



**St Michael's Parish**, Nowra – Tel: 4423 1712 E-mail: [office@nowraparish.org.au](mailto:office@nowraparish.org.au)

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

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time-Yr B 25<sup>th</sup> January 2015

### 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. 8.00am, 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.

We prayerfully remember: **Tony Longhurst, Eithne Wood**, and **Joseph Shanahan** whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in eternal peace.



### Feastdays: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Australia Day

Tues Jan 27<sup>th</sup> St Angela Merici

Wed 27<sup>th</sup> St Thomas Aquinas. Sat 31<sup>st</sup> St John Bosco

**Tuesday Jan 27<sup>th</sup>** I invite and encourage our Teachers and Catechists where possible, to attend morning Mass at 8.15.am., to invoke God's guidance and blessing on Teachers, Catechists and students as the new School Year begins. (*Fr Pat*)

**Congratulations** and blessings to Joseph and Phyllis Saliba of Shoalhaven Heads who celebrate their 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on 24 January.

**Thank you from Barbara Sweeny – 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.** Thank you to the priests, parishioners and friends for your warm wishes, many phone calls and gifts on the occasion of my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. The OBE (Over Blooming Eighty) Award is much appreciated!!

### CATECHISTS' CORNER:

#### Important Catechists' Meeting

**Mon 2 Feb** 10.00am in the Parish Centre. This is an important meeting as it is the first for 2015 and offers Catechists the opportunity to have a conversation with Frances Fairs as the new Parish Co-ordinator, and to assure her of your cooperation and assistance. The children's activity books, introductory letters to parents & cards will be distributed.

There are still a significant number of vacancies to be filled. So we would be delighted to hear from prospective Catechists. Please contact the Parish Office.



### "ARISE" ~ LENT 2015

Our Lenten Program "**Arise**" begins Feb 16<sup>th</sup>. Books are soon for sale at \$5.00. We ask that you purchase your copy ASAP, for re-ordering purposes. Enquire: Francene 4421 5962; Tina 4422 9250; Bernie 4421 2968.

Contact for Berry, Greg Troy 4464 1770; Callala, Theresa Vella 4446 5184; Culburra Beach, Harry Ray 4447 2941; Currarong, Connie Heap 4448 3157 / Noel Reid 4448 3215; Vincentia/Bay & Basin, Fr Leo Duck 4441 5571.



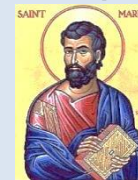
### YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

Pope Francis has announced 2015 as a "Year to prayerfully focus on Consecrated Life." During this year the Pope is asking all dioceses to encourage this vocational call within the life of the Church. The Diocese of Wollongong would like to support the celebration of this "year" through focusing on how the fruits of particular charisms and spiritualities assist those within and around our parish and school communities. A letter has been written to communities of consecrated life asking for expressions of interest in holding events to mark this special year. More information will follow soon.

**CULBURRA FAMILY GROUP:** Planning for 2015 with morning tea at Paul and Marg Casey's Fri, 30 January 10:00am.

### Some features of Mark's Gospel –our Gospel for Ordinary Time in Year B- 2015

We refer to St Mark's Gospel as one of the three Synoptic Gospels (Gospels with a similar view). As we have the Gospels today Mark's is the earliest, also the shortest -16 Chapters. Mark is described as the accurate '**interpreter**' of Peter.



There is some dis-agreement as to whether or not the Gospel was written before or after Peter's death, c.65.A.D. Rome is favoured as the location. References to persecution seem to confirm this opinion. Scripture scholars tell us that Mark's Gospel served as a source for the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. 90% of Mark's Gospel is present in Matthew's Gospel, and 50% in Luke.

Mark focuses on Jesus the "**Suffering Servant**", and has a genuine concern for and empathy with human suffering.

In 1½ Chapters Mark gives five instances of human suffering: possessions, fever, leprosy, and paralysis. Jesus is the Christ who will bring redemption, He transforms the human condition by means of His personal suffering, death, and Resurrection.

### First Saturday Marian Devotions – 7 February

Mass at 9am followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Reconciliation, Rosary and Benediction at 10.30. Morning tea available in the Parish Centre. *Everyone most welcome*

### A Prayer for the Nation Grant, we pray, O



Lord our God, that as the Cross shines in our southern skies, so may Christ bring light to our nation, to its peoples old and new, and by saving grace, transform our lives. From ancient times you made this land a home for many peoples. Grant us grace to walk together the ways of justice, compassion and peace. We pray this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



**Pope listens to tearful account of former street children.**

Speaking in Tagalog, two former street children shared the challenges they've faced growing up in the streets of the Philippines. Despite their young age, they've seen poverty, abuse and crime. Speaking to the Pope, 14 year old 'Jun' shared that he left his home and family, because there was no money for him to go to school. He ate whatever he could find in the trash and slept out in the streets. Before receiving help from a **particular foundation fund**, he saw fellow street children use drugs, steal and become victims of sexual abuse.

12 year old Gyzelle, also a former street kid, talked about the hardships she endured early in life. Moved to tears, she asked the Pope **'Why does God allow this kind of suffering, even when kids are not to blame?'**

*"She Gyzelle, is the only one who has posed a question for which there is no answer. She wasn't even able to express it in words, but rather in tears. I invite each one of you to ask yourselves: 'Have I learned how to weep, how to cry? Have I learned how to weep for somebody who is left aside? Have I learned to weep for someone who has a drug problem? Have I learned how to weep for someone who has suffered abuse? Unfortunately, many of those who cry, do so because materialistically, they want more."*

The Pope then challenged everyone, urging them to learn how to love. But it's not just about giving, but also receiving. He added that one of the most difficult things to do, is allowing oneself to be loved.

**Encounter Mission & Development.**

Encounter Love and Justice, Encounter humble volunteers, Encounter faith, Encounter God. Palms Australia will be conducting a guided tour of the communities in which their global volunteers are working in East Timor from April 6 - 18. There are limited places. **Enquires need to be processed by Feb 28<sup>th</sup>** so call 02 9518 9551 or register interest online:

[www.palms.org.au/Encounters](http://www.palms.org.au/Encounters)



**Lets be proud of the Church's contribution to the life of the Nation!**

- 742,984 school children are in the Catholic sector. ( 409,339 in primary schools, 333,645 in high schools)
- 1,238 primary schools
- 333 secondary schools
- 131 primary/secondary schools combined
- 10 special schools
- 82,000 staff, 55,287 lay teachers and specialist staff
- There are at least 3,200 volunteer catechists in Australian public schools.

**Saint Vincent de Paul ~ Piety Stall** (Berry St, Nowra) is well worth a look for your religious gifts. Items can also be ordered from the catalogue in store

**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.

**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

**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.

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

**Saturday 7 Feb: Xavier Centre, W'gong (10am–4pm)**  
This training is essential for those who wish to become Acolytes, Adult Altar Servers & Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion within the Diocese of Wollongong. Bishop Peter Ingham and members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission will lead two sessions in the morning (covering Introduction to Liturgical Ministry and the common ministry of Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion), and one session after lunch (covering the ministries of Acolyte & Altar Server). The day is a pre-requisite for the training course on Holy Communion to the Sick (to be run Saturday 13 June at the Xavier Centre). It is also a pre-requisite for this year's Institution of Acolytes celebrations, to be held on the last two weekends of April. Morning Tea, Lunch & Afternoon Tea are provided. Fee \$10 to cover costs would be appreciated.

Registration contact Helen Bennett: [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au) OR 4222 2403 **by 5 Feb.**

**First CCD COORDINATORS MEETING for 2015:**  
**Illawarra – Shoalhaven Co-ordinators: Friday, 6 Feb 10.00–11.30am.** Venue: **Xavier Conference Centre**, 38 Harbour St, W'gong. RSVP Cindy Oliver 4640 8550 or email [cindy.oliver@dow.org.au](mailto:cindy.oliver@dow.org.au) by 2 Feb.



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#### **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](mailto:cfl@dow.org.au)

#### **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 info to follow. Please keep this date in your diary.

#### **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](mailto:cfl@dow.org.au)