



St Michael's Parish, Nowra – Tel: 4423 1712 E-mail: office@nowraparish.org.au

Weekday 1)

[Website: nowraparish.org.au](http://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.

The Feast of the Holy Family (Sun B Cycle,

28th December 2014

Sunday Masses to include December 28th and Jan 4th only:

NOWRA:... 6pm Vigil; 8am, 9.30am & 6pm
BERRY:8.00am
BOMADERRY: ... 9.30am
CULBURRA:.....6pm Vigil and Sun 8.00.a.m.
VINCENTIA: 6pm Vigil, 8.00.a.m. & 9.30am.
KANGAROO VALLEY 11.00am
S' Heads Vigil : Sat Dec 27th & Jan 3rd. (only)

Mass times for this Week.

Nowra:. Monday 7.00.a.m.;Tues/ Wed./Thurs 8.15.am;
Friday : 7.00.a.m. and 11.30.a.m.; Sat 9.00am.
Berry : Tues: 5.30.p.m.
Vincentia: Mon/.Thurs/Fri 8.00am; Tues./Wed 5.30.p.m.
Confession – Reconciliation
Nowra: Sat 9.30 -10.30am; & 5.00-5.30pm
K Valley: Sat 4.30-5.00pm
Vincentia: Sat 5.00–5.30pm

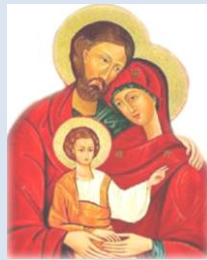
We prayerfully remember: **Warren James and Julie King** who died this week, also **Matthew Abbott, Bill Christopher, Joan Reid, and John Ellson** whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May they rest in eternal peace.*



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.

A very sincere thank you to parishioners in all regions of the Parish, who provided music, arranged flowers, put the nativity cribs in place, mowed and tidied Church grounds, and of course cleaned our Churches. All of which contribute so much to the atmosphere of the Church and the beauty of the Liturgy.

The Feast of the Holy Family



The Feast of the Holy Family was introduced by Pope Leo XIII (1893) he being the Pope who wrote so magnificently regarding working conditions, the rights of workers and families, the importance of a just wage etc. With the restructuring of the Liturgical Calendar following the Vatican Council the Feast was linked more significantly with the Christmas Season.

On this Feast it is timely to reflect on the sacredness of Marriage and family and their inter-relationship. The Catechism of the Church speaks of Marriage as **“the matrimonial covenant, by which a man and woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, which by its nature is ordered toward the good of the spouses, the procreation, and education of children..”(1601)** Marriage for a Christian couple has the dignity of a Sacrament. One of the most precious descriptions of marriage and family comes from the Second Vatican Council (L.G.11): which described the family as **“the domestic church.”**



New Year's Day: The Feast of Mary Mother of God.

“Mary is Mother of God from having borne in His humanity, a son who is personally God.” And of course in the Gospel scene of the Visitation, Elizabeth greeted Mary as “the mother of my Lord” . The Eastern Churches use a Greek theological term- **theotokos** meaning: **'God-bearer'**, and therefore 'Mother of God', because the one she bears is God.



New Year's Eve; Wednesday 31st. Reflective Prayer Time at St Michael's: 7.00-8.00.p.m.

Annual Appeal ~ St Vincent de Paul Society of Culburra Beach/Callala will be holding their annual appeal on 27th & 28th December.

“NO LONGER SLAVES, BUT BROTHERS AND SISTERS”--The Opening paragraph of Pope Francis message for



WORLD DAY OF PEACE.. 1st January 2015

1. “At the beginning of this New Year, which we welcome as God’s gracious gift to all humanity, I offer heartfelt wishes of peace to every man and woman, to all the world’s peoples and nations, to heads of state and government, and to religious leaders. In doing so, I pray for an end to wars, conflicts and the great suffering caused by human agency, by epidemics past and present, and by the devastation wrought by natural disasters. I pray especially that, on the basis of our common calling to cooperate with God and all people of good will for the advancement of harmony and peace in the world, we may resist the temptation to act in a manner unworthy of our humanity....”

Christmas Collection: Each Christmas a significant portion of the Christmas Day 2nd 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 will do the same this year. However this year in response to Bishop Peter’s message concerning the plight of persecuted Christians, and the need to alleviate their suffering, especially in Syria, Iraq and the Middle-East, we will include this need in our Christmas day Collection disbursement.

SVdP Columban calendars for sale ~ great Christmas gifts, only \$9.

“A Faithful People”- Sesquicentenary Parish History – now selling for \$15

Good News: St Mel's Cathedral in Longford, Ireland devastated by an electrical fire on Christmas morning 2009 will be reopened for Mass this Christmas. “When the newly restored St Mel’s opens its doors at Christmas it will be like returning to a much loved sacred space...”



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Dates to note- 2015: Easter Sunday- April 5th.

LENT 2015- Feb. 18th: Calling for hosts/leaders for groups.

We warmly welcome anyone who is interested to contact:

Francene 4421 5962, Tina 4422 9250, Bernie 4421 2968.

**St John's 25th Anniversary – Silver Jubilee-May 23rd
(t.b.c)**

Confirmation; Sunday June 21st (t.b.c.)

Catechists and Helpers needed for 2015. With many wonderful teachers of our faith retiring at the end of this year, we are in great need of Catechists in our parish. If you are able to share your gift of faith by becoming a Catechist or a helper in one of the 20 Primary Schools in our parish, please supply your details on the blue cards provided in the church, or contact Frances at the Parish office on 4423 1712. *Thank you in anticipation of your support.*

1601 "The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament."⁸⁴

SACRED HEART CHURCH, Bomaderry ~ Piety Stall. If you would like a Daily Mass Book for 2015 (\$24), please see Suzie Alamango after 9.30am Mass on Sunday at Bomaderry, or call 4448 6219. First Holy Communion, Advent & Christmas items are also available at the stall & by special order.