



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER ISSUE #3 MARCH 2018

FOR ST MICHAEL'S PARISH COMPRISING:

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH BERRY
SACRED HEART CHURCH BOMADERRY
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CULBURRA
ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH KANGAROO VALLEY
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH NOWRA
HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH VINCENTIA

ALPHA IS COMING!

Starts Monday 30th April

6:30pm-8:30pm

St Michael's School Hall, Nowra



Alpha is an opportunity to take some time out from busy everyday life and ponder the big questions about life, faith and meaning in a friendly and inclusive environment. Over 27 million people have experienced Alpha worldwide and now it is coming to Nowra!

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of Christian faith. We share a meal, watch a video and have a chat in a relaxed environment. Alpha has been designed for those with little to no experience of the Church, which means that anyone can benefit from Alpha.

St Michael's Nowra will be just one of hundreds of groups running Alpha across Australia when our first 'Alpha night' kicks off after Easter; a time when we are especially reminded of what Jesus did for each and every one of us.

You are invited to come along and try Alpha for yourself, and also please consider who you may want to invite along! You can register for Alpha either on sign up sheets in Church foyers, or you or anyone you know can register or find out more by emailing us at nowra.alpha@gmail.com or call 44231712.

We are very excited for all God has planned for us to share his love and our faith with others in our community this year. Please keep Alpha in your prayers!

YOUTH UPDATE

The Year of Youth has already borne much fruit in our Parish and schools, thanks to the Parish Youth Team and others:

- Mini Vinnies at St Michael's primary school has 55 members signed up this year (up from 10 last year!)
- The first Youth Group for Year 5 to Year 8 was a success. The second is on Palm Sunday, and starting April it will be on the 3rd Sunday of every month



- A Youth Bus is being subsidised by the Diocese to take Year 9 to Year 12 students to join the Wollongong “iStand” Youth Group with the Youth Mission Team, once a month
- St John’s has commissioned 9 students from Year 11 as Youth Ministry Leaders, who applied for the role and are being supported in planning new ways to connect other students with their faith
- Young adults of our Parish aged 18 to 30 have begun gathering monthly, for “Faith Circles” and a meal. Newcomers welcome!

Also, World Youth Day 2019 in Panama is fast approaching: if young adults are interested in attending or would like more info about any of the Parish Youth initiatives that are now happening, please contact the Parish Office.

All parishioners can play a role in “youth ministry” by simply warmly welcoming our youth and young families to Masses and encouraging them for their presence and involvement – and please continue to pray for our youth

PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS

A number of social events have been organized by parishioners throughout the various communities of our Parish during this past year or two. These events have been a great way for parishioners to get to know each other better, as well as drawing people who don’t come to Church to come along and feel welcomed by us.

It would be great to see people from all around the Parish coming along to social events. To help facilitate this the PPC is compiling a Social Calendar listing all social events for the coming 2 to 3 months. See what you can get involved in, and feel free to invite friends along!



PARISH WEBSITE

The PPC’s website working group is making progress towards developing a new website for our Parish, which will make it easier for people outside the Parish – especially young people – to connect with us. In the mean time the current website is regularly updated and current, if you’d like to take a look:

www.nowraparish.org.au



Current Parish Pastoral Council members:

Berry: Barry McAndrew and Roland Tudor

Bomaderry: Carmen Gauci and Gemma Irwin

Culburra Beach: Pep Palucci and Harry Ray

Nowra: Nigel Porter and Bernadette Pullen

Vincentia: Brian McCarron and Alan Burrows

Fr Pat, Fr Leo, Fr Duane, Deacon Peter Presdee, Sr Sue Barker, Melissa Mazzo, Sandra Hogan (Principal St John's High School), Lindy Nelson (Assistant Principal St Michael's Primary School), Frances Fairs (Catechist Coordinator).



“In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach.”
(Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium - The Joy of the Gospel*)

The PPC meets quarterly. The next meeting is scheduled for 17th May.