

Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

Gospel 15:1-32
from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," he would say "I have found my sheep that was lost." In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance.

'Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," she would

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say "I have found the drachma I lost." In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel thoughts *by Dianne Bergant CSA*

The God who spoke to Moses is pained by the depravity of the people yet moved to show them mercy. Who could ever have imagined such a God? The God depicted in the gospel actually searches for what is lost. He seems to abandon the safe ones for the sake of the one who has strayed. She goes to great lengths to find one coin. As a spurned yet loving father, God patiently waits until we come to our senses. Who could ever have conceived of such a God?

Our God seems consumed with an insatiable desire to reestablish a relationship with us after we have turned our backs on God, have chosen to commit our loyalties elsewhere, have thoughtlessly wandered off into danger that threatens our well being, not God's. What is it about us that makes us so desirable? The answer has less to do with us than with the magnanimous character of God. It is almost as if unconditional love is not simply a characteristic of God, but God's very essence and no human frailty or depravity can change this.

Paul insists that it is through Christ that all of this is accomplished. It is through the sacrifice of Christ that the depraved are forgiven, that sinners are saved, that the lost are found. It is through Christ that we are sought by God, and Christ is the very gift of mercy, the forgiveness of our sins, the celebration of our return.

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

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Parish Life

First Reading 32:7-11,13-14

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord spoke to Moses, 'Go down now, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have apostatised. They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them; they have made themselves a calf of molten metal and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice. "Here is your God, Israel," they have cried, "who brought you up from the land of Egypt!" I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me, now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them; of you, however, I will make a great nation.'

But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God. 'Lord,' he said, 'why should your wrath blaze out against this people of yours whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with arm outstretched and mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, your servants to whom by your own self you swore and made this promise: I will make your offspring as many as the stars of heaven, and all this land which I promised I will give to your descendants, and it shall be their heritage for ever.' So the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 51

R/ I will rise and go to my father.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

2. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

3. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. My sacrifice is a contrite spirit; a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

Second Reading 1:12-17

from first letter of St Paul to Timothy

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, and who judged me faithful enough to call me into his service even though I used to be a blasphemer and did all I could to injure and discredit the faith. Mercy, however, was shown me, because until I became a believer I had been acting in ignorance; and the grace of our Lord filled me with faith and with the love that is in Christ Jesus. Here is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them; and if mercy has been shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the greatest evidence of his inexhaustible patience for all the other people who would later have to trust in him to come to eternal life. To the eternal King, the undying, invisible and only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.



J.Close'07



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.

Twenty Fourth Sunday (Year C)

12 September 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 8.15^{am}
 Friday 7^{am} & 11.30^{am}Sat 9^{am}
Morning Prayer Wed 7.50^{am}**Adoration** Fri 10.30^{am}
Berry Tues 5.30^{pm}**Culburra** Thurs 5.30^{pm}
Vincentia Mon, Thur, Fri 8^{am}Tues, Wed 5.30^{pm}
Shoalhaven Heads Community Centre.....Fri 3.30^{pm}
Kangaroo Valley: Tues, Thurs 8^{am}, Wed 6.15^{am}. Divine office is prayed 15 mins before Mass.

Confession ~ Reconciliation

Nowra Sat 9.30^{am} -10.30^{am} & 5^{pm} - 5.30^{pm}
Culburra Beach Sat 5.30^{pm} **Berry** Tues 6^{pm}
Kangaroo ValleySat 4.30 – 5^{pm}
Vincentia..... Sat 5^{pm} – 5.30^{pm}

We prayerfully remember the faithful departed. The recently deceased: **Tom Kennedy, Brendan Gleeson, and Patricia Taylor** (all from Ireland) and **Kevin Ford** (Canberra). Also **Bishop Thomas McCabe, Bishop Geoff Mayne and Fr John Ward** whose anniversaries occur. May they rest in eternal peace.



FEASTDAYS:

- Mon 13 Sept, **St John Chrysostom**
- Tues 14 Sept, **Triumph of the Cross**
- Wed 15 Sept, **Our Lady of Sorrows**
- Thurs 16 Sept, **St Cornelius & St Cyprian**

We've recently paid the Insurance coverage for the entire parish (6 centres and all properties); **\$34,772.00**. This amounts to 7-8 weeks of Planned Giving income. I take the opportunity of encouraging parishioners to be faithful as you can to Planned Giving, and we certainly welcome new subscribers

Parish Retreat Day, 2 Oct, St Michael's Hall. The theme is '*Undaunted Australian*', a reflection on the life of Mary MacKillop, by Srs Joan Goodwin & Margaret Paton. **Mass at 9^{am}**, retreat starts 10^{am}, Reconciliation, and Benediction included. Closing with benediction at 2.30^{pm}. BYO lunch. **Hosted by Nowra CWL.**

St Vincent de Paul Society - Recruitment 2010.



"I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me" (Matthew 15:40). St Michael's Conference Members are very conscious of this quotation as they assist the best they can with those in need. **The need is great, but numbers are few. WE NEED YOU.** Please consider joining us. Anyone the least bit interested can ring John on 4422 1505 or Ivor on 4421 0053.

Nowra CWL will meet **Tues 14 Sept**, starting with morning tea at 9.30^{am} in the Parish Centre.

SPRING FAIR: Holy Spirit, Vincentia, was postponed due to rain, and will now be held as a mini-event, **Sat 18 Sept 8.30^{am} - 1.30^{pm}**. Chocolate Wheel/Sausage Sizzle/Tombola/Treasure Trove/Books/Toys/Plants & beautiful Craft. **STILL LOTS TO SEE & DO!!**

Culburra Family Group: next function will be a *Spring Hat Parade* at the home of Greg and Joan Watts, **Sun 19 Sept, 11.30^{am}**. Please bring lunch to share. **Contact** Margaret or Paul Casey on 4446 4117 for more information.

DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLANNING GATHERING: 18 Sept, 10am-2.30pm, St Patrick's College

Campbelltown. Bishop Peter invites us to consider proposed diocesan actions and set the framework for the Pastoral Plan. It is hoped more people will register to attend. Morning Tea and Lunch provided. Crèche available. Free bus transport available from Kiama upon request. **RSVP NOW DUE** to Jane Edwards at pastoralplanning@woll.catholic.org.au or 4253 0899.

Inclusion Mass: Sunday next **19 Sept, 6^{pm}**, 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:

- **Sept. Wed 22.** Year 12 St John's Graduation Mass- 6.30.p.m.
- **Sat 25 Sept, 10-1^{pm}**, Parish Centre, **Introduction to the new Missal**, to be implemented during 2011. **To register**, ph 4253 0934 or email helen.bennett@woll.catholic.org.au
- **Tues, 5 Oct**, CWLA Nowra Branch, **Annual General Meeting**, in the Parish Centre.
- **Mon 11 Oct, 9.30-1.30, Catechist Smartboard Inservice** for computer literate catechists. CEO, W'gong. **Contact** Lyn to register: 4423 1009.
- **Sun 31 Oct: Diocesan Celebration for Canonisation of Mary MacKillop**, 2.30^{pm} W'gong Entertainment Centre. A bus will run from the Parish; details later. For planning purposes, **those intending to take the bus are asked to write your details on the sheet at the church door.**
- **14 Nov, Diocesan Mass for Significant Marriage Anniversaries** (25, 40, 50 or 60 yrs): 2pm, St John Vianney Church, Fairy Meadow. **Contact Helen Bennett now on 4253 0934 to register.**

BLESSING OF MARY MACKILLOP ICON

by Bishop Peter Ingham on **Tues 14 Sept, 10.30^{am}**, St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, W'gong. This beautiful icon has been commissioned by the Diocese to help celebrate the canonisation of Mary MacKillop. Light refreshments. All are welcome. **Compass Program: Sun, 12 Sept ABC, 9.30^{pm}**. Discussion on *Ethics Class versus Scripture Class*.



Congratulations and thank you to the St Michael's Pastoral Care Group who are being commissioned at the 9.30.a.m. this Sunday, having completed the prescribed training some time ago.