



# 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](mailto:office@nowraparish.org.au) Web: [www.nowraparish.org.au](http://www.nowraparish.org.au)

## 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### 16th August 2020

### For Masses in Nowra, Berry, Bomaderry & Culburra

**When you attend the Saturday Vigil or Sunday Mass you can record your contact details with the Attendance Monitor for the following weekend Mass.**

It is important that if you register and are unable to attend Mass, that you call **0477 427 396** and let us know.

**Registering remains essential for ALL WEEKEND MASSES.**

**To Register for Weekend Masses call 0477 427 396  
Mon to Fri between 10am & 3:00pm**

Mass at **Kangaroo Valley**, please email [ronankangaroo1@gmail.com](mailto:ronankangaroo1@gmail.com)

Mass at **Vincentia**, please call 4441 5723.

\* In compliance with the 1.5m social distancing rule each Church in the parish has a limited seats.

\* Persons with coughs and/or flu like symptoms, are urged not to attend.

\* Social distancing is required when entering and exiting the Church.

**Catechist Level 2 Course** will be modified to run using ZOOM on Friday mornings 9:30am – 11am for four sessions starting Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August. The topics for this course are Jewish Foundations, Morality and Ethics, Christian Foundations and The Creed. Please contact Frances if you are interested in taking part.



**First Reconciliation** a parent and candidate meeting will be held for those in our state schools (including NAC and NCS) on **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August, 4pm – 5pm**, in St Michael's Church. Please register for the meeting via the Parish Office 4423 1712.

We prayerfully remember the recently deceased **Kevin Doyle. Also, John Joseph and Patricia Bourke, Samuel Falzon, Vida McGeachin, Emanuel, Carmen and Tony Abela, Beryl & George Casey**, whose anniversaries occur. We pray for all who have died from Covid-19 in Australia and worldwide. May they rest in peace.



**Caritas Australia** has provided an initial \$50,000 in crucial emergency relief to Lebanon, "reeling from the effects of the explosion in Beirut" on Aug 4. The most urgent needs are food, health and shelter."

### **Diocese of Wollongong Mass Online**

For all the online Mass options- please visit the DoW website <https://dow.sh/dailymass>

**Planned Giving Envelopes** – Are you using Planned Giving envelope **number 312**? If so, would you kindly contact the parish office. Thank you in advance.

**'A very big thank you from SVdP to the St. Michael's year 6 students, their families and teachers for sleeping out in their backyards on a cold winter's night recently. They raised an incredible \$1,500, and filled 6 hampers with warm winter items, quite a few knitted by them. Beautiful!**  
*Another big thank you to the students of St. John's High School and their families and teachers who recently donated 10 boxes of non-perishable food to us. Thank you all so much.'*

### **Confessions / Reconciliation**

**Nowra:** Saturday: 9.30 – 10.30am  
**Berry:** Tuesday following 5.30pm Mass  
**Culburra:** Saturday prior to Vigil Mass at 5.00pm  
**Bomaderry:** following Friday Mass at 5.30pm  
**Vincentia:** Saturday 4pm

**Words from Pope Francis:** "While we work for the cure of a virus that affects everyone without distinction, faith urges us to work seriously and actively to fight indifference in the face of violations of human dignity. We want to recognise the human dignity in every person, whatever his or her race, language or condition might be; this renewed awareness of the dignity of every human being has serious social, economic and political implications".

## Mass Times

### Saturday Vigils

Nowra	5:00pm
Culburra	5:00pm
Vincentia	5:00pm
	6:15pm

### Sunday Mass Times

Nowra	8:00 am	9:30am	5:00 pm
Berry	8:00 am		
Bomaderry	9:30 am		
Vincentia	9:00 am	10:15	
Kangaroo Valley	11:00 am		

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Nowra	8:00 am	8:00 am	8:00 am	8:00 am	8:00 am
			5:30 pm		11:30 am
Berry		5:30 pm			
Culburra				5:30 pm	
Bomaderry					5:30 pm
Vincentia	8:00 am	5:30 pm	5:30 pm	8:00am	8:00 am
Kangaroo Valley		9:00 am	9:00 am	9:00 am	



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## First Reading - from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

## Responsorial Psalm

(R.) O God let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us  
and let your face shed its light upon us.  
So will your ways be known upon earth  
and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)
2. Let the nations be glad and exult  
for you rule the world with justice.  
With fairness you rule the peoples,  
you guide the nations on earth. (R.)
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
May God still give us his blessing  
till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

## Second Reading - St Paul to the Romans

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

**Gospel - according to Matthew: 15.21-28.**  
**(Jesus is not only Messiah for the Jews but also the One in whose 'name the Gentiles will place their hope'- all nations.)**

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said, 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said, 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman,



you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

## Gospel Reflection – Greg Sunter

This week's Gospel provides a fascinating illustration of Jesus' response to those in need. Jesus has travelled to the area of Tyre and Sidon – part of modern-day Lebanon. He was physically removing himself from the place of his very active ministry and taking a break. When the Canaanite woman approaches Jesus and his disciples, she is an interruption, a nuisance. Jesus is very abrupt with her. He tells her simply that his ministry is to the house of Israel – the Jews – and is not for her. But the woman is persistent and again asks Jesus to help her. Jesus is even more abrupt and tells her that it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs. Through this use of metaphor, Jesus refers to the children of Israel (the Jews) and to the gentiles and pagans – sometimes referred to as 'dogs' to reflect their lowly status in the eyes of the Jewish tradition. Still the woman persists and turns Jesus' metaphor back on him, saying that even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table.

The woman's persistence and faith pay off. Jesus is moved by her faith and through that faith heals the woman's daughter. Despite his initial abruptness and reluctance, Jesus responds with compassion to the woman's request. It is as though she needed to demonstrate that she was serious and that she did in fact believe that Jesus could make a difference in her life and the life of her daughter. This is an important story in Matthew's Gospel. This Gospel was written predominantly for Jewish Christians, but this story reveals that the ministry of Jesus and the reign of God is open to anyone who believes.

## Feast Days:

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> – St Bernard

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> – St Pius X, pope