



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.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.



The Sacrament of Baptism brings us within the Trinitarian experience of God's love enacted in Jesus' baptism and empowers us, as it empowered him, to reflect that love to the world... Drawn into the familial intimacy with God

that is his, the baptised too will cry out 'Abba, Father'. For this reason it is appropriate to read this particular Gospel at every baptism. Each and every Christian has the right to hear, 'You are my beloved son, my beloved daughter, in whom I take delight', personally addressed to him or her by God {Fr Brendan Byrne SJ}

Easter is the Feast that is directly related to Christian Sacramental Baptism, however this is an appropriate occasion to reflect on the fact that through Baptism we are 'grafted into Christ'. At each baptism the baptised is anointed with Chrism and referred to as participating in the offices of being **priest, prophet** and **king**. Since Christ is the fulfilment of the priest, prophet, and king that means that all the baptized participate in those as well. Although this statement may seem odd since we do not naturally think of ourselves this way, we must become more conscious of what it means to be 'grafted' onto Christ. Understood in the biblical sense: **Priest**- one who intercedes for others, praying for others, especially in the Liturgy.

Prophet: one who speaks for God, speaks the Word of God, giving evidence to the centrality of God in one's life.

King: ..anointed one.. leading others to God, enabling others find their mission; good counsel, leading to holiness.

Sunday Masses:

Nowra: Vigil 6pm, 8.00am, 9.30am & 6.00pm
Berry: 8.00am
Bomaderry: 9.30am
Culburra: Vigil 6.00pm,
Vincentia: Vigil 6.00pm, & 9.30am
Kangaroo Valley: 11.00am

Masses during the Week:

Nowra: Mon. 7.00am, Tues/Wed/Thurs. 8.15am.
 Fri. 7.00am and 11.30am, Sat. 9.00am.
Berry: Tues. 5.30pm.
Culburra: Thursday 5.30pm.
Vincentia: Mon/Thurs/Fri 8.00am, Tues/Wed 5.30pm.
Kangaroo Valley: Mon/Tues/Thurs 9am, Wed 7am.

Confession / Reconciliation

Nowra: Sat 9.30am–10.30am and 5.00-5.30pm
Culburra: Sat 5.30pm
Vincentia: Sat 5.00–5.30pm
SVdP Rosary: Tues 9.30am, St Michael's Church. All welcome.

Feastdays:

Saturday, January 17th St Anthony, hermit.

The Feast of Santo Nino- The Filipino Annual Festival Mass – 9.00am on Saturday at St. Michael's.

The **Philippines** is the third largest Catholic country in the world after Brazil and Mexico. It is estimated to have more than 76 million Catholics or approx. 80% of its population. The Church there has 16 Archdioceses and 56 Dioceses. **The Feast of Santo Nino** is associated with the Christmas Season. The Feast goes back in origin to 1565

We prayerfully remember: **Evelina Bush, Allan Mason Mary Tait** and **Frank Lawrence**, (formerly Nowra now Mona Vale), who died this week. Frank Lawrence's funeral will take place at St Michael's on Wed at 1.00.p.m. Also **Vic Sutherland, Ann Moses, John Patrick Jones, Maise Brodie, Kevin Cliffe and Betty Colnan** whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May they rest in eternal peace.*



The Baptism of the Lord (Yr B) 11th January 2015

The Nowra-Bomaderry St Vincent De Paul Conference wishes to acknowledge with deep gratitude the magnanimous response of parishioners to the Christmas Appeal which totalled close to \$8,000.

Conferences in other regions of the parish have already acknowledged parishioners' very generous support as well

LOST: A pearl drop earring was lost recently at Berry Church or in the vicinity there of. If found, please contact the Parish Office.



Parishioners and visitors often remark on the magnificent floral arrangements in the sanctuaries of our Churches for Sunday Mass. Perhaps the best expression of admiration was on Christmas morning at St Michael's Hall, as four men standing at the Hall door exchanged their appreciation of the creative array of flowers. It is good to know that this work of love is not taken for granted.



CatholicCare: Poppy Playgroup ~ For mothers with mental health issues, and their children age 0-5 yrs. At *Poppy* you can play with your children, enjoy the company of other parents & explore different parenting issues in a relaxed & supported environment. Five Friday mornings 10am-12.30pm. 30 Jan; 13,27 Feb; 13 & 27 March at CatholicCare, 68 Shoalhaven St, Nowra. Cost: No Fee. Bookings: 4421 8248

CatholicCare: Rollercoasters 8-12 yrs. An 8 week program developed to assist children who are experiencing parental separation, divorce, or parents who have re-partnered. *Rollercoaster* helps children to understand change and loss; develop strategies for anger management & problem solving. Eight Thursday afternoons 4pm-5pm. 12,19,26 Feb, and 5,12,19,26 March, and 2 April. CatholicCare, 68 Shoalhaven St, Nowra. Cost: \$15 per session, per family.

The Vatican has extended financial support to the Catholic communities in western Africa to aid the fight against the Ebola epidemic. The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace recently released a brief statement.



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GIVING FAMILIES A SAY – Preparation Questionnaire 2nd Synod on the Family

The Second Synod on the Family is being held in October in Rome. Pope Francis, through the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference (ACBC), invites you to offer input into the preparation documents for this important gathering. To assist you in this task a simplified questionnaire has been developed which can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/familysurveydow> You are invited to **offer input by 8 February 2015**. It is preferred that responses to this questionnaire are made online, however, written responses can also be submitted by completing the printed version and sending responses to: Synod Responses, PO Box 1239, Wollongong 2500.

CatholicCare: 123 Magic & Emotion Coaching ~ This time tested workshop provides easy to follow steps for disciplining children aged 2-12 years without yelling, arguing or hitting. Three Tuesday mornings 11.30am-1.30pm. 17, 24 & 31 March. Sanctuary Point Connect, Sanctuary Point Primary School, Idlewild Ave, Sanctuary Point. Fee: \$15 per session. Bookings: 4421 8248

WAIT ON THE LORD We sometimes put off thinking about vocation, or what God wants, instead putting our energy into other areas. God is calling; we need to prioritise our response. Pray, talk with others, find out what God wants. Please contact Fr Richard Healey, Vocations Director, on 0401 621 591, priesthood@dow.org.au.

DIocese of WOLLONGONG - THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC/CHRISTIAN RADIO PROGRAM

Right through the Summer Holiday Period, "The Journey Summer Series" will run weekly. It is a "Best of the Journey" program with all of the best inputs and interviews with Sr Hilda Scott, Dr Francine and Byron Pirola, Bruce Downes - The Catholic Guy, Trish McCarthy, Peter Gilmore, Sam Clear and Fr Dave Callaghan. Tune into PULSE 94.1 FM on Sun at 11am, repeated Wed 10pm or listen in via podcast anytime at www.radio.dow.org.au

LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING: ACOLYTES, ALTAR SERVERS & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION.

**Saturday, 7 Feb, Xavier Centre, W'gong (10am-4pm).
Saturday 21 Feb, St John the Evangelist Parish Hall,
Campbelltown (10am-4pm).** This training is essential for those who wish to become acolytes within the Diocese of Wollongong and especially important and useful for those desiring to bring Holy Communion to those who are sick or housebound. To register contact Helen Bennett **by 5 Feb (Illawarra venue) & 18 Feb (Macarthur venue)** at helen.bennett@dow.org.au or 4222 2403. Any enquiries to Paul Mason at paul.mason@dow.org.au or 4222 2462.

CERTIFICATE IN PASTORAL LITURGY – NOW OPEN

It is with great pleasure we seek expressions of interest for enrolment in the Certificate in Pastoral Liturgy commencing in February. This course provides practical knowledge, skills & approaches, in liturgy for people who take active roles in preparing, coordinating and leading liturgy & liturgical music in parish and school. This course is modelled on the Certificate of Pastoral Liturgy previously offered through the Catholic Institute of Sydney. Expressions of interest to Darren McDowell, 4222 2463 or cfl@dow.org.au

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY COURSE

**Tuesday, 10 Feb, St Columbkille's Parish Meeting
Room, Corrimal (9am-3:30pm).**

Are you keen to develop personal knowledge, understanding and skills in developing caring relationships? Are you caring for someone who is frail, aged or living with a disability? Are you interested in becoming part of a pastoral care ministry team within their community? This basic training in pastoral care provides a comprehensive introduction for people to develop their understanding and ability to care for those in their communities who are aged, grieving, frail, housebound, living with a disability or generally in need of pastoral support.

Registration essential by **Friday 7 Feb** to: Darren McDowell on 4222 2463 or cfl@dow.org.au

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DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY – SATURDAY 7 MARCH

Our first Diocesan Assembly for 2015 will be held on **Saturday 7 March** from 10am-1:30pm at St Mary's Star of the Sea College Hall, W'gong. The focus for this assembly will be our revised Diocesan Pastoral Plan. More information will follow soon but please keep this date in your diary.

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.