



**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.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent - Cycle C**

**20<sup>th</sup> December 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 this week.**

Nowra: Monday..7.00am, Tues/Wed/Thurs 8.15am, Sat. Mass 9.00am  
 Berry: Tuesday 5.30pm  
 Vincentia: Mon/; Tues/Wed 5.30pm  
 Kangaroo 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  
**Berry Tues 22<sup>nd</sup>; 5.00-5.25.p.m. and 6.00- 6.30.p.m.**  
**Vincentia:** Sat 5.00-5.30pm

We prayerfully remember **Shirley Crozier and Lawrence McCarty**, who died this past week. Also, **Mark Broomhead, Julie Johnson (King), Austin Pavlich**, whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May they rest in eternal peace.*

Requiem Mass for Shirley Crozier at St Michael's on Monday Dec 21<sup>st</sup> at 11.30.a.m.



**Christmas Collections:** Each Christmas a significant portion of the Christmas Day 2nd Collection is disbursed to Church run Nursing Homes within the Parish, in appreciation of the care they give to residents, many of whom are parishioners who have served the Church and parish faithfully. . We will also make a contribution to Caritas in its support of refugees in refugee-camps...

Caritas personnel have recently visited the Bekka Valley Camp in Lebanon. The U.N. statistics state the number of refugees in Lebanon to be around 750,000; however local authorities and migrant centres believe it to be much larger. At the Bekka centre Caritas staff distributes hygiene kits, food and winter packages including blankets and fuel vouchers. They also carry out health checks including psychosocial support for children. *"With the support of the Australian community, Caritas Australia will continue to respond to the affected communities' needs and partner requests as they emerge."* (Caritas).

**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

**Wanted ~ Angels & Shepherds!** Would your child like to take part in the Christmas story recreation as part of Christmas Vigil Mass, 7pm, 24 December? If you have a primary school age child (sorry no pre-schoolers) who would like to participate, there will be **one practice, held on Sunday 20 Dec at 3pm** in St Michael's hall. **Enquiries: Sophie Pavlis 0439018374.** Parents must stay to supervise their children

Thank you to **Paul Brodie** for his zealous, cooperative, and very effective ministry as Religious Education Coordinator at St Michael's over a number of years. This is a very important role within the School. We welcome Mrs Martine Mathieson to this position in 2016. Thank you also to **Leslie Auert** for her great dedication and commitment in her role as REC at St John's concluding this year. We welcome David Comensoli to this role at St John's next year. I want also to express our gratitude and appreciation for the great work carried out by **Frances Fairs** in her first year as catechetical coordinator within the Parish. Frances has undertaken the ministry with enthusiasm and dedication, and has put 'fresh-heart' into our faithful catechists.



Parishioners have once again shown remarkable generosity ( \$8,330), as have the students from both St Michael's Primary School, and St John's High School, to the St V. de Paul Christmas Appeal. Pope Francis would be very proud of you. A very sincere thank you to all.  
**Lenten 2016 message** ~ Organisers would like to hear from prospective Group Leaders. Please contact Francene 44215962, Tina 44229250, Bernie 44212968.

**13 Day Pilgrimage** with Fr Wahid to the Holy Land including Petra. Cost \$5,000 ALL INCLUSIVE. 15th to 27th May 2016. Contact: Shereen 03 95577597 / 0421114724 OR Allan 9792 4444.

**CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE 2015**

**Christmas Eve - Vigil Masses:**

**Thursday 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: Friday**

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**

**MASS TIMETABLE to include Sundays Dec 27<sup>th</sup> and January 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Vigil Masses (Saturday)**

Nowra: 6.00pm  
 Culburra: 6.00pm  
 Vincentia: 6.00pm  
 Shoalhaven Heads: 6.00pm  
**# Shoalhaven Heads Community Centre Mass on Saturday Dec 26<sup>th</sup> and Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> only**)  
 Vincentia: 8.00am & 9.30am (**up to and including January 3<sup>rd</sup> only**)  
 Kangaroo Valley: 11.00am

**Feastdays:**

**Sat.. 26 Dec - Stephen**, first martyr:

**Sun 27<sup>th</sup> The Holy Family**

**Mon 28<sup>th</sup>. Holy Innocents**

**Fri January 1<sup>st</sup> Mary Mother of God.**

(*Weekday Masses at usual times unless otherwise stated - refer to the Bulletin. No Christmas day bulletin*)



**FEBRUARY 2016 LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING CALENDAR**

- **Acolytes and Adult Altar Servers** 13 February 2016, 10am - 4pm Xavier Conference Centre Ingham and Wilson Rooms, 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong
- **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** 13 February 2016, 10am - 1pm Xavier Conference Centre Ingham and Wilson Rooms, 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong
- **Sacramental Preparation Coordinators and Team Members (Special In-Service)** 20 February 2016, 10am - 1pm Xavier Conference Centre Ingham and Wilson Rooms, 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong

**DIOCESAN CERTIFICATE IN PASTORAL LITURGY ~ Pastoral Associates - Liturgy Coordinators - Liturgy Committee Members - Music Coordinators - Choir Directors - RCIA Coordinators - Sacramental Coordinators....This course is for you!**

2016 units include the Core Unit "Eucharist in the Liturgical Assembly" (March - June), the elective Unit "Initiation in the Liturgical Assembly" (July - September), and the alternate Elective Unit "Music in the Liturgical Assembly" (July - September). Those who commence in 2016 will complete the certificate course in 2017 with the remaining two units. Go to website for application, or Paul Mason 4222 2462, or [liturgy@dow.org.au](mailto:liturgy@dow.org.au)

**Sacred Heart Church, Piety Stall Bomaderry** has a range of cards and gifts, or order from the catalogue. *Christmas catalogue now available.* Open Sundays (9.30am Mass at Bomaderry), or call Suzie 4448 6219 or 0419 249 008.

**SVdP ~ Piety Stall (Berry St Nowra)** is well worth a look for religious gifts. Items can also be ordered from the catalogue in store. Also available to order, handmade First Holy Communion veil.

**THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 20 DECEMBER 2015** This week Bishop Peter Ingham will give as a fantastic Christmas message for the Year of Mercy. This is our last week of regular programming before the best of 2015 summer series of *The Journey* commences. Tune in to hear Sr Hilda Scott OSB, Bruce Downes, *The Catholic Guy*, Dr Byron and Francine Pirola, Trish McCarthy, Pete Gilmore, Fr Dave Callaghan MGL, Sam Clear and Marilyn Rodriguez right through summer. What a great way to prepare for Christmas and lead into 2016. Tune into PULSE 94.1 FM on Sun at 11am or go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au) where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

**Material for Sunday Dec 27<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**Sunday Masses to include December 27th and Jan 3<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> & Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> (only)

**Mass times for this Week.**

**Nowra:**. Monday 7.00.a.m.; Tues/ Wed./Thurs 8.15.am;

**Friday** : 8.00.a.m. 11.30 ; 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.



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**Fourth Sunday of Advent - Cycle C**

**20<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

**New Year's Eve; Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> December.

**“NO LONGER SLAVES, BUT BROTHERS  
AND SISTERS”**--The Opening paragraph of Pope  
Francis message for **WORLD DAY OF PEACE..**

**Christmas Collection:** Each Christmas a significant  
portion of the Christmas Day 2<sup>nd</sup> 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