

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.



Facebook: www.facebook.com/pg/stmichaelsparishnowra

Web page: www.nowraparish.org.au

Email: office@nowraparish.org.au

Office Telephone: 4423 1712

Bookings for Weekend Masses, please see notice inside bulletin

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8th November 2020

HELPING EACH OTHER INTO HEAVEN – Ron Rolheiser OMI

“To really love someone is to say to that person, you at least will not die!”

Gabriel Marcel wrote those words and they speak of more than simple romance. Inside the human family, especially inside the Body of Christ, to love someone is to help him or her enter eternal life. What we bind on earth, Jesus assured us, is also bound in heaven, just as what we loose on earth is also loosed in heaven.

What’s meant by this?

For Christians, in the Incarnation, God takes on concrete flesh, a body here on earth. We call this the Body of Christ and it’s enfleshed in Jesus, the historical God-man who walked on earth for thirty-three years; in the Eucharist, which we hold to be the Body of Christ; and in the community of believers, the church. Each of these is the body of Christ.

Thus to receive the Eucharist or to touch the community of believers is to be touched by Christ, just as surely as if we had been touched by Jesus himself. And that touch is what heals us, forgives us, and links us to the community of salvation.

If this is true, and it is, then it is also true that when we love each other here on earth, we also hold each other in grace and bind each other to the community of salvation. Simply put, if we are inside the community of grace and we love someone, our love for that person is the cord of grace and forgiveness that helps connect him or her to salvation. As long as that person is connected to us in love he or she will never be outside the community of salvation. Put crassly, if we are inside the community of grace and we love someone, unless that person positively rejects our love he or she cannot go to hell. When we love someone we do say: “You at least will not die!”

Partly this is mystery, though partly it can be understood inside our ordinary categories of love and relationships.

Karl Rahner once explained it this way: Our love for each other does not just give us friendship and companionship here on earth, important though these are. It does something else too for us. It links us to love in such a way that when we stand before God and make our choice, a fundamental choice for all eternity, we stand there already connected in love to a community of grace and therefore much more prone to choose love and God.

Here’s how he puts it:

“As regards to our salvation, we remain dependent on other human beings. This is perfectly obvious, and yet still very difficult to grasp. One might think we are important only for life here and now, or for external things, or at most as regards to the earthly life of the mind. One might think: when it comes to how God stands to me and I stand to God, when we are dealing with the final decision about eternity, when we are dealing with how I ultimately come through when I am completely isolated before the face of God by the remorseless loneliness of my death, then for this question I am one who is completely on my own, left to myself. Then there will remain only God-alone and me; God’s heart, God’s mercy, and my individual freedom of a guilt and a grace that are unavoidably my own.

And yet it is not like this. Everything said above is true, but it is not the whole truth. The whole truth is this: even then we are still part of each other. All persons have their own, inalienable, once-and-for-all freedom, from which they cannot run away, and which they cannot unload onto anyone else. But yet this does not mean that this freedom is an isolated freedom, not even when it is deciding the eternal fate of a human being, or when it is finally shaping a person’s being forever. ...

In nature and in grace, therefore, existence is a reality in common. This works itself out in a shared reality of sin and guilt, a shared reality of God’s mercy and God’s grace, a shared reality of origin and goal. But guilt and grace, beginnings and ends, are matters for God. And therefore this human reality in common extends into the sphere of human salvation before God. Human beings are in a communion of salvation and its opposite.”

A priest-friend of mine recently shared with me how he feels loved in certain friendships. He told me: “If I died today, what would be clearest on my mind as I say good-bye to this life is that I’d leave knowing for certain I’m loved!” Given this wonderful grace, how could he possibly choose against love after his death?

The love we experience from each other on this earth will, no doubt, greatly sway our choice when we stand alone before God and have to choose between love and its opposite for all eternity.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 11th NOVEMBER – LEST WE FORGET



On 11 November 1918, the guns of the Western Front fell silent after four years of continuous warfare. With their armies retreating and close to collapse, German leaders signed an Armistice, bringing to an end the First World War.

In the four years of the war more than 330,000 Australians served overseas, and more than 60,000 did not come home. On Remembrance Day we remember the sacrifice of the young men and women, who fought for peace and freedom and pause to honour all in prayer.

Lord, You sent Your Son to lead us into the peace of Your Kingdom. Look with kindness on all who have served the cause of peace in our armed forces. Send Your comfort and healing to their families, and to all who suffer due to war and conflict. May Your Son's Gospel message of peace burn ever more brightly in our hearts, our words and our actions, and lead all to fullness of life in You. We make this prayer to you through this same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A lovely gold brooch was found in the Church, following the Remembrance Mass on Monday 2nd November. If the brooch belongs to you, please call the Parish Office – 4423 1712.

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.

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.

CALLING ALL BUSINESS PEOPLE & FRIENDS

Catholic Business Connections (CBC) provides an opportunity for business women and men in our diocese (active and retired) who share common values, to network and engage over lunch with each other and leaders representing the diocese. The luncheon will be held on Thursday 19 November at City Beach Function Room, 1 Marine Drive Wollongong (11.45am-2pm). Bishop Brian invites you to attend what promises to be an enjoyable lunch at one of Wollongong's most picturesque venues. Our guest speaker is Vince Sorrenti, one of Australia's most loved and leading comic entertainers.

Vince's topic is "2020. Who knew?"

Tickets for non-members are \$132 (incl. GST). To attend visit dow.sh/CBCNov20 RSVP for November luncheon is Thursday 12 November. Covid-19 Safety Plans apply. For more information on CBC visit www.cbc.dow.org.au or contact Debbie Gates, Diocesan Director of Development and Community Engagement (02) 4222 2446.



Annual Collection for the Holy Land

The annual Holy Land Collection will be held in the Diocese as an online collection on 15 November 2020 (World Day of the Poor).

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***

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

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

We prayerfully remember the recently deceased **Philomena Weir (Phyl) & Barry Reynolds**, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially **Jack & Jane Fleming, Terry & Peter Loadman, Frank Court**. We pray also for all who have died from Covid-19 in Australia and worldwide. May they rest in peace.



Please keep in your prayers our three Candidates for Reception into the Church and completion of Sacraments of initiation: Cameron Lennie, Michael Hardy and Sarah Sansom, (Sarah has been waiting patiently since Easter when all our liturgies were cancelled!)

They will be welcomed into the Catholic faith at 5:00 pm Mass on Sunday 15th November.

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

<http://nowraparish.org.au/faithresources>

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.

THEREFORE/ 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 Cf. Ps 87:3

Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom - Wis 6:12-16

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2

Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary.
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)

3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)

4. On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. (R)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 1 Thes 4:13-18

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready: you know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew



Jesus told this parable to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, ‘The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.’ At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, ‘Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out.’ But they replied, ‘There may not be enough for us and for

you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves.’ They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us.’ But he replied, ‘I tell you solemnly, I do not know you.’ So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.’

Communion Antiphon Cf. Ps 22:1-2

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.