Court, Mark Devoy** (Mittagong - brother of Maureen Morante) and **Frank Finn** (Qld - father of Fran Denton, Bomaderry) who died recently; also **Alex Moses, Alan McRae, Joe Fogarty** and **Joseph Kashmer** whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in eternal peace.



Bomaderry Church Piety Stall has Confirmation cards and gifts available to purchase.

Catechists: Remember our Pastoral Planning meeting on **Wed 26 May**. This is our opportunity to express our hopes and dreams for parish/diocese. See you there.

Mary McKillop's Canonisation in Rome: Insight Tours and Harvey World Travel have a tour departing 14 Oct for 13 Days. Further details contact Harvey World Travel Nowra, 4421 3055.

Limited spaces available.

Also see: www.canonisationtravel.com

Pizza and Games Night

Students in Year 5 and 6, and all those in High School, are invited to a **Pizza and Games night Sun 30 May** at the Parish Centre following the 6pm Mass until 9pm. RSVP by Fri 28 May to Catriona youth@nowraparish.org.au or **0422 201 054**.



HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH, VINCENTIA: Feast Day & Celebration, Pentecost Sunday, 23 May: Soup & slice luncheon, 12⁴⁵ & Movie, *When in Rome*. Tickets \$15 / children \$12. On sale after Mass or see Sr Val. **Funds raised go towards new church hall. Good news – the realisation of this project is not far away!**

Holy Spirit Auxiliary Meeting: Sat 29 May 1^{pm}, Meeting Room. All parishioners encouraged to attend.

“COME & SEE” Spirituality group meets **Tues 25 May**, 7.30^{pm} in the Parish Centre. Everyone is most welcome to join us for prayer through the songs and music of Taizé. Supper follows – please bring a plate. Contact Moira 4423 6077 or Liz 4422 1279.

SPECIAL MEETING FOR FAMILIES WITH MEMBERS WHO HAVE A DISABILITY will take place on **Wed 26 May** from 1³⁰ – 3^{pm} in the Parish Centre. Families are encouraged to take this opportunity as part of the consultations for the Diocesan Pastoral Planning for our future. Come along and **HAVE YOUR SAY**.

A Woman for All Seasons: A forum to dialogue about issues for women in the church today. **Sat 19 June** 9^{am} – 3.30^{pm}, Holy Spirit College, Cawley Rd, Bellambi. Cost is \$20. RSVP by 4 June to Jane Edwards on **4253 0899** or info@dow.org.au

CATECHIST NEEDED at Berry on Wednesdays at 9am for Kinder / Year 1. Call Lyn 4423 1009.



Our Journey Ahead...

Come to the parish consultation and share your thoughts and ideas on what is needed for our church. How can we keep relevant and make a difference? Invite your family and friends to join in. Read through the Pastoral Planning Information Guide which is available in the latest Journey magazine and online at ourjourneyahead.org.au, and then come along and be part of the process, **Wed 26 May** in **St Michael's Hall**. Supper will be served from 6³⁰ and the meeting will be punctual from 7^{pm} - 9^{pm}. Call the Parish Centre if you need transport or the guide.

Please claim the date and plan to make a difference!

BLESSED PIER GIORGIO RETREAT

Sat 22 May 09³⁰ - 16⁰⁰ & **Sun 23 May** 08⁰⁰ – 13⁰⁰, 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 by *Wednesday*



Taizé Chant for Pentecost will be hosted by Holy Spirit Church. This evening is an excellent and prayerful preparation for Pentecost. Invite a friend, all are welcome. Holy Spirit Church, Vincentia **7³⁰ Fri 21 May**.

BEGINNING THEOLOGY INFORMATION SESSIONS.

Do you want to study your faith at a deeper level? This certificate level course requires no previous theological background. Find out more at information sessions to be held on Thursday, 27 May 2010 at Albion Park, St Paul's Parish meeting room, 4^{pm} OR 7³⁰. Contact Jane Edwards at info@dow.org.au or **4253 0899**.

Mary, First Disciple, National eConference:

Tues 18 May 10³⁰-15¹⁵, at St John's High School, Nowra. Fr Maloney shares his insights into Mary as disciple, woman and mother. Entry is free and lunch is included. Please RSVP to Jane Edwards at info@dow.org.au or 4253 0899 by Monday morning.

