



**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.

"The wise men's star is on a par with the other images St Matthew uses. At the centre of each of the first three chapters of his Gospel there is an extraordinary event. In chapter one Joseph hears the message of an angel in a dream. In chapter two the wise men find Jesus by following a star. And by chapter three the heavens open and God speaks at the baptism of the Lord. By any standards that's quite an opening to a biography! It's all about the manifestation, or epiphany, of God's glory in the world.



The Feast of the Epiphany is not an ancient version of Halley's Comet. It is about how God's glory changes human hearts. And so may this feast change our hearts and enable us to die to self so as to be born to God's glory that can and does shine through us. And may we remember that this epiphany is not meant for us alone, but that we are called to go public with it and demonstrate our belief in today's feast by the way we live, the world we help create, and the one we strive to recreate ". (Fr. Richard Leonard SJ)

### MASS TIMETABLE

#### 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, 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

**Feastday:** Monday January 9<sup>th</sup>

### The Baptism of the Lord.

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."



### The Feast of Santo Nino- Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup> The Filipino Annual Festival Mass –9.00.a.m. at St. Michael's.

Parishioners are encouraged to support this festive celebration. Filipino people have a strong family focus, are a hard working and resilient people with a staunch commitment to their Catholic faith. The estimated population of the Philippines is over 100 million, with an estimated 10 million Filipino people living and working overseas. More than 80% of the population are Catholic; the 3<sup>rd</sup> most Catholic country after Brazil and Mexico – The country has 16 Archdiocese and 56 Dioceses. The Feast of Santo Nino is associated with the Christmas Season. (The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of January) The Feast goes back in origin to 1565.

We prayerfully remember: the recently deceased: **Tony Aulsebrook, Bette Cook** (Bay and Basin), and **Kathleen Perkins**. Also **Matthew Abbott, Lee Wooderson, Allan Mason** and **Kevin Cliffe** whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May they rest in eternal peace.*



### Confession / Reconciliation

Nowra: Sat 9.30am – 10.30.a.m. 5.00 - 5.30pm  
 Culburra: Sat. 5.30pm  
 Vincentia: Sat 5.00 – 5.30pm

### Parish Statistical information for 2016:

## The Epiphany of the Lord (Yr A). 8<sup>th</sup> January 2017

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.

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 2016:

**Baptism:** 123  
**Confirmation:** 64  
**First Holy Communicants:** 120  
**Marriage:** 26  
**Funeral:** 85

**Adults received into the Church via RCIA: Nine**

Congratulations and our prayerful best wishes to Sam and Frances Xuereb who are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary, having been married at St Patrick's, Blacktown on January 7<sup>th</sup> 1967



- Friday Masses at Shoalhaven Heads will resume on Friday February 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Schools reopen on Monday Jan 30<sup>th</sup>
- Ash Wednesday. ..March 1<sup>st</sup>

"Today's Gospel from St Matthew contrasts wisdom and power. The Magi from the east are called wise and they come searching for Jesus in order to offer homage. It takes wisdom to acknowledge the truth of who we are before the mystery of God's ways. In humility they kneel before a child, seeing here a sign of God's presence....." (Fr Brendan Byrne SJ)

