

invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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**Gospel thoughts** *by Dianne Bergant CSA*

**T**he goodness of God is seen in the extravagant generosity with which God gives gifts. This is described in the psalm in the boundlessness and universal scope of God's generosity. Like the rain that falls on the entire landscape, the blessings of God are showered on all. These blessings are true gifts. They have not been earned, nor can they be repaid. God's openness is also seen in the reading from the Letter to the Hebrews and in the gospel. All are invited to approach the heavenly city; the heavenly banquet will be open to the poor and to those who have no way of repaying.

Only the humble can receive the gifts of God. Only those who can admit their neediness are open enough to realise that God's blessings are gifts freely given, not compensation for a job well done. Without a humble spirit we are unable to receive gifts as gifts. This is either because we are too proud or we do not know how to receive with the open hearts of children, who never think that they must return in kind. This is the kind of humility recommended by Sirach. This is the kind of humility possessed by the disadvantaged pictured in the gospel.

As we have received from the bounty of God, so we are called to give to others. Only those who have received with a humble spirit can give with the generosity of God, for they know that they do not deserve God's goodness and they do not require anything in return.

Pastoral Planning in our Diocese:  
[www.ourjourneyahead.org.au](http://www.ourjourneyahead.org.au)

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# Parish Life

St Michael's  
Nowra

[www.nowraparish.org.au](http://www.nowraparish.org.au)

Season of the Year - Sunday 22 (Year C)

29 August 2010



**First Reading** 3:17-20, 28-29  
*A reading from the book of Sirach*

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business, and you will be better loved than a lavish giver. The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly, and then you will find favour with the Lord; for great though the power of the Lord is, he accepts the homage of the humble.

There is no cure for the proud man's malady, since an evil growth has taken root in him. The heart of a sensible man will reflect on parables, an attentive ear is the sage's dream.

The word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 67

**R/** God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

1. The just shall rejoice at the presence of God, they shall exult and dance for joy. O sing to the Lord, make music to his name; rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence.

2. Father of the orphan, defender of the widow, such is God in his holy place. God gives the lonely a home to live in; he leads the prisoners forth into freedom.

3. You poured down, O God, a generous rain: when your people were starved you gave them new life. It was there that your people found a home, prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor.

**Second Reading** 12:18-19,22-24  
*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no more should be said to them. But what you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a 'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant.

The word of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation** Mt 11.29

Alleluia, alleluia! Take my yoke upon you; learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart. Alleluia!

**Gospel** 14:1,7-14  
*from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone



**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.

**Twenty Second Sunday (Year C)**

**29 August 2010**

**Sunday Masses:**

**Nowra** ..... Vigil 6<sup>pm</sup>; 8<sup>am</sup> 9.30<sup>am</sup> & 6<sup>pm</sup>  
**Berry**.....8<sup>am</sup> Bomaderry :.....9.30<sup>am</sup>  
**Culburra Beach**..... Vigil 6<sup>pm</sup>  
**Vincentia** ..... Vigil 6<sup>pm</sup> & 9.30<sup>am</sup>  
**Kangaroo Valley**.....11<sup>am</sup>

**Please Note that due to Diocesan Clergy Retreat this week Masses will be as follows:**

**Nowra**..... Mon, Tues, Wed & Thurs; **all at 7<sup>am</sup>**  
 Friday 7<sup>am</sup> & 11.30<sup>am</sup>; Sat 9<sup>am</sup>  
**Morning Prayer** Wed 7.50<sup>am</sup> ..... **Adoration** Fri 10.30<sup>am</sup>  
**Berry; No** Tues 5.30<sup>pm</sup> ..... **Culburra: No** Thurs 5.30<sup>pm</sup>  
**Vincentia** Mon, Thur, Fri 8<sup>am</sup> ..... Tues, Wed 5.30<sup>pm</sup>  
**Shoalhaven Heads** Community Centre.....Fri 3.30<sup>pm</sup>  
**Kangaroo Valley:** Due to the Priests' Retreat (30th Aug - 3rd Sept) there will be **no Masses during this week at St Joseph's.**

**Confession ~ Reconciliation**

**Nowra** ..... Sat 9.30<sup>am</sup>-10.30<sup>am</sup> & 5<sup>pm</sup>- 5.30<sup>pm</sup>  
**Culburra Beach** Sat 5.30<sup>pm</sup> ..... **Berry** Tues 6<sup>pm</sup>  
**Kangaroo Valley** ..... Sat 4.30 – 5<sup>pm</sup>  
**Vincentia**..... Sat 5<sup>pm</sup> – 5.30<sup>pm</sup>

We prayerfully remember the faithful departed. The recently deceased: **Jonathan Herrero** and **Grace Walsh** (nee Muller – Wagga). May they rest in eternal peace.



**MANY CULTURES – MASS & FESTIVAL.**

**Today (29 Aug) 2<sup>pm</sup>, St John Vianney's Church, Fairy Meadow.** This is a great opportunity to experience the breadth of cultures within our Diocese. Come and celebrate with Bishop Peter!

**Catechist Retreat:** Fri **10 Sept**, 9.30 – 2.30<sup>pm</sup>, St Mary's Gerringong. Sr Joan Godwin, rsj, will speak on the topic of *Mary MacKillop*. BYO lunch. **To register:** please ring Lyn 4423 1009.

**Shoalhaven Crossroads:** will meet next **Fri 10 Sept** 7.15 – 9.15pm. Nowra Baptist Church, Old Southern Rd, South Nowra. Everyone is welcome. **Enquiries:** Beth 4421 8137

**FEASTDAY:** Fri, 3 Aug; **St Gregory the Great, Pope.**



**Annual Spring Fun & Food Fair**, Holy Spirit Vincentia: **Sat 4 Sept, 8.30<sup>am</sup> - 1.30<sup>pm</sup>.** **ONE WEEK TO GO!!** Thank you to all those who are working very hard behind the scenes to ensure a great fair!! Please return all raffle tickets to Sr. Val - sold or unsold before OR on the day of the fair. Thank you! Raffle drawn at the Fair 12 noon.

**St Vincent De Paul Doorknock:**

Today (29 Aug) is the *last day* for collecting. **Anyone with a couple of hours to spare** is asked turn up at the Parish Centre, North St Nowra, from 8.30am. **Any help you can give is gratefully appreciated.**



**DIOCESAN CLERGY SUPPORT FUND – THE BISHOP'S FATHERS' DAY APPEAL:** There will be a special collection next Sunday to support the sick and retired clergy of our Diocese, as well as assist and promote priestly vocations. All loose money from the 2<sup>nd</sup> collection will go to this fund.



*From the Youth Minister:* It's happening - a **Youth Ministry Team** is about to start!! A meeting will be held **Wed 8 Sept, 11am**, in the Parish Centre. If you are interested in learning more about a Youth Ministry Team or would like to be involved please **contact** Catriona on 0422 201 054 or [youth@nowraparish.org.au](mailto:youth@nowraparish.org.au).

**BLESSING OF MARY MACKILLOP ICON** by Bishop Peter Ingham on **Tues 14 Sept, 10.30<sup>am</sup>**, St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, W'gong. This beautiful icon has been commissioned by the Diocese of Wollongong to help celebrate the canonisation of Mary MacKillop. Light refreshments follow. All are welcome.

**St John's High School** Senior Students are holding their **Senior Creative Arts Evening.** **Tues 7 Sept** Year 11 Visual Arts Exhibition, 5.30 – 6.20pm, rooms V1 & V2. HSC Music performances, 6.30 (sharp) – 8.30pm, room N8. *Light supper follows* – gold coin donation. **All invited.**

**St Vincent de Paul Society.** We read in the First Letter of St John, "...our love must not be mere talk but something real and active." If you want to get 'real and active' consider joining the **St Vincent de Paul Society.** We have plenty of work for you.

**First Saturday Marian Devotions:** Sat, **4 Sept.** Mass at 9<sup>am</sup> followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Reconciliation, Rosary and Benediction at 10.30<sup>am</sup>. Morning tea is available in the Parish Centre. Everyone is most welcome.



**Dates to Note:**

- **Sat 18 Sept, 10<sup>am</sup>-2.30<sup>pm</sup>:** Pastoral Planning Gathering, Saint Patrick's College, Campbelltown.
- **Sun 19 Sept:** Inclusion Mass (Disabilities), at 6<sup>pm</sup>
- **Sat 2 Oct:** Parish Retreat Day.
- **Sun 31 Oct:** Diocesan Celebration for Canonisation of **Mary MacKillop**, 2.30<sup>pm</sup> W'gong Entertainment Centre... A bus will run from the Parish; details later.
- **Diocesan Mass for Significant Marriage Anniversaries:** **14 Nov, 2pm**, St John Vianney Church, Fairy Meadow. Contact 4253 0934..

**MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS 2010:** If you are celebrating, 25, 40, 50 or 60 years of marriage this year and would like an invitation to the Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Peter Ingham at St John Vianney's Church, Fairy Meadow, on Sun 14 Nov, 2<sup>pm</sup>, please contact Helen Bennett 4253 0934 or email [helen.bennett@woll.catholic.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@woll.catholic.org.au)



Thank you to the teachers and Catechists who prepared the children from all regions of the Parish for their First Reconciliation, which has been celebrated over recent weeks. This is a very precious ministry, for which we are sincerely grateful. (Fr Pat)

**The Diocesan Liturgical Commission** is holding an **education session to introduce the new translation of the Missal** to be implemented in all Parishes during 2011. All parishioners are invited. **Sat 25 Sept, 10am – 1pm**, Parish Centre, 20 North St. Nowra. **To register,** please phone 4253 0934 or email [helen.bennett@woll.catholic.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@woll.catholic.org.au).