

Gospel Acclamation Ps 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia! Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws. Alleluia!

Gospel 14:25-33

from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Gospel thoughts by Dianne Bergant CSA

**T**he wisdom tradition from which the first reading is taken is rooted in the fact that life is a series of choices. The epistle and the gospel reading provide us with examples of the way Christians should choose. Finally, the psalm's description of the fleeting nature of life sets the context and tone of our decision-making.

Discipleship demands that, in the face of all the choices available to us, we keep our priorities straight. In the gospel, Jesus insists that we must be single minded. We must cling to the one thing necessary, and that one thing is authentic discipleship. In choosing Jesus, we choose other things as well. We choose new relationships with the very people to whom we have already been committed. Those who were slaves, or lower class, or employees, or providers of service are now regarded as sisters and brothers in Christ. In choosing Jesus, we also choose the cross. We choose to live in a way that calls us to travel the high road: to forgive offences committed against us; to live simply so that others can simply live; to take responsibility for the moral character of society.

The fleeting nature of life as characterised in the psalm forces us to look at the meaning of life. When the day dawns for us to return to dust, what will we have gained from life? The realisation of our finiteness and the transitory nature of life should help us to set our priorities right and should give us the courage to remain faithful to them.

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 23 (Year C)

5 September 2010



First Reading 9:13-18

*A reading from the book of Wisdom*

What man can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind. It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?

As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above?

Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 89

**R/**In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

1. You turn men back into dust and say: 'Go back, sons of men.' To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come

and gone, no more than a watch in the night.

2. You sweep men away like a dream, like grass which springs up in the morning. In the morning it springs up and flowers: by evening it withers and fades.

3. Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? Show pity to your servants.

4. In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands.

Second Reading 9-17

*from letter of St Paul to Philemon*

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

The word of the Lord.



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**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 Third Sunday (Year C)**

**5 September 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>

**Weekday Masses:**

**Nowra** Mon 7<sup>am</sup> .....Tues, Wed & Thurs 8.15<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** Tues 5.30<sup>pm</sup> .....**Culburra** 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:** Tues, Thurs 8<sup>am</sup>, Wed 6.15<sup>am</sup>. Divine office is prayed 15 mins before Mass.

**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: **Terry Power** (Orient Point), **Vincent Ryan** (Vincentia), **Bishop Patrick Dougherty** (Bathurst). Also **Christopher Delaney, Marie Leslie, William Bruce** and **Emilia Labrador** whose anniversaries occur. May they rest in eternal peace.



**FEASTDAY: Wed 8 Sept, Birth of the Virgin Mary**

**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 McKillop*. BYO lunch. **To register:** please ring Lyn 4423 1009.

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

**Nowra CWL** will meet **Tues 14 Sept**, starting with morning tea at 9.30<sup>am</sup> in the Parish Centre.

**St Vincent De Paul Society** sincerely thanks all who assisted with the doorknock this year. To date \$9,100 has been collected. We are grateful to all who volunteered; a special 'thank you' to the St John's Students and their parents. All are invited to a **'thank you' BBQ**, City Farm, 33 Bamarang Rd, West Nowra, Sat **25 Sept**, commencing 12 noon. **RSVP** Mary Dunn ph 4421 0717 by 20 Sept.



**THE BISHOP'S FATHERS' DAY APPEAL:** All loose money from the 2<sup>nd</sup> collection today will go toward supporting the **sick and retired clergy of our Diocese, as well as assisting and promoting priestly vocations.** Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

A big **thank you** to all who contributed to the success of the HOLY SPIRIT VINCENTIA SPRING FAIR. **Final meeting** of fair committee: Sun, **12 Sept** after **9.30<sup>am</sup> Mass.** Treasurer's report will be presented & a look at what we can do better next year.



**Youth Group** meet **10 Sept, 6.30–8<sup>pm</sup>**, Parish Centre. Students Years 5-8 are invited. No cost. Please bring supper to share. Parents are required to sign a drop-off and pick-up sheet on the night. Older youth interested in helping or leading in the Group also invited. For further info, ph Catriona 0422 201 054 or email youth@nowraparish.org.au.

**St Vincent de Paul Society.** '...I commissioned you to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last – what I command you is to love one another', John 15:16-17. Certainly the Nowra Sacred Heart Care Conference members carry this out with their social visits to people in need of companionship and love. **However, numbers are few – a lot more could be achieved if membership could be increased.** Please think about it, and if remotely interested, ring 4421 8565 for more information.

**Spirituality in the Pub:** Mon **13 Sept, 7.30<sup>pm</sup>**, Jamberoo Pub. Specialist Immigration Lawyer, Kerry Murphy, will speak about 'Getting the balance right on border protection'.

**Inclusion Mass:** Sun **19 Sept, 6<sup>pm</sup>**, St Michael's Parish **Hall.** Parishioners are invited to attend this special parish event, in support of those with special needs. Refreshments will be served after Mass.



**Dates to Note:**

- **8 Sept, 11<sup>am</sup>**; Meeting for all interested in establishing a **Youth Ministry Team**, Parish Centre. Contact Catriona 0422 201 054.
- **Sat 25 Sept, 10-1<sup>pm</sup>**, Parish Centre, **Introduction to the new missal.** To register, ph 4253 0934 or email helen.bennett@woll.cathloic.org.au.
- **Sat 2 Oct:** Parish Retreat Day.
- **CWLA Nowra Branch:** Annual General Meeting, Tues, 5 Oct, in the Parish Centre.
- **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** (25, 40, 50 or 60 yrs): **14 Nov, 2pm**, St John Vianney Church, Fairy Meadow. Contact Helen Bennett now on 4253 0934 to register.

**Diocesan Pastoral Planning Update:** The 9 Sept deadline for RSVP's to the upcoming **2<sup>nd</sup> Pastoral Planning Plenary session** is approaching. This session will be held, **Sat 18 Sept, 10am – 2.30pm**, St Patrick's College Campbelltown, 4 St John's Rd. Morning tea and lunch provided. **Free bus transport is available commencing at Kiama at 7.45am.** **RSVP** to Jane Edwards at pastoralplanning@woll.catholic.org.au or 4253 0899. You will need to indicate if you want to catch the bus when you RSVP.

'**Cycle Against the Traffik**' is a Catholic organisation that aims to raise awareness of human trafficking via a cycle ride from Sydney to Melbourne. Participants rode into Nowra yesterday and stayed overnight at the Berry Convent. Any funds raised through the tour will help support a shelter in Malaysia for women and children rescued from slavery. For more information on how to become involved visit the website [www.cycleagainstthetraffik.com](http://www.cycleagainstthetraffik.com).



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**Catechist Smartboard Inservice** – CEO building W'gong, **11 Oct**, 9.30-1.30. Any computer literate catechist is welcome to attend. Contact Lyn to register: 4423 1009.

**Church of the Diocese - the laity, religious and clergy - to claim St Mary of the Cross as our own.**

**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.**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Pastoral Planning Plenary session.** **Purpose:** to develop actions for the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. Check out the website [www.journeyahead.org.au](http://www.journeyahead.org.au) for more info and read the September issue of Journey magazine. **Transport for Shoalhaven and Illawarra participants.** We are offering bus travel to those who otherwise could not come. The bus will commence at Kiama at 7.45am with stops at Albion Park at 8.15am and Fairy Meadow at 8.45am before heading up to Campbelltown (return trip included). Bus travel will be free. You will need to indicate this in their **RSVP** which is due by 9 September.

**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.

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).

**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)



**Date Claimer: DIOCESAN CELEBRATION FOR CANONISATION OF ST MARY MACKILLOP**

Entertainment Centre Wollongong, **Sun 31 Oct, 2.30<sup>pm</sup>**. A 30 minute musical interpretation of the spirituality of Blessed Mary of the Cross, performed by young people of the Diocese. Followed by Solemn Mass of Saint Mary of the Cross. Refreshments follow. **This diocesan celebration will be the principal opportunity for the**

