

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.



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Bookings for Weekend Masses, please see notice inside bulletin

Feast of All Saints

1st November 2020



CELEBRATING LIFE INSIDE THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS – Ron Rolheiser OMI

Recently I led a memorial service for a friend who had died four years ago. Everyone who came to this service had also been at his funeral. Why another memorial service four years later? This is the background:

My friend had been diagnosed with a particularly aggressive type of cancer and was told by his doctors that his only chance for survival was to undergo a bone-marrow transplant which given his age, mid-fifties, was a high risk. His chances, the doctors told him, were one in three. But that was his only real option.

The day before he went into the hospital to begin the transplant procedure he gathered a number of family and friends around him to say goodbye, should this indeed be the end. We gathered at noon, had a simple lunch, took a short walk with him, huddled together while he took a needed siesta to gather his strength, and then took him to a chapel where we celebrated the Eucharist and gave him the anointing of the sick. We then went to his favourite restaurant for a long supper, a “last supper”, at which he ate all his favourite foods and was able to express his gratitude and love for us and we were able to do the same for him. It was a great evening, and we used every ritual we knew, earthly and sacramental, to try to make this farewell special.

The doctors were accurate in their predictions. He didn't make it. He died in recovery and so our supper with him was indeed a “last supper”.

We had a large funeral for him, laid him to rest according to his wishes in an unmarked grave in small rural cemetery within which there were only one or two other graves, and we all went home.

In the years that followed we prayed daily for him and then, after four years, some of us who had been at that original farewell decided to come together again in the same chapel and the same restaurant. But to do what? Why repeat a farewell we had already done? Why were we doing this?

Because basically all of us, either at some inchoate place in our hearts or at some more explicit place in our faith, believe in the communion of saints, namely, that our loved ones who have died are still in relationship to us and that this relationship continues to change and grow even after we are separated by death. And, given the truth of that, we realized too that, at a time, a further kind of letting go was being asked of us. What is meant by this?

In the late 1970s, a Virginian writer, Sheldon Vanauken, wrote a book entitled, *A Severe Mercy*. It tells the story of love, of death, and of relating beyond death. As a young man still in his early twenties, he was blessed to find his soul mate, a woman he affectionately calls Davey. Their love almost overpowered them in its singularity and yet, through it, they found God – and they also found C.S. Lewis (who became their spiritual director and mentor). But their earthly love was to be short-lived. Still in her mid-twenties, Davey was stricken with cancer and died. Vanauken was disconsolate, beyond grief, in a darkness that had him contemplating suicide. Fortunately, he had C.S. Lewis as a spiritual guide.

After his wife's death, he had her body cremated and kept the ashes. As well, he carried her wedding ring in his pocket. One night, a couple of years after her death, he was on a ship crossing the Atlantic and he went outside at night, alone with her ashes and her wedding ring, to pray. In his prayer he got a clear signal from her that essentially said: “It's time for something new. Scatter the ashes lovingly into the ocean. Drop the wedding ring into the sea. Let go of the grief you are carrying! We will be together again in the future, but for now, on this earth, it's time to move on.”

In essence, that's the reason we gathered again in memorial for our friend. After four years, we were hearing him say (however we hear these things in our hearts) that it was time to further scatter his ashes, to drop the wedding ring in the ocean, to let go in a further way so that the mystery of a deeper love can continue to grow.

And it was a wonderful, joy-filled evening. We prayed, shared stories, drank wine, but mostly just laughed in gratitude because our lives had been so gifted by this man, William Manfield, whose warmth, love, humor, empathy, faith, and love for the Eucharist, helped make our own lives more bearable, more understandable, more joyous, more faith-filled, and more complete. He wasn't always Mother Theresa, he had some foibles she didn't, but, like her, he's now a saint and a saint with whom we got to celebrate the “last supper”.



Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches in Australia day of prayer for reconciliation and greater understanding. On 4th November, Anglicans and Roman Catholics are encouraged to pray either individually, as communities or small groups, for greater mutual understanding and reconciliation.

Request for Saints Relics

Rosemeadow Parish has established a "Shrine of the Saints" in the Parish church. The basis of this was the donation by the Carmelite Sisters of 50 relics of Saints dating back to the first centuries of the Church. It is hoped that once our churches are able to be fully opened again, the shrine will be open for visitors to come and pray in quiet and solitude with the Saints whose lives sustain us still from Heaven. If anyone has a First-Class Relic (from the bone) of any Saint and would like to offer it to be permanently included in this Shrine, please contact Father Sarkis on (02) 4628 1385.

Not only would the relic be available for prayer and devotion for everyone, but it would ensure its proper safeguard and dignity in a reverent and beautiful setting.

catholiccare We're always here, if you ever need...

These are challenging times for everyone and CatholicCare are here to support you and your family to navigate the uncertainty. We offer confidential online and phone counselling to support you with the frustration of managing family emotions, relationship pressures and employment changes. To find out more about CatholicCare's counselling service call us on 4254 9395 or email intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au

Web: <http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au/>

The 11TH ANNUAL *i*Witness Conference Awake, O Sleeper 10th – 13th December 2020

The tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops

*i*Witness is an annual, summer conference drawing together 100s of young (18-35 year old) Aussie Catholics for a summer weekend of prayer, formation and fun. For more information please check website

<https://www.iwitnessconference.com/>

Livestream Holy Hour

Join the NET Team for online Holy Hour! Every Wednesday from 6:30pm on Instagram @wollongongnetteam or Facebook @CYMDOW (Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong). Witness adoration and join in for praise and worship and hear the Gospel as well as a reflection written by one of our team members!



Used Stamps – As mentioned in the parish bulletin of 4th October, the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart are requesting stamps to finance their ongoing charity work in a number of countries. A package of used stamps will be forwarded to the Sisters in a few weeks time. If you have a few used stamps or even an album full and would like them included in the package, please contact Peter Stephens, 4423 4942 by 15th November.

CCD Faith Education Officer – Catholic Diocese of Wollongong

Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for the role of CCD Faith Education Officer in the Diocese of Wollongong, to commence in December 2020. The successful candidate will work as part of a team, based in Campbelltown and across the Diocese, primarily in the area of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD), to support the Bishop, Diocesan Director, Clergy and parishes to provide Catholic Special Religious Education (SRE) in government schools. Further, the successful candidate will, as required, assist with the implementation of programs to support renewal and evangelisation in parishes. **Applications close on Friday 13 November.**

For more information and a detailed role description, please go to www.dow.sh/ccdjob or contact helen.bennett@dow.org.au

Registering for weekend Masses:

For Nowra, Culburra, Berry and Bomaderry - call **0477 427 396** (Mon to Fri between 10am & 3pm)

For Mass at Kangaroo Valley, please email ronankangaroo1@gmail.com

For Mass at Vincentia - call **0435 862 156** or email holyspiritvincentia@gmail.com

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

Confessions / Reconciliation

Nowra: Saturday: 9.30 – 10.30am

Culburra: Saturday prior to Vigil Mass at 5.00pm

Vincentia: Saturday 4pm

Berry: Tuesday following 5.30pm Mass

Bomaderry: Friday following 5.30pm Mass

Mass Times		Sunday Mass Times									
Saturday Vigils		Nowra	8:00 am	9:30am	5:00 pm	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
Nowra	5:00pm	Berry	8:00 am			Nowra	8:00 am	8:00 am	8:00 am	8:00 am	
Culburra	5:00pm	Bomaderry	9:30 am			Berry	5:30 pm				
Vincentia	5:00pm 6:15pm	Vincentia	9:00 am	10:15		Culburra			5:30 pm		
		Kangaroo Valley	11:00 am			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		

Children's Liturgy Worksheets can be downloaded from the parish website -

<http://nowraparish.org.au/other-resources>

All Souls Day – Monday 2nd November

Mass Times: Nowra: 8:00am, **11:00am and 5:30pm

Kangaroo Valley: 11am &

Vincentia: 8:00am and 5:30pm

**The 11:00am Mass at Nowra will be a Special Remembrance Mass for the recently deceased.

November – A month when we remember our deceased loved-ones.

These envelopes are available in the porches of all our churches or can be picked up from the Parish Office.

When you have written the names of your deceased family or friends on the outside of the envelopes, place your offering inside the envelopes and return to the collection boxes in the church in the “First Collection” side, or hand in to the office or one of the priests. The Masses will be said throughout the month of November.



We prayerfully remember the recently deceased **Tulio Valdes & Rosina Fulginiti**, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially **Jack Kitiley, Annamma Devasia, Margaret Mathie, Otto Miller, Wilfredo Petilla** and **George Sullivan**. We pray also for all who have died from Covid-19 in Australia and worldwide. May they rest in peace.



First Friday Rosary – join other parishioners, in prayer on **Friday 6th November**. Sacred Heart, Bomaderry. Rosary will start at **5:00pm** prior to Mass (5:30pm)

UPDATE ON COVID RESTRICTIONS

Although the NSW Government has eased restrictions on the number of people for religious gatherings and places of worship (excluding weddings and funerals), allowing up to 300 people... the **social distancing** rules still apply.

HOWEVER: Due to the size of all the Churches in the parish, the maximum number of people we can accommodate does **NOT change**. Parishioners are reminded to register for ALL weekend Masses. You are respectfully asked to sit observing the distancing rules of 1.5² m.

If you are asked to move seats, by the attendance monitor, **Please be mindful**, we are all following the same rules and we thank you for your patience and understanding.

Entrance Antiphon

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints, at whose festival the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse - Rv 7:2-4. 9-14

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel. After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.' One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my Lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23:1-6. R. see v.6

Response: Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. (R.)

A reading from the first letter of St John - 1 Jn 3:1-3

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord. Alleluia!



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Communion Antiphon Cf. Ps 19:6

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.