



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.

Christmas [Year C]

25 December 2012

“The Word was made flesh. He lived

among us.” – John 1.14



“God is not distant: he is 'Emmanuel,' God-with-us. He is no stranger: he has a face, the face of Jesus... 'Emmanuel' has come as King of justice and peace.”

In the Christ Child, God humbly knocks on the doors of our hearts and asks us freely to accept his love, his truth, his life. At Christmas, let us rekindle our hope in God's promises and, in humility and simplicity, welcome the light, joy and peace which the Saviour brings to us and to our world”..(Pope Benedict)

We wish all parishioners and visitors, a very holy, joyful and peaceful Christmas! Welcome home to all who are visiting their families for Christmas. (Fathers Pat, Duane, Ronan and Leo).

Thank You!

As an expression of appreciation and gratitude for the support and generosity of so many parishioners throughout the year, and especially at Christmas time, a **Triduum of Masses** will be offered for your intentions and needs over the Christmas season.

Caritas Appeal - (Philippines); Each Christmas a portion of the Christmas Day Second Collection is distributed to Church run Nursing Homes within the Parish, in appreciation of the care they give to residents, many of whom are parishioners. We also contribute to **Caritas**. This year I suggest that we support the Caritas Appeal for the victims of the Typhoon which has brought death and devastation to parts of the southern Philippines and parts of the Pacific.

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE 2012

Christmas Eve - Vigil Masses:

Monday 24 December

Nowra: 7.00pm & 10.00pm
Culburra: 6.00pm
Vincentia: 6.00pm and 8.00pm
Kangaroo Valley: 9.00pm
Berry: 9.00pm
Shoalhaven Heads (Community Centre): 6.00pm

Christmas Day: Tuesday

Nowra: 8.00am and 9.30am
Berry: 8.00am
Bomaderry: 9.30am
Culburra: 8.00am
Vincentia: 8.00am and 9.30am

Please note: There is no Mid-Night Mass and no evening Mass on Christmas Day - 25 December

SUMMER MASS TIMETABLE

Vigil Masses (Saturday)

Nowra: 6.00pm
Culburra: 6.00pm
Vincentia: 6.00pm
Shoalhaven Heads: *6.00pm
Shoalhaven Heads Community Centre Mass on Saturday Dec 29th and Jan 5th 2013 only.

Sunday Mass

Nowra: 8.00am, 9.30am & 6.00pm
Berry: 8.00am Bomaderry: 9.30am
Culburra: 8.00am (on Sundays Dec 30 & Jan 6 only)
Vincentia: 8.00am & 9.30am (up to and including January 26th/27th)
Kangaroo Valley: 11.00am

Feastdays:

Wed 26 - Stephen, first martyr:
Thurs 27th. St John the Evangelist
Fri 28th. Holy Innocents
Sun 30th. The Holy Family
Tues January 1st Mary Mother of God.
(Weekday Masses at usual times unless otherwise stated)

St Michael's Parish Church will be painted and have carpet laid during January. During this period the Parish Hall will be our Church venue, and the side- room of the Hall will be the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for the duration of that time...



Culburra – Callala Conference of St Vincent de Paul will hold their **Annual Appeal** on the weekend of **29/30 December**. Donations will be genuinely appreciated to assist the work of the Conference



VATICAN CITY (Zenit.org).- Following a request by the Editorial Office of the Financial Times, Pope Benedict has written an article for the major newspaper. The article, entitled "A Time for Christians to Engage with the World" begins with the Holy Father recalling the Gospel passage of Jesus' response on paying taxes: "Render unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

The Holy Father emphasized that the Christmas season can serve as an opportunity for all to truly know Jesus Christ not just as the Child in the manger, "but as the one in whom we recognize God made Man. It is in the Gospel that Christians find inspiration for their daily lives and their involvement in worldly affairs – be it in the Houses of Parliament or the stock exchange. Christians should not shun the world; they should engage with it. But their involvement in politics and economics should transcend every form of ideology."

CHRISTMAS TELEVISION - Papal Mass, The Pope's Christmas Mass can be viewed on **ABC 1, on December 25, 11am – 12.50pm**. This Mass will be delivered from Rome via satellite.



We prayerfully remember the recently deceased: **Brian Walsh, Lola Watts, and Fr Richard Hazlitt**. At Christmastime we pray for our deceased relatives, friends and parishioners. *Mass will also be offered over the Christmas period for all parishioners who have died over the past 12 months. May they rest in eternal peace.*