



St Michael's Parish Nowra

Incorporates the Church communities of St Michael's - Nowra, St Patrick's - Berry, Sacred Heart - Bomaderry
Mary Help of Christians - Culburra, Holy Spirit - Vincentia & St Joseph's - Kangaroo Valley
Telephone: 4423 1712 Email: office@nowraparish.org.au Web: www.nowraparish.org.au

The Feast of The Baptism of the Lord 12th January 2020



Sunday Masses:

Nowra: Vigil 6:00pm, 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: 11:00am

Masses during the Week

Nowra: Mon 7.00am, Tues / Wed / Thurs 8:15am
Fri 7:00 & 11:30am, Sat.: 9.00.a.m.
Berry: Tues - 5:30pm,
Culburra: Thurs - 5:30pm
Vincentia: Mon/Thurs/Fri 8:00am, Tues.,/Wed: 5:30pm
Kangaroo Valley: Tues/Wed/Thurs. 9:00am

Confession / Reconciliation Nowra:

Sat 9:30am - 10:30am & 5:00- 5:30pm
Berry, following the 5.30pm. Mass on Tuesday
Culburra : Sat 5:30pm Vincentia: Sat 5:00 - 5:30pm



We prayerfully remember the recently deceased: **Mary Caruana** (Emu Plains formerly Callala), and **Lesley Jean Reynolds** (Bomaderry); those whose anniversaries occur; **Kevin Cliffe, Bob Wood, Annie Moses Devasia Thekeattathu and Christopher McManus.** At this time we are especially mindful of those who have died as a result of bushfires. May they rest in peace.

We are pleased to welcome Bishop Brian to the parish as he undertakes a pastoral visit of the Shoalhaven in the aftermath of the bushfires. He will celebrate the Vigil Mass at St Michael's, Nowra this Saturday at 6.00pm, and the 10.15.a.m. at Ulladulla on Sunday

Notice of Cancellation - Monthly celebration dedicated to our Lady of Fatima 13 January-Mon-- Penrose Park - due to fire danger.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Whilst we can relate the implication of Jesus being baptised to every baptism, Easter 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.



"The experience he undergoes as he emerges from the water following the baptism gives confirmation and reassurance that this chosen path is indeed what God wants. In fulfilment of the prophecy in Isaiah, God 'endows' him with the Spirit and addresses him as 'Beloved Son, on whom the divine favour rests. As throughout the New Testament (see Rom 5:5; 8:15), the experience of the Spirit is primarily an assurance of God's love. Everything that is now to follow in the ministry of Jesus will derive its origin, its impulse, and its meaning from this sense of deep, familial intimacy with the Father.

Our Christian teaching and belief are that baptism draws us into the familial intimacy with God that is his, so that we too can cry out 'Abba, Father' (Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6).

For this reason it is appropriate to read this particular Gospel at every baptism. Each and every Christian has the right to hear, 'You are my beloved son/my beloved daughter, on whom my favour rests', personally addressed to him or her by God. Would it not make a difference if that was the first thing we allowed ourselves to hear on rising every morning, if we began our day, our work, our ministry with that divine address ringing in our ears - not because we deserve it or have earned it but simply because we know that that is how God looks upon us and loves us in Christ?" (Fr Brendan Byrne SJ)

Some extracts from the Letter by the Australian Bishops: Catholic Church plans national response to bushfire crisis.

".....The bishops are aware of the huge amount being done around the nation, led by governments and first responders. Many local faith communities, including Catholic parishes and organisations, and inter-religious coalitions, are also making a big contribution. While the bishops typically respond to challenges at a parish or diocesan level, the scale of this crisis requires a national response from the whole Church to complement and coordinate what is happening locally.....

Our experts on the ground - from agencies like St Vincent De Paul, and CatholicCare, in parishes and other Catholic communities, including Catholic hospitals and aged care providers - know this will be a long-term process to help people and whole towns rebuild. With broad and deep roots across the nation, the Church stands ready to walk alongside people throughout their journey of recovery.

Parishes across the country will take up a special collection at Masses on the Australia Day weekend, with all funds to be donated to Vinnies' bushfire appeal.

A pilgrimage of prayer supported by Catholic Missions.



The relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux, one of the most popular saints of modern times, will visit Australia this year on a four-month pilgrimage with those of her parents, saints Louis and Zélie Martin who were canonised in 2009. Within the itinerary for the Wollongong Diocese, we are delighted that according to the suggested timetable, St Michael's will be included for the afternoon of Monday March 23rd. In the words of Fr Brian Lucas (Cath. Missions) : " the togetherness of the family is an important feature of the pilgrimage. I think the connection between the relics of St Thérèse and [those] of her parents gives us an opportunity to consider the importance of relationship within the family"

You can access the Bishops' Statement and resources on: <https://catholic.org.au/bushfires>.



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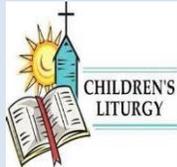
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Parish Playgroup - Monday

mornings (during school term) 9:00am – 10:30am in foyer of St Michael's School Hall. Parents, grandparents and carers all welcome!

Please bring your child's snacks and drinks and a gold coin donation. **Contact Bernadette Pullen 0402136691** or bpullen@outlook.com.au



Children's Liturgy Sundays -

9:30am (during the school term) St Michael's Church - children aged 4 and up gather with our volunteer teachers to receive God's Word in a fun and interactive way.



The Craft Tea Characters wish everyone the blessings of Christmas and look forward to meeting again on January 15th 2020, 9.30 in the Parish Centre. Contact Louise 0438218728 or Karen 0408214031.

Parish Staff

Fr Patrick Faherty: Parish Priest – 4423 1712

Fr Leo Mifsud: Assistant Priest Nowra – 4423 1712

Fr Tiziano Torresan: Vincentia: 4441 5571

Fr Ronan Kilgannon: Kangaroo Valley

Deacon Peter Presdee: Chaplain to Corrective Services

Sisters Beverley Caffery and Sue Barker SGS

Mrs Frances Fairs: Catechist Coordinator 44231712

Mrs Michelle Marshall: Parish Secretary (Fri)

Mrs Melissa Mazzo: Parish Secretary (Mon-Thurs)

Parish Office: 4423 1712

Email: office@nowraparish.org.au