

"Carrying the World Youth Day Cross and Icon is not about ceremony or religion - it's the declaration of a friendship - it's a statement of God's love for every person and His invitation to friendship with Him."
(Bishop Peter Ingham)

We need volunteers
to help in dozens of areas (catering, music, parking, marshalls, decorations, disability support...)

The Cross & Icon are accompanied by both the National JCI team and our Diocesan team, plus a film crew. Bishop Peter Ingham will also be present as a pilgrim for all events. We have organised already places for them to stay and most of their meals!

More than anything, we need your prayer support that many, many people in Nowra will be touched by the presence of the Cross in our parish, and discover more deeply the love of Jesus the Saviour.

Call Fr Richard (0401 621 591) if you are free to help in any way!

WANTED: 90 BEDS
HomeStay program

An opportunity to host WYD pilgrims during 'Days in the Diocese' - from 10-14 July 2008 (just before WYD week).

Register by visiting
wyd08woll.org

If you do not have internet access, please take one of the HomeStay information packs, and complete the 2-page application form at the back, and drop the completed form in the HomeStay box. Thanks!

We are still looking for around 90 places across the Parish... Thanks also to the 3 new coordinators ... we still need 3 more!

Journey

News from the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong

The first edition of the new-look, full-colour Diocesan magazine is available this weekend. Make sure you grab your copy. Still FREE!

Also available is the latest edition of the Youth Noticeboard.

Shoalhaven Highlights

Saturday 29 March

- **Kangaroo Valley**
5pm Pilgrim walk (From Hampden Bridge to forecourt of St Joseph's Church)
- **7.30pm Vigil Mass** (celebrated by Bishop Peter) followed by talks and camp for young adults and families [Call Christy Honeysett 4253 0809]

Sunday 30 March (2nd Sunday Easter)

- **7am Travels** for events in Ulladulla
- **Vincentia & Huskisson**
2.30pm Travels by boat from Vincentia
- **3.00pm Indigenous ceremony** and Memorial service for HMAS Voyager; Naval Cadet march (Huskisson Wharf)
- **St John's High School, Nowra**
4.30pm School celebrations and BBQ begins
5.30pm Arrival of Cross, Icon & Message Stick
- **7.00pm Outdoor Mass**
- **8.00pm Live entertainment** continues
- **10.00pm All-night vigil & veneration** in St John's Chapel

Monday 31 March (Annunciation)

- **Nowra**
7am Dawn Service (Hanging Rock, Nowra)
- **9am Procession** through the streets (*from Marriott Park along Kinghorne St to Junction Court, Junction St, Osborne St to North St*)
- **10.20am School and Parish celebrations** (Around Parish Centre, North St, Nowra) BYO Picnic lunch in grounds of school
- **12.50pm Pilgrim walk** over the Nowra Bridge (via Colyer Ave to river, then over Southbound bridge to Bolong Rd)
- **Bomaderry**
1.50pm Indigenous celebrations (Bomaderry Homes, Bomaderry)
- **3.00pm Travel** to Kiama

Veneration of the Cross

'We adore you O Christ and we praise you, because by your Cross you have redeemed the world.'

Veneration of the Cross is an ancient act of reverence for the instrument of our salvation. Each Good Friday, Christians all over the world venerate a cross as part of the liturgy of the Commemoration of the Passion of Christ. To venerate the Cross is to acknowledge lovingly the One who hung upon it for our sake. Veneration is thus an act of faith, a 'yes' to the gift of love that Jesus offers to all people through his death on the Cross. Implicit in the act of veneration is the anticipation of the Resurrection - that the Cross of Christ, once an instrument of torture and execution, is now the tree of life in the light of Easter morning.

Veneration takes us to the very heart of our faith - it is a symbolic response to the love of God that is manifest in the Cross of Christ. In this way, veneration becomes more than an act of popular piety - making such a public expression of faith signifies the desire to live a life under the sign of the Cross. One who venerates the Cross is called to a life in imitation of Christ - a life of prayer, compassion and solidarity with the crucified of our time. Veneration is thus a pledge to live a life of mission and service as the concrete expression of our response to Jesus' gift of himself on Calvary.

Venerating the WYD Cross

The World Youth Day Cross has been venerated by millions of people as it has travelled throughout the world since 1984. To venerate the WYD Cross is a powerful act of communion with countless other young people from diverse cultures and backgrounds who have also prayed before this Cross. Like all crosses the WYD Cross is the universal symbol of the Christian faith. As a consequence of this, veneration of the WYD Cross is an act of communion, not only with those who have venerated the WYD Cross, but with all people of every time and place who have placed their lives under the Cross of Jesus Christ. Most importantly, to venerate the WYD Cross is an expression of our communion with God - a communion that was accomplished by the Christ as he hung upon the Cross. As young Australians venerate the Cross and Icon they are praying - both expressing their desire and acknowledging the reality of their communion with God and with each other.

Participants at events around the WYD Cross and Icon should be invited to venerate the Cross and Icon. Young people may choose to genuflect (kneel on one knee), touch or kiss both the Cross and the Icon of Mary. By venerating the cross, we are not worshipping the wooden artefact, but rather directed to the Son of God who died upon the wood of the cross.

Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

Palm Sunday • Passion Sunday (Year A) ~ Season of Lent

Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem

The holy Gospel according to Matthew

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. (21:1-11)

First Reading

50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21(22)

R/ My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)
2. Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones. (R.)
3. They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)
4. I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. 'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

Second Reading

2:6-11

The letter of St Paul to the Philippians

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Phil 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

26:11-27:66 {Extract 27:37-54}

The holy Gospel according to Matthew

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."' Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Special WYD08 edition!

nowraparish.org.au

16 March 2008



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

As we prepare to enter the sacred time of Holy Week, we look again at the significance of Christ in our lives. Though he was really in the form of God, Jesus came in the form of a slave. We have a saviour who was crushed for our iniquities, nailed to a cross as a convicted felon, and there endured the sense of abandonment. We have a saviour who was finally lifted up and exalted precisely because he emptied himself of his divine privileges. Unlike conquerors who triumph by putting down their opponents, Jesus was raised up because he himself was first willing to be put down. We have a saviour who first offered himself for us and then continues to offer himself to us as an example to follow. As he was willing to empty himself for our sake, so we must be willing to empty ourselves for the sake of others.

The best way to enter Holy Week with Jesus is in the company of those with whom he has identified himself: the poor and the broken; the humiliated and the marginalised; those who suffer the abuse of others; those who never use rank to force their will. If we are to be saved, we must go where salvation takes place: in our streets and in our homes where violence rages; in the dark corners of life where despair holds sway; wherever the innocent are abused or the needy are neglected; wherever there is misunderstanding or fear or jealousy. We must go wherever Christ empties himself for our sake.

18
weeks to go





St Michael's Parish | Tel: 4423 1712 | E-mail: office@nowraparish.org.au | Website: nowraparish.org.au

16 March 2008 **Palm Sunday**

Incorporates the Church Communities of St Michael, Nowra; St Patrick, Berry, Sacred Heart, Bomaderry; Mary, Help of Christians, Culburra; St Joseph, Kangaroo Valley; Holy Spirit, Vincentia

HOLY WEEK THE GREAT WEEK

16 – 23 March 2008

MASSSES DURING THE WEEK

Nowra: Mon 7.00am, Tues & Wed 8.15am

Morning Prayer: Wed 7.50am

Berry Tues 5.30pm

Vincentia Mon/Tues/Wed 5.30pm

Shoalhaven Heads Stations of the Cross: 3.00pm

Kangaroo Valley Mon/Tues/ 8.00am

Wed 6.15am.



SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION – an opportunity to prepare for the Holy Week and Easter Liturgy at St Michael's, Nowra on Monday 17 March at 7.30pm. There will be 4 or 5 priests available.

HOLY WEEK 2008 – TIMETABLE

HOLY THURSDAY - 20 March

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Nowra, Berry, Culburra, Vincentia 7.00pm

Kangaroo Valley 5.00pm

GOOD FRIDAY – 21 March

Stations of the Cross

Nowra, Vincentia, Kangaroo Valley 10.00am

Bomaderry 8.30am

Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

Nowra (Parish Hall) 3.00pm

Berry, Culburra and Vincentia 3.00pm

EASTER VIGIL AND EASTER MASS – 22 March

Nowra, Culburra, Vincentia & Berry 7.00pm

EASTER SUNDAY – 23 March

Nowra 8.00am, 9.30am, 6.00pm (Parish Hall)

Berry 8.00am

Bomaderry 9.30am

Culburra 8.00am & 9.30am

Vincentia 8.00am & 9.30am

Kangaroo Valley 11.00am

THE CHRISM MASS will be celebrated at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral on Wednesday 19 March at 7.30pm. All parishioners are invited; this is a most significant Mass for the entire Diocese.

Holy Week is regarded as the most sacred week in the Church Year. The last three days of the Week constitute an inner sanctuary known as the Paschal Triduum (3 days).



In the early centuries, Holy Week was known as the GREAT WEEK or PASSION WEEK.

Our participation in the Liturgy of Holy Week is both a wonderful privilege, and our Christian responsibility.

Project Compassion ;God calls us to care for the poorest of the poor, to give them an opportunity to reclaim their lives from the depths of poverty. This week's story comes from Fiji where Caritas Australia is supporting Antanasio and other young farmers from the island of Taveuni with basic skills training to move beyond subsistence farming. Your donation to Project Compassion will support vital agricultural programs in communities such as Antanasio's.

Please return your Project Compassion contributions as soon as possible. Your cooperation in this regard is very much appreciated.

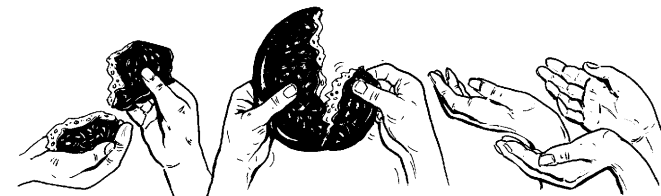
'YOUTH MINISTRY' does not necessarily mean a Youth Group – as in previous years' or generations' understanding – if we are lucky we might have projects and events designed to give effect to ministries such as **Advocacy, Catechesis, Evangelisation, Justice and service, Leadership and development, Prayer and worship.** There could be many options.

But before anything like this can happen we, the Parish Council, with the support of Fr Pat, need to identify interested people (**both youth and adults**) from **each** of the parish centres willing to assist in the development and implementation of a strategic plan and structure for a 'youth ministry' within our wide and diverse parish with a view to building on the outcomes of WYD08.

The Proposal for Youth Ministry Strategy and Activ8 are available on the Web site for your information. Please consider accessing the documents on the website and we would appreciate feedback. Copies are available at the Parish Office as well.

If you are interested in becoming part of this much needed and indeed exciting new Youth initiative, please call Grant Gleeson (Council Sec.) on 0411 039 941 or send an email ggleeson@mh.com.au or phone the Parish office (4423 1712) or email office@nowraparish.org.au. Following the reception of expressions of interest, a meeting of interested parishioners will be convened as soon as is practicable. At that meeting the concept of the draft strategy will be presented and explained.

Due to Holy Week, the **"COME & SEE" SPIRITUALITY PROGRAM** will not be meeting during March. We look forward to resuming at our April gathering.



PARISH PASCHAL MEAL COMMEMORATION – Sunday 16 March – 7.00pm for 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

All welcome to this simple and joyous Parish celebration that reminds us of the connections between our Christian beliefs and customs (our Easter mysteries) and the Old Testament Passover.

Any queries to Maree McMillan 4421 8516, Francene 4421 5962 or Peggy 4421 3417

HELPERS URGENTLY NEEDED TO SET UP THE HALL THIS SUNDAY MORNING after the 9.30am Mass.



LIGHT OF THE CROSS FESTIVAL – tickets are selling fast. ARIA Award winner **Damien Leith** is a special guest - heaps of performers. Please book your \$10 tickets with the Parish Office by Tues 18 March so that we can organise a group booking or ring Ticketek 132 849.

During the overnight vigil of veneration of the WYD Cross and Icon in the chapel at St John's on Sunday 30 March, there will be opportunities for parish groups to have time to pray around the Cross. If you would like to organise a time between 10pm and 7am, please contact Amanda Lloyd (wyd08@nowraparish.org.au)

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE RECIPE? – if so please share it with others by contributing to a professionally printed, A5 size

wire-bound recipe book, all categories needed – to assist young parishioners to attend WYD08 in Sydney. The book should sell for \$6.00 and should be 50 - 60 pages in size. Please send your copy either by email to Frances at francestherese@hotmail.com or drop into the Parish office, or in an envelope marked to Robbie's attention at Mass on Sunday. **Hopefully the book will be ready for sale when the Cross & Icon travel through the Parish 29-31 March.**



SCHOOL ENROLMENTS FOR 2009

ST MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Applications for enrolment for 2009 are available from the School Office from Monday 18 February. Interviews in May.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST HIGH SCHOOL

Enrolment Applications for Year 7, 2009 will be accepted from 5 March until 28 March 2008. Enquiries Mrs Josephine Geer 4423 1666

WYD08 MERCHANDISE – will be available at all Mass Centres over the coming weeks. A wonderful opportunity to have a memento of this exciting event in the Parish, and a really great idea as a gift/memento for HomeStay families to give to their guests.

ST MICHAEL'S STUDENTS will, over the coming months, be participating at the 9.30am Mass by singing, reading, Offertory Procession, greeting – each year will attend one Mass during those months. A wonderful opportunity for the children to participate in the Parish.

Good Friday is a day of fast and Abstinence.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – 30 March – Parishioners are invited to a Liturgy at SS Peter & Paul's Church, Kiama at 2.00pm – 3.30pm. Refreshments follow the celebration. For information contact Joan 4232 2414 or Ann 4234 2704



MOTHER RUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND – Theatre Gala Advance Notice – includes Champagne on arrival and extended interval supper – Wed 4 June – **"The Happiest Days of Your Lives"** – Nowra Players Theatre, B'derry. Adults \$25, Students \$20. Contact Denise

Jones 0419 248 889 or 4423 2299(bh), Tickets need to be paid for to guarantee seat.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION – Catholic engaged encounter is a w/end experience for couples who are preparing for marriage, giving them an opportunity to talk honestly and intensely about their future lives together, strengths & weaknesses, desires, ambitions and goals. For information about when & where call 9990 3212 or www.engagedencounter.org.au or email engaged@engagedencounter.org.au

Please notify the parish when parishioners, relatives or neighbours are ill or hospitalised. Hospital lists although we enjoy great local co-operation, are often incomplete. Many parishioners appreciate the opportunity of receiving the Sacraments, and in many instances this is made possible only by fellow parishioners letting us know.



We prayerfully remember **Patricia Jackson** (Vincentia) Janet **Carroll** (Cambewarra), **Ross Wilton** and **Jose Lopez** who died over the past week. **Antipas Rojan** (Philippines) **Josep**

Ubach who died in Spain last week and his late wife **Isabel Budi** – Also, **James Fryer** and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May they rest in eternal peace.*

THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMADERRY is holding a **Climate Change Forum** on Monday 17 March at 7.30pm at the B'derry Bowling Club. The forum will begin with a video address by a world wide recognised economist Professor Nicholas Stern. . The Courtesy Bus will pick up visitors around 7pm at Lyndhurst Centre, Nth Nowra Shops, Stewart Place and East Nowra Shops.