



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.

MASS TIMETABLE to include January 2nd and 3rd.

Vigil Masses (Saturday)

Nowra: 6.00pm
Culburra: 6.00pm
Vincentia: 6.00pm
Shoalhaven Heads: 6.00pm

Shoalhaven Heads Community Centre Mass on Saturday Dec 26th and Jan 2nd 2016 only.

Sunday Mass

Nowra: 8.00am, 9.30am & 6.00pm
Berry: 8.00am Bomaderry: 9.30am
Culburra: 8.00am (on Sun. Dec 27 & Jan 3rd only)
Vincentia: 8.00am & 9.30am (up to and including January 3rd only)

Kangaroo Valley: 11.00am

Masses this week.

Nowra: Monday. 8.00am, Tues/Wed/Thurs 8.15am, Friday (New Year's Day). 8.00 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.
Sat. Mass 9.00am
Berry: Tuesday 5.30pm; Culburra. Thurs..5.30 pm.
Vincentia: Mon/ Thurs/Fri. 8 a.m; Tues/Wed 5.30pm.
K Valley: Mon/Tues/Thurs. 9.00am, Wed 7.00am
Confession/Reconciliation

Nowra: Sat 9.30-10.30am & 5.00-5.30pm
Culburra Sat 5.30pm
Vincentia: Sat 5.00-5.30pm

We prayerfully remember the recently deceased: Shirley Crozier, Laurence McCarty, and Dragica Perkovic. 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.

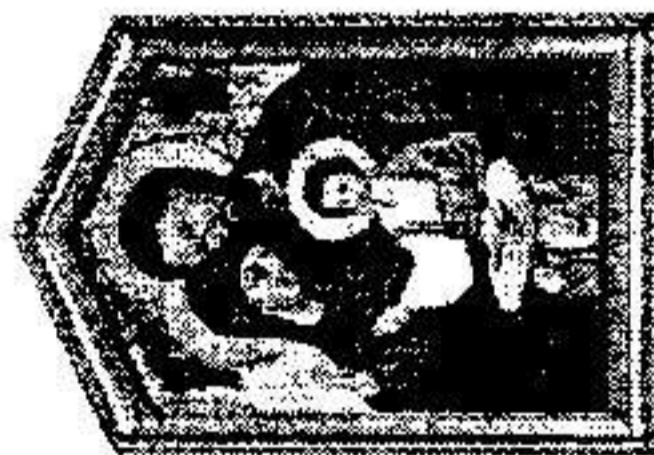
Monday 28th: The Feast of the Holy Innocents.

The Feast of the Holy Family

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.." (CCC1601) 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 Eve; Thursday 31st. Reflective Prayer Time at St Michael's: 7.00-8.00.p.m..

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.

Culburra – Callala Conference of St Vincent de Paul



will hold their **Annual Appeal** on the weekend of **January 2/3**. Donations will be genuinely appreciated to assist the work of the Conference

Vincentia St. Vincent De Paul Holy Spirit

Conference will be holding their **Christmas Appeal** on the weekend of **January 2/3**. Please help us in assisting the poor in our area. All donations greatly appreciated.

The Feast of the Holy Family- Cycle C

27th December 2015

The World Day of Prayer for Peace

"God is not indifferent! God cares about mankind! God does not abandon us! At the beginning of the New Year, I would like to share not only this profound conviction but also my cordial good wishes for prosperity, peace and the fulfilment of the hopes of every man and every woman, every family, people and nation throughout the world, including all Heads of State and Government and all religious leaders. We continue to trust that 2016 will see us all firmly and confidently engaged, on different levels, in the pursuit of justice and peace. Peace is both God's gift and a human achievement. As a gift of God, it is entrusted to all men and women, who are called to attain it...."

An extract from the **Message of Pope Francis**



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 this is 'the spiritual house-keeping' which contributes so much to the atmosphere of the Church and the beauty of the Liturgy. In the words of Pope Francis as well as pleasing parishioners and visitors, above all you please Jesus, because, "He is the one being celebrated."

A date to note in the Parish Calendar for the Year of Mercy.. Feb 15th and 16th (Mon/Tues) Fr Michael Fallon MSC. will speak on Mercy in N.T and the Pope's initiative on Mercy. Tuesday - on what we need to do to welcome this mercy in our lives and share it with others.

"A Faithful People" - Sesquicentenary Parish History - Copies are still available @ \$15

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