



**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.

## The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. (Manifestation) Reflection

The Christmas season reaches an apex with the Epiphany. In some liturgical traditions, it is the central celebration of Christmas. There is a wonderful summons to alertness and presence of mind and heart, a call for all the nations to witness the marvellous works of God that shine as light in the midst of the surrounding darkness. ...The manifestation of God among us changes the ways in which we perceive each other. Christ's birth provides us with the light by which we see a new criterion for relating. The Magi represent the multi-ethnic and cultural diversity in civic and parish situations, as well as the many religions of the world. All people, regardless of race or ethnic origin, can be co-heirs with Christ. © Dianne Bergant CSS



**A date to note in the Parish Calendar for the Year of Mercy.. Feb 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.** (Mon/Tues) Fr Michael Fallon MSC. will speak (Monday) on Mercy in New Testament 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. Morning sessions will be at Berry, evening sessions at Nowra.



**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.

We prayerfully remember: the recently deceased : **Brian Watts and Lee Wooderson (Nowra), Phyllis McKean, Michael Zupan, and Frank Rimanic ( Bay and Basin).** Also **Allan Mason, Mary Tait, Roy Healey, Norman Muller and Kevin Cliffe** whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May they rest in eternal peace.*



### MASS TIMETABLE

#### Sunday Masses :

**Nowra:** Vigil 6pm, 8.00am, 9.30am & 6.00pm

**Berry:**..... 8.00am

**Bomaderry:**..... 9.30am

**Culburra:** Vigil 6.00pm, **(8.00am this Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> only).**

**Vincentia:** Vigil 6.00pm, **(8.00am this Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> only)** and 9.30am

**Kangaroo Valley:** 11.00.am.

**S'haven Heads:** Vigil 6.00pm this week Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> only  
(Community Centre)

**Feastday: Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup> The Baptism of the Lord.**

**Saturday January 16<sup>th</sup> The Feast of Santo Nino-**  
The Filipino Annual Festival Mass – 9.00.a.m. at St. Michael's

#### Masses during the Week

**Nowra:** Mon. 7.00.a.m Tues/Wed/Thurs. 8.15 a.m.

Fri. 7.00am and 11.30am, Sat. 9.00 a.m.

**Berry:** Tues. 5.30 pm

**Culburra:** Thursday 5.30.p.m.

**Vincentia:** Mon/Thurs/Fri 8.00 am, Tues/Wed 5.30 pm

**Kangaroo Valley:** Mon/Tues/Thurs: 9.a.m.; Wed. 7.a.m

#### Confession / Reconciliation

**Nowra:** Sat 9.30am – 10.30.a.m. 5.00 - 5.30pm,

**Culburra:** Sat. 5.30pm

**Vincentia:** Sat 5.00 – 5.30pm

#### An Extract from the Pope's Christmas Message...

“...Where God is born, hope is born. He brings hope. Where God is born, peace is born. And where peace is born, there is no longer room for hatred and for war. Yet precisely where the incarnate Son of God came



into the world, tensions and violence persist, and peace remains a gift to be implored and built. May Israelis and Palestinians resume direct dialogue and reach an agreement which will enable the two peoples to live together in harmony, ending a conflict which has long set them at odds, with grave repercussions for the entire region...”

## The Epiphany of the Lord (Yr C). 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2016

**JERUSALEM (CNS) --** Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal in his homily at midnight Mass said in the Jubilee Year of Mercy called by Pope Francis that mercy must include every person -- both kin and foe. “In these days and time, we suffer from the absence of compassion in our hearts -- as if the coming of Jesus Christ and the message of Christmas were in vain..” (the Church of St. Catherine, adjacent to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, West)...

#### From the homily of Pope Francis – Feast of the Holy



**Family:** “In the Year of Mercy, every Christian family can become a privileged place on this pilgrimage for experiencing *the joy of forgiveness*. Forgiveness is the essence of the love which can understand mistakes and mend them. How miserable we would be if God did not forgive us! Within the family we learn how to forgive, because we

are certain that we are understood and supported, whatever the mistakes we make.....

*‘What can be more beautiful than for a father and mother to bless their children at the beginning and end of each day, to trace on their forehead the sign of the cross, as they did on the day of their baptism?’*

#### From the Christmas Message of Queen

**Elizabeth: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...”**.. St John

*“Despite being displaced and persecuted throughout his short life, Christ's unchanging message was not one of revenge or violence, but simply that we should love one another...”* Queen Elizabeth II

*“May God, the source and origin of all blessing, grant us grace and peace, pour out His blessing in abundance, and keep us safe from harm throughout the year we have now entered. Amen”*



**Parish Statistical information for 2015:**

*As we enter a New Year it is timely to consider how as parishioners we can be more supportive of ministries and needs within our parish. The following statement going back to the days of Pope Paul VI, is always relevant: The parish has an indispensable mission in the life of the Church*

- *A Mission: to create Christian community, to assist and lead people to participate in the Liturgical life of the Church.*
- *to conserve and renew the faith in to-day's people*
- *to serve - to provide opportunities - as a school for taking the saving message of Christ to the modern world.*
- *to provide in humble charity opportunities for good and compassionate works.*

Much of the Church's pastoral work and ministries cannot be statistically quantified. Statistics can indicate to some extent how we are travelling. There is however much good accomplished by people individually and through organisations in very practical and compassionate ways within parishes, which go beyond facts and figures.

**From the Parish Registers for 2015:**

**Baptism:** 99

**Confirmation:** 65

**First Holy Communicants:** 91

**Marriage:** 22

**Funeral:** 76

**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.

**Our prayer for each other in 2016:**