

The Living Word

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

26 September 2010

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours."

'The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning, so that they do not come to this place of torment too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham "let them listen to them." "Ah no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Both the reading from the prophet Amos and the gospel narrative pointedly condemn the lifestyles of the rich. It is not wealth itself, but the complacency and the disregard for others that it too frequently generates, that is denounced. Biblical covenant is a communal concept. It emerges from a society that insists on mutual responsibility. Today's readings invite us to consider the covenant bond we have with others. How do we measure up?

The fundamental image of God reveals mercy and compassion. However, we cannot disregard the fact of judgment. Amos pronounces a woe against his own people; Abraham declares that there is an unbridgeable chasm between the saved and the condemned. Paul speaks here of the appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ who will bring judgment when he comes. Judgment will be determined not primarily in terms of our obedience to law, but in view of our fidelity to covenant commitment.

Righteousness is a covenant term. It is a quality of God that is shared with us by means of our covenant bond. Paul admonishes Timothy, and us, to pursue this righteousness, along with devotion, faith, love, patience and gentleness. Some of these virtues focus on our relationship with God, but most of them are directed toward our relationship with others. Those who are less fortunate are our sisters and brothers. If we take lightly our covenant obligations and allow them to languish at our gates, we will have only ourselves to blame when we find ourselves facing the harsh judgment of God.

First Reading Am 6:1, 4-7

A reading from the prophet Amos

You who give yourself to licentiousness and revelry will be exiled.

The almighty Lord says this:

Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion and to those who feel so safe on the mountain of Samaria.

Lying on ivory beds and sprawling on their divans, they dine on lambs from the flock, and stall-fattened veal; they bawl to the sound of the harp, they invent new instruments of music like David,

they drink wine by the bowlful, and use the finest oil for anointing themselves,

but about the ruin of Joseph they do not care at all.

That is why they will be the first to be exiled; the sprawlers' revelry is over.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10. R. v.2

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

or

(R.) Alleluia!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down. It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger. (R.)
3. He upholds the widow and orphan but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Tm 6:11-16

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

Obey the commandments until the coming of the Lord.

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and before Jesus Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who at the due time will be revealed by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who alone is immortal, whose home is in inaccessible light, whom no man has seen and no man is able to see: to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation 2 Cor 8:9

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty. Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 16:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

During your life good things came your way just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted while you are in agony.

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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 Sixth Sunday (Year C)

26 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, Thurs, 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 **Patricia Hickson** (formerly of Fairymeadow). Also **Sarah Le Ban, Jack Ison** and **Ivan Kalic** whose anniversaries occur. May they rest in eternal peace.



FEASTDAYS:

- Mon 27 Sept, **St Vincent de Paul**, priest
- Wed 29 Sept, **Michael, Gabriel, Raphael**, archangels
- Thurs 30 Sept, **St Jerome**, priest, doctor
- Fri 1 Oct, **Teresa of the Child Jesus**
- Sat 2 Oct, **Guardian Angels**

CWLA Nowra Branch, Monthly Meeting has been brought forward to **Tues, 5 Oct**, starting with morning tea at 9.30^{am} in Parish Centre, Nowra. The monthly meeting will be followed by lunch, and the **Annual General Meeting**, will start at 1^{pm}.

Shoalhaven Crossroads is a Christian Fellowship for people with a disability. The next meeting is on Fri 8 Oct, 7.15 – 9.15pm, Nowra Baptist Church. Enquiries Beth 4421 8137.

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, rsj. **Mass at 9^{am}**, retreat starts 10^{am}. An opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be provided. Closing with Vespers and Benediction at 2.30^{pm}. BYO lunch. **Hosted by Nowra CWL.**



St Michael's Nowra Youth Group

Fri 8 Oct, 11am-1pm, Rope Park, Hawke St, Huskisson. *Please bring your own lunch or money to buy lunch; sport and or beach equipment; hat; sunscreen etc.* Friends and Family are welcome. If **transport** is needed please email youth@nowraparish.org.au by Wed 6 Oct.

Dates to Note:

- **Mon 11 Oct**, 9.30-1.30, **Catechist Smartboard Inservice** for computer literate catechists. CEO, W'gong. **Contact** Lyn to register: 4423 1009.
- **Tues 19th Oct**. Mass including Anointing of the Sick – Berry – 11.00.a.m.
- **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.**

Catholic Development Fund: Thanks to the CDF which reimbursed \$2,500 toward our recent parish computer update. **The CDF is a financial ministry of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Wollongong** and parishioners are encouraged to consider opening a savings or term deposit account. Choosing the CDF provides an opportunity to support the many pastoral works of the Church. For further details call 1800 047 703 or view www.cdfwollongong.org.au.

Australian Bishops' Conference, through its Social Justice Council, has based its **Annual Social Justice Statement on Violence in Australian Society: A Message of Peace and Building Peace.** The theme emerged in response to an increase in the level of violent assaults and issues of intolerance in Australian society. The introduction relates one of these incidents and the response of the victim's mother: she chose compassion rather than vengeance. The Document addresses violence at the personal level, in family and community and in social structures. It challenges us to respond to Jesus' invitation to be makers of peace. **A limited number of copies are available at the Church @ \$1.**



Social Justice & the St Vincent de Paul Society: The founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society was 19 year old Frederic Ozanam, who responded to the **poverty and social injustice** that were rampant in Paris. Frederic, inspired by St Vincent de Paul, was passionate about the Church reaching out to the poor and addressing these injustices. This tradition continues today as Society members throughout the world, and right here in our parish, work to create a more just society by their practical action every week of the year. **All of our Conferences need new members. Contact numbers;** Berry (4464 1356), Culburra (4447 4794), Kangaroo Valley (4465 1457), Nowra (4422 1505 & 4421 8565), Shoalhaven Heads (4448 8727) and Vincentia (4443 0550).

Beatification of John Henry Newman. An estimated 70,000 pilgrims from across Britain and further afield attended the Papal Mass at Crofton Park, Birmingham on Sunday last when **Pope Benedict Beatified John Henry Cardinal Newman.** In his homily Pope Benedict quoted at length from John Henry Newman's writings.

"I have my mission," he wrote, "I am a link in a chain, a bond of connexion between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do his work; I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place... if I do but keep his commandments and serve him in my calling"