

Gospel 11:1-13
from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

"Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come; give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us. And do not put us to the test."

He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son

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a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel thoughts *by Dianne Bergant CSA*

The readings invite us to reflect on prayer. Whether our prayer be praise, contrition, thanksgiving or petition, it always recognises our need for God. In the gospel Jesus instructs us to ask for what we need. He assures us that God is more than willing to give us what we need. However, for this to happen we must turn to God and humbly acknowledge our need.

The most obvious characteristic of prayer depicted in the readings for this Sunday is persistence. Neither Abraham nor the man in the gospel was deterred by any obstacle. They show that it is not so much that we persist in prayer in order to change God's mind as it is that we persist in order to discover what God's mind might be.

The salutariness of prayer is often found in the change that it effects in us, not in God. By persevering in genuine prayer we may come to acknowledge that all things are in God's hands, and that we can rest content to leave them there, trusting that the situation will be cared for as God sees fit. It seems trite to say that God hears all prayer and sometimes the answer is 'No!' It is better to say that God respects the freedom of people and will seldom intervene to change the way events unfold. Still, prayer can change the one who prays and also the one for whom the prayer is offered if only human need is recognised and divine solicitude is acknowledged.

Pastoral Planning in our Diocese:
www.ourjourneyahead.org.au

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Parish Life

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

Season of the Year - Sunday 17 (Year C)

St Michael's
Nowra

www.nowraparish.org.au

25 July 2010

First Reading 18:20-32

A reading from the book of Genesis
The Lord said, 'How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know.' The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, 'Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?' The Lord replied, 'If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them.'

Abraham replied, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?' 'No', he replied 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there.' Again Abraham said to him, 'Perhaps there will only be forty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'for the sake of the forty.'

Abraham said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'if I find thirty there.' He said, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the twenty.' He said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the ten.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 137

R/ Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple.
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul.
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of affliction you give me life and frustrate my foes.
4. You stretch out your hand and save me, your hand will do all things for me. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.

Second Reading 2:12-14

from letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins.

He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Rom 8.15

Alleluia, alleluia! You have received the Spirit which makes us God's children, and in that Spirit we call God our Father. Alleluia!



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.

Seventeenth Sunday (Year C)

25 July 2010

Sunday Masses:

Nowra	Vigil 6 ^{pm} ; 8 ^{am} 9.30 ^{am} & 6 ^{pm}
Berry	8 ^{am}
Bomaderry	9.30 ^{am}
Culburra Beach	Vigil 6 ^{pm}
Vincentia	Vigil 6 ^{pm} & 9.30 ^{am}
Kangaroo Valley	11 ^{am}

Weekday Masses:

Nowra Mon 7 ^{am}	Tues, Wed & Thurs 8 ^{15am}
Friday 7 ^{am} & 11 ^{30am}	Sat 9 ^{am}
Morning Prayer Wed 7 ^{50am}	Adoration Fri 10 ^{30am}
Berry Tues 5 ^{30pm}	Culburra Thurs 5 ^{30pm}
Vincentia Mon, Thur, Fri 8 ^{am}	Tues, Wed 5 ^{30pm}
Shoalhaven Heads Community Centre	Fri 3 ^{30pm}
Kangaroo Valley	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Sat 8 ^{am}
Wed 6 ^{15am}	Divine Office is prayed 15 mins before Mass.

Confession ~ Reconciliation

Nowra	Sat 9 ^{30am} -10 ^{30am} & 5 ^{pm} -5 ^{30pm}
Culburra Beach Sat 5 ^{30pm}	Berry Tues 6 ^{pm}
Kangaroo Valley	Sat 4 ³⁰ - 5 ^{pm}
Vincentia	Sat 5 ^{pm} - 5 ^{30pm}

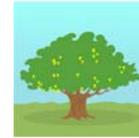
We prayerfully remember the faithful departed. The recently deceased: **John Ryan, Bernard Kelly and Jack Stallworthy (Berry)**. Also **Albert Muller, Gabrielle Kuipers, and Frank Wall** whose anniversaries occur. May they rest in eternal peace.



The Parish and wider community was shocked and deeply saddened to learn of the tragic death of **John Ryan** (Cambewarra) on Thursday. To his wife Nan, sons David and Mark and sister Mary we offer our sincere sympathy and prayers.

The Ellison family sincerely thanks all who made the funeral of our mother Alma Ellison such a special occasion: the priests who celebrated her Requiem Mass, members of the Berry Catholic community who provided luncheon and flower arrangements; the many people who showed such love and care at this sad time for us. Your kindness will always be remembered.

Young Adult Diocesan Retreat [ages 16-30]: *“Planted and built up in Christ, firm in the faith”*; **July 30 – Aug 1**, The Hermitage, Old Southern Rd, Mittagong [Le Rosey Centre]. **Cost** | \$110 | includes accommodation and meals. (Please contact Loretta if financial support is needed). **Enquiries** | Loretta Brinkman 4253 0809. **Registration** | www.dow.org.au/youth



Dates to Note:

- **Wed 28 July: First Reconciliation:** 2nd Meeting - **Parents only** - will be held in St Michael's Hall Nowra at 7^{pm}
- **Sun 8 Aug: Mary MacKillop Feast Day** Mass, 9^{am}, 11^{am}, 1^{pm} & 3^{pm} Mary MacKillop Place, Nth Sydney.
- **Wed 25 Aug: Parent Evening for First Holy Communion** (Nowra) at 7^{pm}
- **Sun 29 Aug: Awareness Mass** (Disabilities), at 6^{pm}
- **Sat 2 Oct:** Parish Retreat Day
- **Sun 31 Oct: Diocesan Celebration for Canonisation of Mary MacKillop**, 2.30^{pm} W'gong Entertainment Centre,

The **St Vincent De Paul Doorknock Appeal** will be held over 2 weekends: **21/22 Aug & 28/29 Aug**. Parishioners are asked to please leave these dates free to assist with collecting. **Contacts** are Mary Dunn 4421 0717 and Margaret Perkins 4423 2029. Statistics for the past 12 months show that the local Conference of the St Vincent De Paul Society has spent \$137,000 on food assistance, and \$40,770 on Electricity and gas.



SYDNEY TO MADRID via Mary MacKillop Place | **Sat, 14 Aug.** Join us as we celebrate 'One Year to WYD Madrid' with a pilgrimage to the tomb of Blessed Mary MacKillop. Our pilgrimage includes a walk across the Harbour Bridge, a museum tour and Mass celebrated at the tomb of Blessed Mary MacKillop. **All welcome!** For transport arrangements, information and to RSVP, **contact Loretta** on 4253 0809 or email youth@dow.org.au. *Further details available at www.dow.org.au/youth*

VENUE FOR PASTORAL PLANNING GATHERING.

The 2nd plenary session on **Sat 18 Sept, 10^{am}-2.30^{pm}**, will be held in the hall, **Saint Patrick's College, Campbelltown** (4 St John's Rd). Working Groups developing actions for the goals have commenced their meetings. If you would like to be part of a Reference Group for one or more of the goals (ie receiving and contributing electronically to the actions developed by Working Groups) please contact Daniel Hopper on 4253 0902 or pastoralplanning@woll.catholic.org.au **Please also keep informed via our website www.ourjourneyahead.org.au**



MARY MACKILLOP DRAMA – Young actors needed! A cast of young adults will be presenting the mission and spirituality of Mary through drama, music and song during our Diocesan gathering on Sun, 31 Oct, at WIN Entertainment Centre, to celebrate her canonisation. If you would like to be part of this cast please email youth@dow.org.au for details of Aug 7 auditions or call **Loretta on 4253 0809**.

Mon 26 July, Saints Joachim and Ann – The Patron Saints of Grandparents. *“We give thanks for the love, and the generosity of our grandparents. May we their grandchildren be open to their wisdom and always appreciate their hospitality and care. Lord hear us.. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Kerever Park Spirituality Centre: Sat 7 Aug, 10am – 2pm, The Art Of Sacred Conversation. This is a time for personal and group reflection on our faith journey. **Cost**, \$25, includes morning tea lunch. **Address:** 4 Ranelagh Rd, Burradoo. Ph: 4861 2075.

FEASTDAYS:

Mon 26 July, Sts Joachim and Ann, parents of Mary.
Thurs 29 July, Martha
Sat 31 July, St Ignatius of Loyola - founder of the Society of Jesus- the Jesuits.