

# CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE - NOWRA PARISH

## MASS TIMES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON 2004

### CHRISTMAS EVE - VIGIL MASSES Friday December 24th

NOWRA ..... 7.00 pm  
 CULBURRA ..... 7.00 pm  
 VINCENTIA ..... 7.00 pm & 10.00 pm  
 KANGAROO VALLEY ..... 9.00 pm  
 BERRY ..... 9.30 pm  
 SHOALHAVEN HEADS ..... 6.00 pm

### MIDNIGHT MASS - NOWRA

### CHRISTMAS DAY - SATURDAY DECEMBER 25TH

NOWRA ..... 8.00 am & 9.30 am  
 BERRY ..... 8.00 am  
 BOMADERRY ..... 9.30 am  
 CULBURRA ..... 9.30 am  
 VINCENTIA ..... 8.00 am & 9.30 am

*Please note: No Evening Mass in the Parish on Christmas Day - Saturday 25th*

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 26TH

NOWRA ..... 8.00 am, 9.30 am & 6.00 pm  
 BERRY ..... 8.00 am  
 BOMADERRY ..... 9.30 am  
 CULBURRA ..... 8.00 am & 9.30 am  
 VINCENTIA ..... 8.00 am, 9.30 am & 6.00 pm  
 KANGAROO VALLEY ..... 11.00 am

### NEW YEAR'S DAY JANUARY 1ST 2005

NOWRA Vigil (Friday) ..... 7.00 pm  
 NOWRA (Saturday) ..... 9.00 am

### Parish Clergy:

Fr P J Faherty (Parish Priest)  
 Fr Stephen Duggan  
 Fr R Kilgannon (Kangaroo Valley)  
 Fr Leo Duck (Vincentia)

### MASS TIMETABLE DURING HOLIDAY SEASON (Saturday Vigil January 1st - January 23rd, inclusive)

#### Vigil Masses (Saturday)

NOWRA ..... 6.00 pm  
 CULBURRA ..... 6.00 pm  
 VINCENTIA ..... 6.00 pm  
 SHOALHAVEN HEADS ..... 6.00 pm

#### Sunday Masses

NOWRA ..... 8.00 am, 9.30 am & 6.00 pm  
 BERRY ..... 8.00 am  
 BOMADERRY ..... 9.30 am  
 CULBURRA ..... 8.00 am  
 VINCENTIA ..... 8.00 am & 9.30 am  
 KANGAROO VALLEY ..... 11.00 am

### SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION:

ST MICHAEL'S NOWRA  
 Wednesday December 15th - 7.30 pm

### CHRISTMAS CAROLS & PAGEANT - VINCENTIA SUNDAY 12th DECEMBER - 6.00PM

### LYDIAN SINGERS - ST PATRICK'S BERRY SATURDAY 18th DECEMBER - 7.00 PM



**MAY  
 CHRISTMAS  
 BLESSINGS  
 SHINE ON YOU  
 AND MAY THE  
 SPECIAL LOVE  
 OF CHRIST BE  
 WITH YOU ALL  
 YEAR THROUGH.**

In case of sudden or serious illness please do not hesitate to call a Priest at any time.

NOWRA: 4423 1712  
 VINCENTIA: 4441 5571



# SHOALHAVEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Christmas 2004 Newsletter

Nowra Parish

Established 1865

St Michael's, North Street, Nowra. Tel: (02) 4423 1712  
 St Joseph's, Moss Vale Road, Kangaroo Valley  
 St Patrick's, Albert Street, Berry

Sacred Heart, Bunberra Street, Bomaderry  
 Mary, Help of Christians, Silvermere Street, Culburra  
 Holy Spirit, St George Ave, Vincentia. Tel: (02) 4441 5571

## THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US

From the time I first saw a reproduction of Jean Francois Millet's Angelus in our primary school English Reader, I have remained captivated both by the simplicity and appeal of this painting. It is said of Millet that in this and other of his works he has "imparted a largeness and a simple dignity to his figures of men and women who labour in the fields..." He certainly enveloped the ordinary in sacredness. (The Angelus 1858). The Angelus as a daily form of prayer reaches back at least to the 13th century and most likely beyond.

In medieval England the Angelus Bell was dedicated to the Archangel Gabriel. In Germany the Angelus Bell bore the inscription "King of Glory, Come with Peace". The Angelus Bell was and still continues to be, rung in many of our Churches and Catholic Schools. It is a call to prayer, and a daily reminder to us and the community of the Good News - the Mystery of the Incarnation - the Word becoming Flesh and dwelling among us. Christmas, ever the season of hope, invites us to ponder anew the simplicity and profoundness of this wondrous Event. To quote Pope John Paul: "Born of Mary, the Virgin, He truly became one of us, and was like us in every way, except sin. This becoming one of us took place in the greatest humility..."



JEAN FRANCOIS MILLET'S  
 "ANGELUS"

In the words of Pope John Paul: "The Eucharist, as Christ's saving presence in the community of the faithful and its spiritual food, is the most precious possession which the Church can have in her journey through history." (Ecclesia De Eucharistia 2003)

Fr Pat Faherty

## CWL - BAY & BASIN

We are challenged to live in the light of this great Mystery. Jesus' saving love and mission embraces all people. The pattern of His life subsequently illustrates clearly that Jesus mingled effortlessly with saints and sinners, tax-collectors and Temple elders. Christmas today tells us that Jesus identifies with all regardless of colour or ethnicity - with saint or disgraced sinner. This is what we profess once we say the Word became Flesh and dwelt among us. The Incarnate Lord has perpetuated His presence in our midst through the Sacraments of the Church and in particular through His Eucharistic presence. In this, the Year of the Eucharist, may I suggest a daily commitment to praying the Angelus for world Peace and may Gabriel's Bell be a reminder of the abiding presence of our Eucharistic Lord, for in the Eucharist Jesus is especially Emmanuel, 'God with us.'

The CWL is very active in the Bay & Basin area of our parish, having a membership of twenty seven. Recently six members attended a very fruitful State Conference at Armidale NSW. The theme was "Be Bold, You Can Make a Difference". Community issues as well as topics in the field of Bioethics were presented. We can all fulfil our dream. We are individuals, our gifts and talents may vary; we can excel in what we do in our various roles. Boldness is enhanced through our relationship with God, and the gifts and nourishment we receive from Him, and from our faith activities. Attendance at such conferences enables us to share with each other, our Faith, Fellowship and Fun. It revives and nourishes us as we strive for growth in our much loved organisation - Catholic Women's League.

Pat Liddiard

## A NEW ST VINCENT DE PAUL CENTRE FOR BAY & BASIN.

Ivor Davies

2005 will see the 15th anniversary of the first St Vincent de Paul Society shop outlet at Sanctuary Point, servicing the Bay & Basin area. Several premises have been leased over the years, but it was always envisaged that one day a full sized purpose built Centre would become justified. That day has arrived.

Four years ago our State Council Centres' President visited the present leased property and produced a report on her findings. A number of immediate issues were raised and dealt with, but it was recommended that a review take place to consider alternatives for the future. This was done and it was recommended that we look at the possibility of building our own Centre. City Council figures showed that the Sanctuary Point area was growing faster than any other area in the City. This, plus knowledge from our own experience that this was also an area containing a high percentage of people in need, made us feel justified in going ahead with a project to build a new Centre in the township of Sanctuary Point. Fortunately, the Society was left a bequest at that time, which enabled us to purchase an ideal site in the CBD. Architects Bishop, Hitchcock and Irwin were immediately engaged to commence work on design, etc. With all the complications of complying with Council requirements, producing an agreement with our neighbour for a joint roadway system, obtaining

quotes, dealing with our own internal 'red tape' etc., it has taken us until now to arrive at a start on the building. On Friday 19th November 2004, a 'silver spade' ceremony was held at the site to cut the first turf. Building commenced on Monday 29th November 2004. The builder is Project Coordination (Australia) Pty. Ltd., a very professional organisation. Although sited in Unanderra, their policy is to use sub-contractors from local areas as much as possible. In May 2005, we should be able to open the new Centre and provide a much improved service to the local community. We are sure that our long-suffering volunteers will, more than anyone else, appreciate the new building - they have recently had to put up with break-ins and floods. In addition, sorting of donated goods takes place in two open garages at the back of the present property, which can be very cold in the winter and very hot in the summer. This dedicated group deserves something better.



Carol Nelson, representing Volunteers and Conference members, turning the soil with a silver spade. Assisting Carol is the Regional President, Ivor Davies.

### 2005 - 20th WORLD YOUTH DAY

THE DIOCESAN WYD 05 PILGRIMAGE IS LIMITED TO 35 PLACES.

A COPY OF THE DIOCESAN WYD  
REGISTRATION PACK IS AVAILABLE FROM  
FR DAVID CATTERALL  
PH: 4253 0858

EMAIL: WYD@WOLL.CATHOLIC.ORG.AU  
REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 31 DECEMBER 2004.

## PARISH DISABILITY CONNECTIONS.

Sister Jeanie Heininger, sgs, has been asked by the Wollongong Diocese to set up **PARISH DISABILITY CONNECTIONS** - a few people in each parish who volunteer and are trained to be contacts for people with special needs and their families. They are parishioners who also think of ways to raise awareness about the needs and gifts of people with special needs in this parish. These groups are already starting in other parishes and here is an example of what can happen: "This is a story about Kath who is 40 and has a hearing impairment and an intellectual disability. She attended the same Mass for years and years. When Parish Disability Connections began, a parishioner who had completed the training sessions befriended Kath and invited her to participate at Mass and share her gifts. She is now a greeter at the front of the Church and gives this radiant smile to everyone as she hands out hymnbooks. She didn't smile at church before this. She had never been invited to participate before."

Sister Jeanie will visit our parish in February 2005 to tell us more about this initiative and to meet parishioners who would like to be involved. Other forms of support will also be explored.

### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

ST MICHAEL'S PARISH  
COMMUNITY WELCOMES ALL  
VISITORS TO THE SHOALHAVEN  
DURING THE 2004/2005  
SUMMER HOLIDAY SEASON.  
WE PRAY YOUR STAY WITH  
US WILL BE SAFE AND



## ST JOHN'S - YEAR 12 - 2004

Sue Delaney

As grandparents of a Year 12 student in 2004, we were privileged to attend the final Assembly, Graduation Mass and Presentation of Special Awards for this group of students.

The addresses given by the School Captains **CHRIS PRICE & KARLIE HOGAN** were inspiring. They spoke of their time at St John's, their journey filled with mixed emotion, highs, lows, triumphs and tragedies. They were proud that this Year 12 was well respected in the school community, all bringing their own special gifts and ways to this group. Chris said with self-belief, there are no limits to what they can achieve.

Karlie spoke of the huge range of extra curricular activities, and encouraged the younger students to get involved as much as possible as there were so many new opportunities. "After all it is better to have tried and failed, rather than not have tried at all. You will look back at your school days and remember each day that you spent poring over books, and weekends watching television, or maybe it might be the times you and your mates did the Vinnies Door Knock Appeal and came back with funny stories...School is very much about getting involved. St John's taught me that there are so many different kinds of people out there that all have a good side if you are willing to look deep enough. Each person is different and it's these differences that make them so interesting and special".

Chris & Karlie thanked teachers, families and friends for support given.

Below is an extract from a talk given by **ERIN GLEESON** Year 12. Erin based her talk in part on what they believed to be a final "Goodbye conversation" between a father and daughter as they parted at an Airport. The father was over heard to use a wish 'that has been

handed down from other generations'. Erin remarked that she had added a few things of her own to make it a little more personal.

*I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.*

*I wish you enough rain to make you appreciate the sun more.*

*I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.*

*I wish you enough sadness so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.*

*I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.*

*I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.*

*I wish you enough love so you know just how special you all are.*

*I wish you enough pain in that love to make the memories of it even sweeter.*

*I wish you enough dreams to cause your imagination to soar.*

*I wish you enough reality to keep your feet on the ground.*

*I wish you enough success to make you proud.*

*I wish you enough failure to keep you humble.*

*I wish you enough independence to accomplish your goals and to succeed in the HSC.*

*I wish you enough 'Hellos' to get you through the final 'Goodbye'.*

*Whatever your future may bring, my friends, in what may be some of our final good-byes, I wish you "ENOUGH".*

We wish each and everyone of you a

In 2004, St John's has been involved in a very successful School Review and Principal's Appraisal. These processes occur every four years.

150 students are expected to commence Year 7 in 2005, with 102 students graduating with their Higher School Certificate in 2004.

New subjects for 2005 include Bushcraft and Work Studies for Year

## KANGAROO VALLEY SOCIAL EVENT OF THE YEAR



Eric & Gay Baxter entertaining some of the many guests attending the very successful luncheon held at their home. The photograph above shows the Baxters with Joy Donoghue, Sr Patricia and Fr Ronan, with Trish Jessop and others in the background

On Sunday 7th November the Kangaroo Valley St Vincent de Paul Society held a Spring luncheon at the home of two of its members.

Thankfully the weather behaved itself and over seventy people, including Fr Faherty, Fr Ronan, Sr Margaret and Sr Patricia, attended the function. The day was a happy, friendly and relaxed one spent in a country setting. The food provided was delicious with a great selection of savoury and sweet temptations.

The aim of this day was to raise funds for the St Vincent de Paul Society. A Dutch Auction, Trading Table and raffle added to a very successful community day.

Gay Baxter

9, as well as additional cross curricular and interest studies in Years 7-10, e.g. dance, sustainable living and theatre sports. In 2005, the school is continuing with its whole school pedagogy project, enhancing the learning experiences of all students and incorporating technology across the curriculum.



## HAPPENINGS AT JIM DA SILVA FARM

**H**ave you heard what's happening up at Jim da Silva Farm? They're setting up a 'Friends of the Farm' group for people who'd like to connect with the fellas out there, and pray for the success of the project.

There were lots of visitors for dinner at Jim da Silva Farm on 8th November, when a meeting was held to bring together people who were already engaged in some way with the Farm, or who had expressed an interest in getting involved.

Throughout the day, the men who live at the Farm had worked hard to get the place clean, prepare dinner and make sure that it would offer a warm welcome to the visitors.

In itself, such a large group coming for a meal would have been a challenge for some of the men who live at the Farm. Crowds can be intimidating and when your self-esteem isn't really high, it's hard to be confident and outgoing with strangers. So it was to their credit that almost all the Farm's residents fronted up for dinner, mixed with the visitors and in fact offered them great hospitality.

For most of us, having people for dinner is no big deal - it's just "normal". But for many of the men at the Farm, "normal" is something they've rarely experienced, and so for them, this very "normal" act of hosting visitors takes on special significance.

After dinner, the visitors got down to business. As well as three members of the Farm community who oversee its operation, there were nine other parishioners from St Michael's who are interested in the Farm. The meeting was facilitated by a long-term friend of the Farm who works in the field of adult education. One of the Farm's residents joined in for the whole meeting while others wandered in and out, with a couple settling in for a good chat after the formal part of the

meeting was over.

Everyone shared how they were involved in the Farm, why they were involved and what they hoped the Farm might be able to become in the months and years ahead.

The group represented a good cross-section of the wider community. Each person brought his or her special talents and experience but what quickly became evident is that what matters most at the Farm is a loving heart and a willingness to respect and befriend the men who live there.

It was really good conversation - quite inspiring really. Perhaps the most powerful comments came from two of the men who live at the Farm.

Robbie was passionate when he told the group that "This is my home. I love the Farm. If it wasn't for the Farm I'd still be sitting on a bench in the park with nowhere to go". These sentiments were backed up by Laurie who was one of the first residents at the Farm, and who happily tells people, "This is where I belong."

This is the real gift of the Farm in the lives of the men who live there. With the support of the Friends of the Farm, who met together on 8th November, and others who will come to join them, the good work will continue, the Farm's facilities will consolidate and expand, the sense of community will be nurtured and the men will continue, step-by-step, to make progress in their journeys towards recovery and wholeness.

We pray, with the words of St Paul, "May God, who began this good work, bring it to fulfillment".

*I learned... That love, not time, heals all wounds.*

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY ANNUAL DOORKNOCK APPEAL 2004

FINAL RESULTS AS FOLLOWS:

AREA	2003	2004
	\$	\$
NOWRA/BOMADERRY	9603	11374
VINCENTIA	2631	3511
ULLADULLA	3002	2726
SUSSEX INLET	1091	2600
CULBURRA	2538	2097
BERRY	2034	1990
SHOALHAVEN HEADS	1226	1826
KANGAROO VALLEY	-	255
ENVELOPES	515	255
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22640</b>	<b>26634</b>

ST MICHAEL'S PARISH 18547 21308

CONGRATULATIONS ALL ROUND. THE SUCCESS OF ANY DOORKNOCK DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS WHO COME FORWARD. THANKS TO YOU ALL.

SPECIAL THANKS TO MARGARET PERKINS AND ANN BRYCE, FOR ALL THEIR ORGANISATIONAL WORK.

REGIONS THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE:

AREA	2003	2004
	\$	\$
CAMPBELLTOWN	31709	34951
CAMDEN-WOLLONDILLY	22594	24629
SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS	4498	5561
WOLLONGONG	12929	7720
CENTRAL ILLAWARRA	12784	14822
SHOALHAVEN	22640	26634

SHOALHAVEN, AND IN PARTICULAR ST MICHAEL'S PARISH, DID EXTREMELY WELL. THE CAMPBELLTOWN AND CAMDEN-WOLLONDILLY HAVE BEEN ORGANISING DOORKNOCKS FOR QUITE SOME YEARS NOW. A CREDIT TO ALL.



**At the recent Diocesan Annual General Meeting of St Vincent de Paul, Brian Murnane, Diocesan President, made a special presentation to Ivor Davies for his outstanding service to St Vincent de Paul.**

## THE FRAWLEY FAMILY'S ADVENTURE, 2004

**M**ay 1st was the first day of our wonderful family adventure. We left Sydney at lunch time and set up our first camp at Blackheath at around 4 pm. It was absolutely freezing and Mum (Maggie) was beginning to have second thoughts on the whole camping idea. We survived the 3 beautiful days in the Blue Mountain area and bought several new necessities to help deal with the night time temperatures of camping.

Next stops in NSW were Dubbo and Narrabri and within a week we were in Queensland enjoying the more temperate weather. We spent the weekend with Peggy & Gavin Webb at Goondiwindi and needless to say the children had a ball catching up with their old friends. Seamus especially enjoyed seeing Mikey again. Queensland was divine, the weather and sights were spectacular. Some highlights were - Hervey Bay where we went across for a day trip to Frazer



Island; Gladstone where we caught up with an old friend; snorkeling off Great Keppel Is; Eungella National Park (where we saw platypuses in the wild and had the best homemade ice-cream ever); Townsville, and the beautiful Atherton tablelands and of course the wonderful Cairns district. We loved the rain forests and those beautiful beaches too.

Malachy's health was great which was a relief as he had been very unwell the month before we left. We had to x-ray his chest which we did in Gladstone



and, other than that, he was fine.

We think he may even have grown a bit in the great outdoors. Certainly the fresh air and family fun was good for him. Harry Potter featured heavily during the trip as we listened to all five stories while travelling. The children enjoyed doing some school work together with Mum and Dad as the teachers. The children didn't seem to miss out at all with learning as they have all done very well at school this year each making significant progress in different areas.

We loved the Northern Territory too, with the Red Centre being the absolute highlight of the whole trip. If you're planning some travel in Australia and you haven't seen central Oz, it's definitely the first place to go.



It's such a long way away, but once you get there it is truly amazing! The dramatic colours, sunsets and land forms constantly surprised us as we went. The Devil's Marbles, Alice Springs, Uluru, Kata Jutu and King's Canyon were the favourites. We did many walks, some quite long and adventurous. Malachy got the best seat for the view, on Dom's back!

Nine wonderful weeks and it now feels so very long ago! It was fun to be home at first, with running water, a kitchen and of course cozy beds again. But we all would go again tomorrow if we didn't have to work and go to school. Maybe we can plan something for a few years time! Let's hope we can. Love and God Bless.

**Maggie, Dom, Imogen, Seamus, Niamh and Malachy.**



*It takes courage to step out beyond one's known limits and try something new.*

## “ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT” - BAY & BASIN

Sr. Val.

Our Senior “Spirit Alive” group has recently had 26 members and friends cruise on the Shoalhaven river - a delightful afternoon of sightseeing, singing, etc. Our main Christmas activity was a breakfast BBQ at Greenfields Beach on 8th December with the Kookaburras. December presents some interesting Social events, including a concert at the Country Club, St Georges Basin. The “Irish Tenors” will entertain our group with renditions of “Morning Melodies”.



We congratulate one of our more senior members of Spirit Alive and CWL - Elsa Anderson, who just celebrated her 86th birthday by recently passing her driving test for the updating of her licence. The examiner was heard to say “Well, you certainly passed that road test, I can’t fault you!” Well done Elsa! Elsa is also involved at the Retirement Village where she is a resident, attending planning meetings, craft, cards, etc. and always ready to help someone in need, not to mention her cooking!

“CAROLS & PAGEANT EVENING” TO WHICH ALL AREAS OF THE PARISH ARE INVITED, WILL BE ON SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER COMMENCING AT 6.00PM WITH A LIGHT FINGER FOOD SUPPER. THE YOUTH GROUP WILL BE HELPING AS WELL AS A LITTLE ASSISTANCE FROM CWL. AT APPROXIMATELY 7.15PM WE WILL PRESENT OUR PAGEANT & CAROLS.

## VINNIES BOUTIQUE IN BERRY

Katherine Brandon

As a result of persistent prayer and determination SVdP finally secured rental premises in Berry in April this year. The shop has been operational since then, opening 7 days a week 10am - 4.30pm. This is a mammoth task made possible by the support and commitment of approximately 66 volunteers. Kirk (Regional Centres Manager) said: “The success of this venture relies wholly & solely on the ongoing support and commitment of the volunteers and I am also grateful for the support shown by the Berry community.”



Noreen Doust and Lenore Slater, two of the many volunteers who work in the Vinnies Boutique in Berry.

This shop has provided a great meeting place for the volunteers and has given Vinnies a ‘presence’ in Berry once again. According to Kirk we are here for the ‘long haul’.

\*\*\*\*VOLUNTEERS: PLEASE REMEMBER - IF PARKING IN THE CARPARK - 3 HOUR LIMIT CARPARK IS PATROLLED WEEKDAYS AND WEEKENDS.

We have sixteen *Mini Spirits*, ages 0+ to 5 years. They attend every Monday for all kinds of activities - painting, cutting out and pasting, morning teas, even billycart rides on the grassy slopes at the rear of the Church. A special thank you to Mary O’Connor for her regular assistance. The Mums and Dads appreciate this time out to chat over a cuppa whilst the little ones are organised by Sister Val. One little 4 year old got dressed at 7.30am with his goggles and swimmers on to show Sr Val at Minis, before he went for a swimming lesson. We have acquired a small blow-up pool so there is fun and water play when the weather warms up - courtesy of North Nowra recycling tip.



THERE IS A GREAT DEMAND FOR MORE CATECHISTS, AS SEVERAL ARE GETTING OLDER OR RETIRING. KEN HILL AND TONY RIVET WILL RECEIVE THEIR 10 YEAR CERTIFICATE THIS YEAR, WHILST EDNA SHUTE WILL HAVE SERVED 20 YEARS IN 2005. I’M SURE THE LORD WILL GIVE US A FEW MORE GENEROUS WORKERS AS CATECHISTS. THERE IS A NEED AND HE NEEDS YOU.

HOLY SPIRIT HAVE SEVERAL PRAYER GROUPS FOR THOSE INTERESTED:

- \* MONDAY 5.00PM CHRISTIAN MEDITATION IN THE CHURCH.
- \* THURSDAY 11.00AM CHRISTIAN MEDITATION IN THE CHURCH.
- \* TUESDAY 7.30PM PRAYERS AND REFLECTION - CONTACT SUE O’BRIEN
- \* TUESDAY 1.00PM THE LAY CANOSSIAN.

## CATECHISTS’ CORNER

Lyn West

Over 200 Catechists from across the Diocese attended our annual Catechists’ Mass on Saturday November 13th. Bishop Ingham, with five priests, concelebrated the Mass at St John Vianney’s Church, Fairy Meadow. The focus of our Mass was Eucharist as the Source and Summit of our Apostolic Mission. In his very passionate homily Bishop Peter reminded us that “the Eucharist is the most precious possession of the Church’s journey through history. The assembly of the Eucharist is what keeps us Christian. We know Christ ‘in the breaking of Bread’.” The Bishop also re-inforced the message that Catechists are front line evangelisers and that it is vital for us “to hold Jesus in our hearts so that we can carry Him to others.” This special “Year of the Eucharist” (2004-2005) gives each of us a unique opportunity to re-dedicate our lives to Christ. What better way to do this than through our participation in the Eucharistic celebration itself? During the liturgy many certificates were presented. Amongst those who received Level 2 awards from the Nowra parish were Chris Glover and Neil Wakefield. Chris and Neil also doubled up for a diploma presentation. Congratulations and thanks to these tireless and generous Catechists. There are very few ministries that are more important in the life and mission of

the Church than bringing children to Christ. Indeed, grateful thanks to all our Catechists for your wonderful work.

After photos and many congratulations, we adjourned to the Hall where a light luncheon was served.

### Numbers of Catholic Children 2004

Berry	74
Bomaderry	93
Callala Bay	54
Cambewarra	34
Culburra	60
East Nowra	86
Greenwell Point	35
Illaroo Rd Nth Nowra	84
Judith Dr Nth Nowra	72
Kangaroo Valley	15
Shoalhaven Heads	56
Terara	9
Nowra	91
St George’s Basin	99
Tomerong	37
Sanctuary Point	101
Vincentia	
118	
Huskisson	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>1144</b>

Falls Creek will hopefully commence in 2005.



CONGRATULATIONS TO SR MARGARET AND SR PATRICIA WHO WILL CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH JUBILEE OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION ON 6TH JANUARY 2005. WE ARE VERY PRIVILEGED TO HAVE SUCH HARD WORKING, GENEROUS WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY. THANK YOU AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU BOTH WITH GOOD HEALTH, JOY AND PEACE.



## CHILDREN’S LITURGY ST MICHAEL’S 2004

Cathy Russell

Children’s Liturgy began towards the end of February, the beginning of Lent. This year, it was decided to try and run the Liturgy every week at the 9.30 Mass at St Michael’s. It was thought that this would provide a more consistent opportunity for parents to bring younger children to Mass.

This has worked quite well and we are proud to say that the only time a Children’s Liturgy has been missed is when a major event in the Parish has taken precedence. Our Liturgy focuses on spreading the Gospel to younger children in a format that they find easy to understand and to give them an opportunity to take part in musical or craft activities which will reinforce the Gospel message.

Children’s Liturgy runs during term time and at the end of Term 3, a special children’s Mass was arranged at which Father Steven officiated. This was a beautiful occasion with the children enjoying Father Steven’s approach. Morning tea was served afterwards and parishioners very much enjoyed this event.

The end of the Children’s Liturgy year will see another Children’s Mass on December 12th followed by morning tea. Children’s Liturgy will recommence next year early in February. Any parishioners who would like to bring their pre-schoolers and primary school children to Mass but find the prospect a bit daunting would certainly appreciate Children’s

CONGRATULATIONS AND OUR PRAYERFUL GOOD WISHES TO SISTER ROMUALD BULL (A NATIVE OF NOWRA) WHO CELEBRATED THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER RELIGIOUS PROFESSION AS A SISTER OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN ON THE WEEKEND OF 4TH/5TH DECEMBER 2004.