

Biodiversity restoration is also crucially important in the context of unprecedented loss of species and degradation of ecosystems. We need to support the U.N. call to safeguard 30% of the earth as protected habitats by 2030 in order to stem the alarming rate of biodiversity loss.

We must restore with justice in mind, ensuring that those who have lived on the land for generations can regain control over its usage. Indigenous communities must be protected from companies, particularly multinational companies, that “operate in less developed countries in ways they could never do at home” (LS, 51), through the destructive extraction of fossil fuels, minerals, timber and agro-industrial products. This corporate misconduct is a “new version of colonialism” (SAINT JOHN PAUL II, Address to the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, 27 April 2001, cited in Querida Amazonia, 14), one that shamefully exploits poorer countries and communities desperately seeking economic development.

5. A Time to Rejoice

In the biblical tradition, a Jubilee was a joyous occasion, inaugurated by a trumpet blast resounding throughout the land. We are aware that the cries of the earth and of the poor have become even louder and more painful in recent years. At the same time, we also witness how the Holy Spirit is inspiring individuals and communities around the world to come together to rebuild our common home and defend the most vulnerable in our midst. We see the gradual emergence of a great mobilization of people from below and from the peripheries who are generously working for the protection of the land and of the poor. We rejoice to see how young people and communities, particularly indigenous communities, are on the frontlines in responding to the ecological crisis. They are calling for a Jubilee for the earth and a new beginning, aware that “things can change” (LS, 13)....

We rejoice too that faith communities are coming together to create a more just, peaceful and sustainable world. We are particularly happy that the Season of Creation is becoming a truly ecumenical initiative. Let us continue to grow in the awareness that we all live in a common home as members of a single family.....

“Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth” (cf. Ps 104:30).

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 1 September 2020

+ FRANCISCUS

Saturday Vigils		Sunday Mass Times			
Nowra	5:00pm	Nowra	8:00 am	9:30am	5:00 pm
Culburra	5:00pm	Berry	8:00 am		
Vincentia	5:00pm 6:15pm	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
Berry		5:30 pm	5:30 pm		11:30 am
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	

To Register for weekend Masses in *Nowra, Culburra, Berry and Bomaderry*

please call 0477 427 396 (Mon to Fri between 10:00am & 3:00pm)

To register for Mass at *Kangaroo Valley*, please email ronankangaroo1@gmail.com

To register for Mass at *Vincentia*, please call 0435 862 156 or email holyspiritvincentia@gmail.com

***** IF YOU HAVE REGISTERED FOR MASS AND ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE CALL TO CANCEL YOUR BOOKING.*****

Confessions / Reconciliation

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



We prayerfully remember the recently deceased **Greg Watts (from Pyree, a lifelong and faithful parishioner)** and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially **Gloria Sheehy and Annie Kelton**. We pray also for all who have died from Covid-19 in Australia and worldwide. May they rest in peace.



St. Michael's Parish, Nowra

Incorporating the Catholic Communities of St Michael's, Nowra - St Patrick's, Berry - Sacred Heart, Bomaderry - Help of Christians, Culburra - St Joseph's, Kangaroo Valley - Holy Spirit, Vincentia

FB page: www.facebook.com/pg/stmichaelsparishnowra

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25th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

20th September 2020

Season of Creation

SELECTED PASSAGES FROM

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS

POPE FRANCIS

FOR THE

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

1 SEPTEMBER 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Each year, particularly since the publication of the Encyclical *Laudato Si'* (LS, 24 May 2015), the first day of September is celebrated by the Christian family as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and the beginning of the Season of Creation, which concludes on the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi on the fourth of October. During this period, Christians worldwide renew their faith in the God of creation and join in prayer and work for the care of our common home.

I am very pleased that the theme chosen by the ecumenical family for the celebration of the 2020 Season of Creation is *Jubilee for the Earth*, precisely in this year that marks the fiftieth anniversary of Earth Day. In the Holy Scriptures, a Jubilee is a sacred time to remember, return, rest, restore, and rejoice.

1. A Time to Remember

We are invited to remember above all that creation's ultimate destiny is to enter into God's eternal Sabbath.

A Jubilee is indeed a time of grace to remember creation's original vocation to exist and flourish as a community of love.

..... We need constantly to remember that “everything is interconnected, and that genuine care for our own lives and our relationships with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others” (LS, 70).

2. A Time to Return

A Jubilee is a time to turn back in repentance. We have broken the bonds of our relationship with the Creator, with our fellow human beings, and with the rest of creation. We need to heal the damaged relationships that are essential to supporting us and the entire fabric of life.....

The Jubilee season calls us to think once again of our fellow human beings, especially the poor and the most vulnerable.

..... A Jubilee is a time for setting free the oppressed and all those shackled in the fetters of various forms of modern slavery, including trafficking in persons and child labour.

..... Today we hear the voice of creation admonishing us to return to our rightful place in the natural created order – to remember that we are part of this interconnected web of life, not its masters. The disintegration of biodiversity, spiralling climate disasters, and unjust impact of the current pandemic on the poor and vulnerable: all these are a wakeup call in the face of our rampant greed and consumption.....

3. A Time to Rest

In his wisdom, God set aside the Sabbath so that the land and its inhabitants could rest and be renewed.

During the Jubilee, God's people were invited to rest from their usual labour and to let the land heal and the earth repair itself, as individuals consumed less than usual. Today we need to find just and sustainable ways of living that can give the Earth the rest it requires, ways that satisfy everyone with a sufficiency, without destroying the ecosystems that sustain us.

In some ways, the current pandemic has led us to rediscover simpler and sustainable lifestyles. The crisis, in a sense, has given us a chance to develop new ways of living. We must examine our habits of energy usage, consumption, transportation, and diet. We must eliminate the superfluous and destructive aspects of our economies, and nurture life-giving ways to trade, produce, and transport goods.

4. A Time to Restore

A Jubilee is a time to restore the original harmony of creation and to heal strained human relationships.

It invites us to re-establish equitable societal relationships, restoring their freedom and goods to all and forgiving one another's debts. We should not forget the historic exploitation of the global South that has created an enormous ecological debt, due mainly to resource plundering and excessive use of common environmental space for waste disposal. It is a time for restorative justice.

We also need to restore the land. Climate restoration is of utmost importance, since we are in the midst of a climate emergency. We are running out of time, as our children and young people have reminded us. We need to do everything in our capacity to limit global average temperature rise under the threshold of 1.5°C enshrined in the Paris Climate Agreement, for going beyond that will prove catastrophic, especially for poor communities around the world.

Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

First Reading Is 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. **(R.)**
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

Second Reading Phil 1:20-24. 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

See Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

Communion Antiphon Ps 118:4-5

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Congratulations to the children in Year 2 at St Michael's Catholic Primary School, who recently received the Sacrament of Reconciliation!



This Saturday, eleven children of our parish will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in St Michael's church.

Please pray for Bridget Gonzaga, Connor & Lachlan Krizman, Corey Gorton, Jared & Justin Harwood, Liam O'Hearn, Oliver Atfield, Thomas Webber, Julian Stack and William Turley who will receive the Sacrament on Saturday.

Also pray for the following children of our parish, receiving the Sacrament of First Reconciliation at the Holy Spirit church on Tuesday 22nd September: Joshua Evans, Lola Gjerci, Chloe Valenzuela and Emelia-May Wells.

All the children and parents should be proud of their excellent preparation and commitment to this wonderful Sacrament of Healing.

Thank you to the dedicated catechists and teachers who have instructed these children.



DIOCESAN CLERGY CARE IN ACTION 2020

Caring for those who have cared for us— support the retirement and health of our clergy

It is the responsibility of our diocese to fund the support and care for the retirement and health of our diocesan clergy who have dedicated their lives in service of the Church. Each year, this support is partly funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

It has been a turbulent year and our parishes have responded to the important need of staying connected with their communities in new and exciting ways through the provision of online Masses, digital faith resources and greater connection via social media platforms. Accordingly, this year, the Bishop's Annual Appeal will also support local parish ministries.



Accommodation for 14 retired clergy: 11 live on their own
2 in retirement villages
1 in aged care facilities



13 retired clergy receive domestic assistance.



Clergy Care Coordinator, Sue Daniels assists 4+ diocesan clergy with **Health care coordination - Holistic health & wellbeing support and education - Transport assistance – Short-term health care crisis advocacy - Long-term aging support**



Priests never retire from their calling:

10 retired priests provide sacramental ministry in parishes when the parish priest is on leave or unwell.
3 retired priests celebrate the sacraments for the residents in their retirement/ aged care facilities



4 additional clergy will retire in the next 5 years

LOCAL PARISH MINISTRIES



Staying connected in 2020

Online Masses - digital faith resources - social media connection

Your donate will

Support for the retirement and health of our clergy, Support for local parish ministries OR Split 50/50

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO DONATE, VISIT DOW.ORG.AU/GIVING