

Christmas holidays timetable - Nowra Parish

Mass times for the Christmas Season 2008

2008

CHRISTMAS EVE - VIGIL MASSES Wednesday 24 December

Nowra 7.00pm
Culburra 6.00pm
Vincentia 6.00pm & 8.00pm
Kangaroo Valley 9.00pm
Berry 9.00pm
Shoalhaven Heads* 6.00pm

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS

Nowra 12.00 midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY Thursday 25 December

Nowra 8.00am & 9.30am
Berry 8.00am
Bomaderry 9.30am
Culburra 8.00am
Vincentia 8.00am & 9.30am

Please note: There is no evening Mass on Christmas Day - 25 December

Summer Mass Timetable

Saturday 27 December 2008 - Sunday 25 January 2009

Vigil Masses (Saturday)

Nowra 6.00pm
Culburra 6.00pm
Vincentia 6.00pm
Shoalhaven Heads* 6.00pm

Sunday Masses

Nowra 8.00am, 9.30am & 6.00pm
Berry 8.00am
Bomaderry 9.30am
Culburra 8.00am
Vincentia 8.00am & 9.30am
Kangaroo Valley 11.00am

* Shoalhaven Heads Community Centre Mass only on Sat 27 Dec 2008, 3 Jan and 10 Jan 2009



The latest edition of the Diocesan magazine *Journey* is now available. Grab your copy today. Still FREE!

St Michael's Parish Contacts

Fr Patrick Faherty, *Parish Priest* 4423 1712
Fr Richard Healey, *Assistant Priest* 4423 1712
Fr Leo Duck, *Resident in Vincentia* 4441 5571
Fr Ronan Kilgannon, *Resident in Kangaroo Valley*
Mr Duane Fernandez, *Seminarian* 4423 1712
Mrs Robbie Forsythe, *Secretary* 4423 1712
Sr Margaret Prendergast sgs 4421 2260
Sr Patricia Lawless sgs 4421 2260
Sr Val Green rsc 4441 7035
Mrs Lyn West, *Catechist Coordinator* 4423 1009
St Michael's Primary School 4421 3630
St John the Evangelist High School 4423 1666



Catholic Mission's Gift Registry

- "A Gift of Love & Hope at Christmas". The registry is designed for people wanting to share their Christmas giving with children, families and communities in many of the World's poorest and under resourced countries. Gifting & project selections are divided into 3 categories - children, Communities & Church.

Freecall 1800 257 296 for credit card donations or visit catholicmission.org.au

Culburra Family Group is holding its Christmas dinner at Noel Reid's home this Sunday 14 Dec. Phone Noel 4448 3215 for directions.

nowraparish.org.au

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL! -

The New Year can be a time to pause and ask God and others what life we are being called to live. God calls us all to live life to the full in our chosen vocation. Enquiries about the priesthood can be directed to Fr Mark O'Keefe 4271 1068 or Fr Richard Healey 4423 1712.

For more information about married life, religious life or committed single life visit **Life Choices for Catholics** www.catholicovocations.org.au

MEN'S RETREAT - "A Distant Drum" will be held at Hartzler Park Bowral on weekend 27 Feb - 1 March 2009. Fr John Sullivan leads this retreat. Contact Alan 9544 4108 or Fr John 9521 6172.

Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)

GAUDETE SUNDAY

nowraparish.org.au

14 December 2008

First Reading 61:1-2; 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Luke 1

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.

Second Reading 5:16-24

A reading from first Thessalonians

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.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation 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 1:6-8, 19-28

The holy Gospel according to John

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSA

Traditionally, the third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of Joy. The joy of this Sunday comes both from the message of the readings and from the anticipation that Christmas is nearing. As described in the Isaian passage, the Messiah is the one imbued with the spirit and with the power of the prophet, the one who will fulfill the promises of God. It becomes obvious in the Gospel that the Messiah is the one proclaimed by the Baptist. John cleared a path for the coming of the anointed one, and from that time on the lives of believers have been the pathway through which the Messiah has entered the world.

Gospel Reflection

by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel should sound very familiar. It is the gospel of John version of the passage used in last week's liturgy, which came from the gospel of Mark. Again it recalls the ministry of John the Baptist but it is given the particular slant of the gospel of John. Aside from the greater focus on the conversational interaction, it presents John as a 'witness'.

This is perhaps more typical of the John gospel emphasis on personal encounter with Jesus. Rather than acting as something



of a herald, as in last week's account, here John the Baptist is witnessing 'to speak for the light'. He makes a very clear distinction between himself and the Christ, his mission is simply to point towards the light; the Christ.

Our common understanding of the word 'witness' tends to be related to legal situations: providing a witness statement or acting as a witness to a fact in court. The use of witness in this gospel carries a different connotation: to provide witness through action and lifestyle that draws others to wonder about and perhaps come to accept the motivating belief.

It is this understanding of witness that all Christians are called to provide. We are called to witness to our beliefs in the way that we live our lives, engage with others and hold to certain truths. Of course, there are some Christians who believe that their witness needs to be more obvious and more clearly stated. They feel that providing witness, or testimony, to their faith through spoken proclamation has a greater potential to change lives. Whether we choose to witness through our words or through our actions it is essential that both words and actions have integrity; that there is no clash between what we proclaim and the way we live.

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

An opportunity to prepare for Christmas by celebrating the mercy and forgiveness of our Saviour

St Michael's, Nowra
Friday 19 December - 7.30pm

5 priests will be available



Shoalhaven catholic news

Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)

14 December 2008

St Michael's, 20 North Street, Nowra (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 (02) 4441 5571

Sunday Masses

NOWRA 6pm Vigil; 8am; 9.30am & 6pm
BERRY 8.00am
BOMADERRY 9.30am
CULBURRA 6pm Vigil
KANGAROO VALLEY 11.00am
VINCENTIA 6pm Vigil & 9.30am

Masses during the week

Nowra: Mon 7.00am; Tues, Wed, Thurs 8.15am; Fri 7.00am & 11.30am; Sat 9.00am; Morning Prayer: Wed 7.50am; Holy Hour: Fri 10.30am

Berry: Tues 5.30pm | **Culburra:** Thurs. 5.30pm

Bomaderry: First Friday 5.45pm

Vincentia: Mon, Thurs, Fri 8.00am; Tues, Wed 5.30pm

Shoalhaven Heads: Friday 3.30pm

Kangaroo Valley: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Sat 8am; Wed 6.15am

Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation

Nowra: Sat 11.30-12.30pm. 5.00 - 5.30pm

Culburra: Sat 5.30pm | Berry: Tues 6.00pm

Bomaderry: 1st Fri 5.15pm | K'Valley: Sat 4.30-

5.00pm | Vincentia: Sat 5.00pm – 5.30pm

Pre-Christmas Confessions at Berry on Saturday 20 Dec 8.30am-9.30am

2nd Rite of Reconciliation
Friday 19 Dec @ St Michael's - 7.30pm

We prayerfully remember:
Krystyn Brimmer (Guildford/Culburra).
Also Frank Rogers, Beryl Ison and John Lenehan whose anniversaries occur at this time.
May they rest in eternal peace.

Shoalhaven Heads Community
will be holding their Christmas afternoon tea on Friday 19 Dec after the 3.30pm Mass.
Please bring a plate of finger food to share.

Young Adults Christmas Party
- Monday 15 Dec at the Chittick's house – commencing at 5.30pm. Bring all the family, meat, drink & a salad/dessert and some Christmas cheer!
RSVP by 12 Dec to Jody or Shannon.



Berry Community reviews 2008

Christine Da Silva

St Patrick's Community Group endeavours to offer some ongoing spiritual development for the Parish. These are some of our events of the past six months. A film night was held entitled "Miracles of Lourdes" on the vigil of the Solemnity of the Assumption in August. A local parishioner also gave information on his visit to this Holy Shrine.

Our second Retreat Day in September focused on St Paul. Fr Richard's talk on Grace and Peace provided a brief background on St Paul and highlighted the power of Paul's understanding of Grace, which is "the absolutely free expression of the love of God" or "favour done without any expectation of return or acceptance." In each of Paul's 13 letters he begins by offering *grace and peace*. Those present at the Retreat were challenged to ask ourselves – "Do we need to change our attitude and to speak Grace and Peace to someone today? What would our lives be like if we began each day with Grace and Peace?"

After morning tea Fr Ronan spoke on Paul's conversion and reminded us that when the Pope inaugurated the Year of St Paul in June he said "We have gathered not to reflect on a history left behind forever. Paul wants to speak to us – today."

For Paul - Jesus is everything to us or he is nothing; Jesus is at the centre of our faith or he is nowhere; he is the focus of our devotion, or we have a bad case of spiritual glaucoma that needs to be attended to straightaway!

Fr Pat led us in a Litany in honour of St Paul as well as the Rosary before celebrating Adoration, Reconciliation and Benediction. There were also periods throughout the day for quiet time and reflection.

St Patrick's also hosted an Anointing Mass for the Sick in October which was concelebrated by Frs Pat & Ronan. Some 50 people attended and all enjoyed lunch in the hall after Mass.

Fr Ronan spoke at a combined Churches Advent Prayer Service which was hosted by St Patrick's in early December.

A new Bell tower housing the original bell has been erected next to the Sacristy and fairly close to where the old tower had been. Fr Ronan held a dedication service beneath the bell and named it the "Mary MacKillop" bell.

Parishioners have continued to fellowship and enjoy the monthly cuppa in the hall after Mass and also the yearly pre-Christmas barbecue brunch.



St Vincent de Paul Society

- A WONDERFUL RESULT! Thank you to everyone at Nowra and Bomaderry who generously donated \$4,445 (to date) to the Christmas Appeal. Congratulations!
- VINCENTIA are holding their Annual Toy Appeal – this is the last week – please wrap presents with a tag with indication of Male/Female and age group - there will be a box for collection at the rear of the Church.
- PRE-CHRISTMAS BOOKSTALLS the last 14 Dec at Bomaderry. A great gift idea!

Our Lady Help of Christians

Culburra are holding their Christmas Hamper raffle, to be drawn on 20 Dec. All donations gratefully received. You have to buy a ticket to win it!



Help Educate Children in Pakistan – the De La Salle Brothers run St Vincent's school for children from extremely poor families. The school is overflowing and is looking for financial support for building projects and school materials.

Donations can be given to the Lasallian Foundation – Br Paul Smith 9832 3100 or info@lasallianfoundation.org
Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Thankyou to musicians and singers. We take this opportunity to thank all of our dedicated organists who will be playing at the range of Masses over the Christmas and holiday period.

THANK YOU to the parishioners who have volunteered to go onto the grounds maintenance roster – a much easier task for all, with extra numbers.



The Holy Spirit Community

– Vincentia celebrated the 25th anniversary of the blessing and opening of their Church on 11 December.

From the mid-1920s to 1946 Mass was celebrated periodically in homes in the Jervis Bay region. In approximately 1946 to 1950 the Nowra Parish provided Mass on a monthly basis at Jervis Bay. From 1950 until 1983 Mass was celebrated weekly at the old picture theatre at Huskisson. In 1983 land was purchased at Vincentia and construction of the Holy Spirit Church began in March that year. To the great delight of the local Catholic community the Church was blessed and officially opened by Bishop Murray on **11 December 1983**. We congratulate Fr Leo and the Faithful of the Vincentia community on this significant anniversary. The Holy Spirit community is very vibrant, responsive and enthusiastic. May the Lord continue to prosper your work.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS

– any children who would like to be angels/shepherds in the 7pm Vigil Christmas Mass, please come to a practice on Tues 23 Dec in the Parish Hall. Practice will start promptly at 10am and last approx 1 hour. Parental supervision is necessary. If anyone has a spare angel costume please bring to the practice. The angels are not to wear tinsel or wings. Ring Katja 4423 5935 or Rosanne 4446 0349.



Duane Fernandez joins parish staff.

The Parish is very pleased to welcome Duane, a seminarian for the Diocese who has just completed 4 years at Good Shepherd Seminary. Duane is 27 and will be in the parish until the end of June 2009. He grew up in the Campbelltown area, and completed a degree in Psychology at UNSW after school.

Youth Minister Position

Nowra Parish and St John's High School are jointly seeking to employ a suitably qualified youth minister for 16 hours a week to start in 2009. The position would be focused on integrating students and young adults aged 15 to 25 years into the life of the parish. The youth minister would train and empower a core team of volunteers to run youth groups/formation/prayer events. They will be available to work at St John's in RE support, school retreats and reflection days and a lunchtime prayer group (up to 6hrs/week). In the Parish they will support existing Youth and Young Adult ministries and facilitate additional events. Call Fr Richard 0401621591

Singers and Musicians are invited to take part in this special Christmas Vigil Mass in celebration of the birth of Jesus at 7pm in St Michael's Hall. Anyone interested is invited to a practice at 6.30pm on Monday 22 Dec. Contact Mark McKinnon 4447 1962.



CHRISTMAS TELEVISION

– ABC1 TV will provide live coverage of the Pope's Midnight Mass from St Peter's Basilica at 11.00am on Christmas Day.