



**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 Baptism of the Lord

Our Parish Church, St Michael's has on the Baptismal Font a statue of Jesus being baptised by John the Baptist. Whilst we can relate the implication of Jesus being baptised to every baptism, Easter with the symbol of the Paschal Candle is however the Feast that is directly related to Christian Sacramental Baptism. Jesus had no need of baptism, He is rather identifying with those He came to save.

*“On that day He began His public ministry during which He gave Himself fully in the service of God and all of God's people. On that day Jesus launched forth as the one who came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many. As He set out on that momentous journey for all of us, He was assured of God his Father's favour, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on You’, and He was empowered by the Holy Spirit, who descended upon Him like a dove.”*

Today is an appropriate Feast to reflect on the fact that through Baptism we are **'grafted unto 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 these ministries 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 to find their mission; good counsel, leading to holiness.. To-day's Gospel is a very appropriate Gospel indeed to be read 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}

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



## Sunday Masses :

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

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

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

**Culburra:** Vigil 6.00pm,

**Vincentia:** Vigil 6.00pm, and 9.30am

**Kangaroo Valley:** 11.00.am.

## 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: This Sat 16<sup>th</sup> before Mass:** 8.15am – 9.00.a.m. 5.00 - 5.30pm,

**Culburra:** Sat. 5.30pm

**Vincentia:** Sat 5.00 – 5.30pm

## Mercy Lenten Program 2016

**Ash Wednesday this year is February 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Continuing the tradition from past years, **MERCY** is a **weekly program**, primarily for group use, based on the Sunday Scripture readings during Lent. The Diocese has secured the wisdom of **Fr Ken Barker MGL** (Founder of the Missionaries of God's Love) and **Sr Hilda Scott OSB** (Jamberoo Abbey) to lead us in our Reflections for Lent, in this Year of Mercy.- The booklet is \$6 thro' the Parish. The program is accompanied by a **Triple CD resource** that includes audio narrations of the Scripture readings by Jude Hennessy (**Journey Catholic Radio**) and audio narrations of the reflections by Fr Ken and Sr Hilda. Samples of the special liturgical resources will be available in the coming weeks. (Through the Parish cost @\$10.00)

**It is most appropriate that in this Year of Mercy the Gospel is that of Luke (C Cycle). Chapter 15, (the prodigal son etc), gives Luke's Gospel its unique character and title - the Gospel of Mercy and Compassion.**

## The Baptism of the Lord (Yr C).

10<sup>th</sup> January 2016

**The Year of Mercy: 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** wish to thank parishioners and visitors who contributed to their **Annual Appeal** last weekend of **January 2/3**. The amount received was \$1,545.00. **Also**, sincere thanks from **Vincentia Conference** for donations amounting to approximately \$2,000.



## Christmas Collections:

We are most grateful for the generous response to the Christmas Day Collections from all regions of the Parish. As promised most of our Christmas Day 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection has been disbursed as follows: \$3,500 has been donated to Aged care facilities run by Churches; \$1,000 to the local Cancer Clinic, and \$5,000 to Caritas Australia to assist refugees.

We prayerfully remember the recently deceased: **Lee Wooderson and Pamela Vanzino. Also Anne Moses, Kevin Cliffe, and Bob Wood** whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May they rest in eternal peace.*



## “2016 WITH JESUS”- Year of Mercy.

An invite to a day of retreat at the Benedictine Abbey Jamberoo. Take a personal walk with Jesus through prayer, scripture reflections, a consideration of the Eucharist and silence. Participants may bring along writing materials. Date: Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan, 9am – 3.30pm. Participants are very welcome to stay on for Vespers at 5pm, Cost: \$20. The day will be led by Sr. Hilda. Morning & afternoon tea provided. Please bring your lunch. To book call Petrina, 02 4236 0533 (Mon – Fri, 10am-3pm), [www.benedictineabbey.org.au](http://www.benedictineabbey.org.au).

**Wanted** - a patient, caring lady to visit, chat and occasionally cook for an elderly lady with dementia. Varied hours 1-5 days a week; this is a paid position. If interested ring 0468358688 after 3pm.



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**The Baptism of the Lord (Yr C).**  
**10<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

### **THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – SUMMER EDITION**

This week and right throughout the summer period *The Journey* Catholic Radio program will continue to bring you weekly Gospel reflections, great music and wonderful inputs from the likes of Sr Hilda Scott, Bruce Downs, *The Catholic Guy*, Dr Byron and Francine Pirola, Fr Dave Callaghan MGL, Trish McCarthy, Pete Gilmore, Sam Clear and Marilyn Rodriguez. What a great way to prepare for 2016 and the Year of Mercy. Tune into PULSE 94.1 FM on Sun at 11am or go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au) to get weekly updates sent to you.

### **CALLED TO MINISTRY?**

Have you considered serving your parish as an Acolyte, Adult Altar Server, or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion? The 2016 Diocesan Training courses in these ministries are scheduled for Saturday 13 February, with institution and commissioning ceremonies to be held during May. More info can be found in the Ministry Directory publication available from the parish office, and on the website <http://www.liturgydow.org.au/ministry.html>. You can express your interest in any of these ministries using the form at: <http://www.liturgydow.org.au/expression-of-interest.html>.

### **FEBRUARY 2016 LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING CALENDAR**

- **Acolytes and Adult Altar Servers** 13 Feb 2016, 10am - 4pm Xavier Conference Centre Ingham & Wilson Rooms, 38 Harbour St, Wollongong
- **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** 13 Feb 2016, 10am - 1pm Xavier Conference Centre Ingham & Wilson Rooms, 38 Harbour St, Wollongong
- **Sacramental Preparation Coordinators and Team Members (Special In-Service)** 20 Feb 2016, 10am - 1pm Xavier Conference Centre Ingham & Wilson Rooms, 38 Harbour S, 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 the website for an application form, or contact Paul Mason 4222 2462 or [liturgy@dow.org.au](mailto:liturgy@dow.org.au)