

# 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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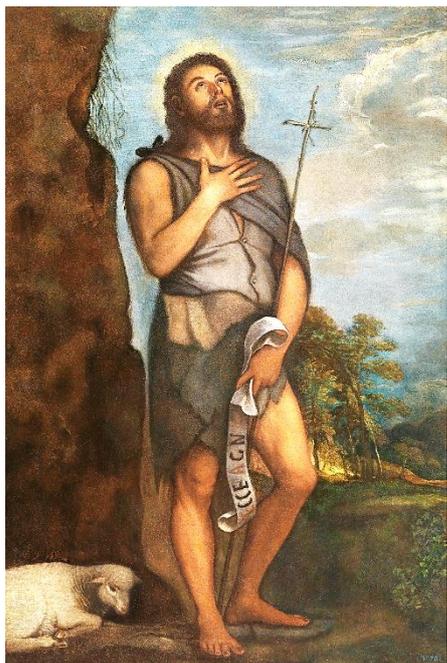
*Bookings for Weekend Masses, please see notice inside bulletin*

*Third Sunday of Advent*

*REJOICE*

*13th December 2020*

## *A Voice that cries in the Wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord.*



**John identified himself as a voice** -He prepared people to encounter God Himself. When he spoke, decisive shifts took place in people's lives and they turned toward righteousness.

**John lived in simplicity** -He lived in isolation and was consumed with His message and the one who had sent him.

**John was a faithful witness** -He was faithful to the word of the Lord regardless of cost (John 3:7-18, 29).

**John was established in His identity before God** -He did not look to other men for his identity or for approval. He looked to God.

**John was a man of prayer and devotion** -As he grew up he became strong in spirit in the desert (Luke 1:80). He had a deep life with God.

**John was a consecrated vessel** -He was set apart as a Nazarite to minister to God all his days. He did not drink wine or strong drink (Luke 1:15). He practiced fasting regularly.

In these days God is looking for those who can be His voice in the wilderness. Like John the Baptist, He is looking for those who will prepare for His Second Coming.

*Are you a voice for God? Are you that consecrated vessel God can use in this critical day?*

### *Preparing for Christmas with the Second Rite of Reconciliation.*

*Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December @ 7:00pm*

In celebrating the Second Rite of Reconciliation we have the opportunity to come together to support one another in repentant prayer.

Just as in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at Mass, we experience Christ present among us, so too, when we celebrate Reconciliation as a Community we experience, more fully, the forgiveness of Christ through the community.

Reconciliation (or Confession) has never been a matter of just 'me & God'. That has never been the full Catholic Teaching. When the priest prays the prayer of absolution, he always proclaims forgiveness "... **through the ministry of the Church** ..." The priest prays as the representative of God AND as a representative of the people of God

This means two things: Firstly; In Reconciliation we are forgiven by God AND the Community. And equally as important; When we come together to celebrate Reconciliation WE are expressing our willingness to forgive others.

In this way all those who participate in the sacrament are, at once sinners and ministers (by praying from those whom God is asking us to forgive through the Sacramental Priest.

And why change the name of the sacrament from 'Confession' to 'Reconciliation'?

Because the actual confession is only one aspect of the Sacrament which reconciles us to God and the Church.

## Christmas Masses

### Christmas Vigil ...Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>

<b>Nowra</b>	5:30pm - Outdoor Mass (b.y.o. seat) 8:00pm 9:30pm	}	TO REGISTER RING: <b>0477 427 396.</b>
<b>Berry</b>	7:00pm - Outdoor Mass (b.y.o. seat)		
<b>Bomaderry</b>	5:30pm		
<b>Culburra</b>	6:00pm 7:30pm		

**Kangaroo Valley** 8:00pm --- TO REGISTER EMAIL: [ronankangaroo1@gmail.com](mailto:ronankangaroo1@gmail.com)

**Vincentia** 5:30pm }  
7:00pm } TO REGISTER EMAIL: [holyspiritvincentia@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritvincentia@gmail.com)  
8:30pm }

### Christmas Day ...Friday 25<sup>th</sup>

<b>Nowra</b>	8:00am 9:30am	}	TO REGISTER RING: <b>0477 427 396.</b>
<b>Berry</b>	8:00am		
<b>Bomaderry</b>	9:30am		
<b>Culburra</b>	8:00am		

**Kangaroo Valley** 10:00am --- TO REGISTER EMAIL: [ronankangaroo1@gmail.com](mailto:ronankangaroo1@gmail.com)

**Vincentia** 8:00am } TO REGISTER EMAIL: [holyspiritvincentia@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritvincentia@gmail.com)  
9:30am }

## How the registrations are going for each of the Vigils Masses

<b>Nowra</b>	5:30pm: <b>142</b> registered/ Max. <b>500</b>	<b>Berry</b>	7:00pm: <b>37</b> registered/ Max <b>500</b>
	8:00pm <b>33</b> registered / Max. <b>180</b>		
	9:30pm <b>23</b> registered/ Max. <b>180</b>		
<b>Bomaderry</b>	5:30pm <b>36</b> registered/ Max. <b>86</b>		
<b>Culburra</b>	6:00pm <b>70</b> registered/ Max. <b>104</b>		7:30pm <b>12</b> registered/ Max. <b>104</b>

**Vincentia** Full - call **0435 862 156** or email for details

**Kangaroo Valley** Email for details

Christmas day Masses – Places available

## HELP REQUIRED TO ASSIST AS:

- Mass Monitors
- Greeters and Ushers
- Cleaners / sanitize seats

If you can help with any of these duties, please call the parish office. The parish will provide training and give you all the support you need. It won't involve a great deal of your time, but your help will be gratefully received.

*Advent is a journey toward Bethlehem*

*May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of*

*God made man.*

*Pope Francis*



## Registering for the Christmas Masses

Over the last few weeks parishioners attending Mass have had the opportunity to pre-register for their preferred Christmas Mass.

From Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December parishioners and visitors can register for the remaining seats at Christmas Masses by phone. (or email, in the case of Vincentia and Kangaroo Valley)

So far, the numbers are quite manageable:

PLEASE CHECK BELOW FOR DETAILS OF NUMBERS AT EACH MASS SO FAR

In line with Government changes, the parish has been asked to include contactless check-in system, via a QR code. They look like this and you will see several displayed around the churches.

- For those who have smart phones/tablets you will be instructed (helped) to scan the QR code
- Once you scan the QR code, you will fill in the details required. **PLEASE NOTE** - only one registration is required per family, as the registration form will ask for the number of people No need to individually check in each member of your family.
- Masses will have 3 check-in stations
  1. Pre-registrations
  2. QR self-check in &
  3. QR check-in assistance required.Greeters will help you to the correct station.
- Upon completion of your registration, your mobile/tablet will display a receipt which you will show to the Attendance Monitor (leave your phone open).
- We are expecting large numbers at the 5:30pm Nowra Vigil and 7:00pm Berry Vigil (max. capacity 500) so we ask you to arrive in plenty of time for 'check in'

During this busy and every changing time, we ask for your patience and understanding. Families/couples may sit together, however please be socially distant from other families/members of the congregation.

If the Christmas Mass you wish to attend is at capacity, consider going to another Mass or attending one of the outdoor Vigils.

### *Employment Opportunity – Disability Support Worker Kangaroo Valley*

Southern Cross is seeking motivated, caring and committed individual as Disability Support Worker to deliver care and support to an elderly female who has a spinal cord injury and is also ventilator dependent who will be living in her own home.

This support will enable the person with a disability to remain living in their home whilst receiving assistance for all of their everyday living tasks and achieving their person centred and therapy goals. Hospital based training at Royal North Shore is provided. (travel kms will be paid)

For more details and to apply for the position -

<https://work.scch.com.au/Home/JobOpeningDetails?jobOpeningId=1766>

**The LMC Soup Kitchen** would like to sincerely thank all our generous **benefactors** and **volunteers**.

We encourage you to join us in our thanks to God for His providence.

**Mass**, followed by **Morning tea**, will be offered for your intentions on:

**Monday\*\* 14th December** 8:00am.

With special thanks to **IGA, Nowra Village Hotbake, Bakehouse Delights East Nowra** and **Nowra Fresh Meats**,

**The LMC Soup Kitchen - Christmas Party** will be held on **Friday 18th December**.

We hope to see you there Shannon Chittick and Sue Hill. including

## Entrance Antiphon **Phil 4:4-5**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

## A reading from the prophet Isaiah **Is 61:1-2. 10-11**

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

## Responsorial Psalm **Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10**

### (R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him. (R.)
3. He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy. (R.)

## A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians **1 Thes 5:16-24**

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

## Gospel Acclamation **Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

## Gospel **Jn 1:6-8. 19-28**

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

## Communion Antiphon **Cf. Is 35:4**

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



We prayerfully remember the recently deceased **Timothy Curley** and **Caeli Glennon** (Sydney) and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time, **Ted (Teddy) Weir**, **Marie Bolard** (Jim Reid's sister) and **Mark Broomhead**. We pray also for all who have died from Covid-19 in Australia and worldwide.