



SHOALHAVEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Half-yearly 2005 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 UPSIDE-DOWN VALUES OF JESUS!

When you read the Gospel, it's not hard to form the opinion that Jesus was either very naive or a real rebel.

Particularly in the Beatitudes, he seems to challenge the conventional wisdom of his day. In the Kingdom of God, our view of what matters in life will be turned upside-down:

-happy are the poor in spirit

-happy are the gentle

-happy are the merciful

-happy are those who are persecuted in the cause of right.

(Matthew 5: 3-12)

We begin to think, "Is this man for real? Everyone knows life is about getting more money and stuff, getting ahead and being at the top of the pile."

In a sense, some things haven't changed much since the time of Jesus, and when we hear the call of the Gospel - really hear and take it seriously - it begins to disturb our comfortability and challenges our level of commitment to Christ and his Kingdom.

These questions and challenges are something we live with every day at the **Jim da Silva Farm**.

Here, our vision, from the beginning, has been to create a home and restore the dignity of men recovering from drug and alcohol addiction, living with the devastating effects of mental illness and/or making their way in the



St Vincent de Paul Society

good works

world with the burden of intellectual disability.

When you come to the Farm, you'll meet a bunch of broken, vulnerable men. None has the badges of success valued by our society, a big bank balance, a flash car, a nice home (and its attendant fat mortgage).

None could hold down a job, and when Centrelink wants to cut their benefits or penalise them for "breaching" their conditions, none has the erudition and the clout to argue the case successfully.

None is a bigwig, a powerbroker, or a man of influence. In the eyes of society, each one is a miserable failure, a drain on society, not worth bothering too much about.

Similarly with the Farm itself - we're not a big "service provider" that successfully "processes lots of clients", but a small fledgling community, trying to create a safe, welcoming "home". It's not what you'd classify a "successful facility".

It is that conventional wisdom about people and organisations that Jesus confronts and upturns. His message disturbs us today (if we really listen to it) and it disturbed the folks who heard it 2000 years ago, so much so that they

decided he was dangerous and needed to be gotten rid of. And so it is this passion and Crucifixion of Christ, that we commemorate in the week from Palm Sunday to Good Friday.

Yes, Jesus challenged the powerful and stood in solidarity with the weak and voiceless of his world, and all the forces of violence and religious and political power were set against him. And on Good Friday his vision was crushed. He lost out big time.

But, the story didn't end on Good Friday. The forces of violence and oppression were strong and they succeeded in silencing Jesus - for a while. But God was (and is) stronger, and through the resurrection the voice of Jesus would be heard again, in his resurrected body, and through the body of his faithful followers which would grow to become the Church.

Read in the light of the Beatitudes the resurrection is God's affirmation of the vision of Jesus - the vision of a world where what matters is turned upside down, so that the poor, the weak, the voiceless become the most esteemed members of the Kingdom. The Church overcoming its desire to be a "respectable" institution in society, raises its voice to challenge acquisition and power, inviting believers to seek true simplicity, humility and service as the cornerstone of Christian living.

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90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANDING AT GALLIPOLI

Taken from the Anzac Day address delivered by Darren Hooper, HMAS Albatross.

To all Australians, Anzac Day is a tradition paid for in blood and celebrated in our freedom. It is a day in which not only do we salute the ANZACS, but in paying tribute to them, we also take the opportunity to invigorate our national spirit and pride.

90 years ago, a group of volunteer Australian and New Zealand soldiers found themselves wading ashore before dawn at a small beach on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey. Many of these men were only teenagers, some as young as 16. All were anxious to prove their courage and national identity.

Over the eight months following the landing, those young ANZACS underwent a 'Trial by Ordeal'. In total 36,000 Australian and New Zealand Soldiers were killed or wounded in Gallipoli. But, in those terrible battles, young Australians earned a reputation for courage, self-reliance and, most importantly, mateship. The experience drew Australians together as a nation and established the national character. The standards that they set and the Anzac spirit, have been handed down ever since to all the Australian Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen who followed them, from WWII to Korea, Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam, the Gulf and many peacekeeping operations in the Middle East, Pakistan, Southeast Asia and Africa.

This same spirit will be represented among the diverse group of veterans that gather in the Shoalhaven each year. As the years go by the numbers will continue to dwindle. However, the Anzac spirit forged at Gallipoli will never be forgotten. I believe this is why Australians come together every Anzac Day. We do remember the ANZACS and their achievements, and we should remember them not as old soldiers from a distant war, but as the young Australians they were in 1915.

Our vast country, with its harsh beauty

and open skies, helps to shape healthy, confident, competitive, innovative and freedom loving individuals, who with good leadership and high motivation, can more than match the best in the world, in whatever they do.

The ANZACS showed us these qualities. We have the ability to face challenges together and overcome them, to put community before self, to be courageous, determined, self-reliant and strong. We should be proud of our heritage. This is the spirit of ANZAC, the spirit that we must pass to the next generation.

Darren read a short poem entitled "Anzac Day" that depicts the ever increasing reasons why our young children march on this, the national day of spirit and pride. The author is unknown.

I saw a kid marchin' with medals on his chest.

He marched alongside diggers marchin six abreast.

He knew it was Anzac Day - he walked along with pride.

He did his best to keep in step with the diggers by his side.

And when the march was over the kid was rather tired.

A digger said "Whose medals Son? to which the kid replied:

"They belong to my daddy but he did not come back

He died up in New Guinea on a lonely jungle track".

The kid looked rather sad. Then a tear came to his eye.

The digger said "Don't cry my son and I will tell you why,

Your daddy marched with us today - all the bloomin way.

We diggers know that he was there - it's like that on Anzac Day".

The kid looked rather puzzled and didn't understand

But the digger went on talking and

started to wave his hand.

"For this great land we live in, there's a price we have to pay.

And for this thing called freedom, the diggers had to pay.

For we all love fun and merriment in this country where we live,

The price was that some soldiers his precious life must give.

For you to go to school my lad and worship God at will

Someone had to pay the price.

So the diggers paid the bill.

Your daddy died for us my son - for all things good and true

I wonder if you can understand the things I've said to you."

The kid looked up at the digger - just for a little while,

And with a changed expression, said, with a lovely smile:

"I know my daddy marched today - this, our Anzac Day,

I know he did - I know he did - all the blooming way."

Lest we forget.

*Today I will learn that:
"it is truly important to reach out and touch everyone we come in contact with. It is human nature for people to forget what you say and many people will forget the many good deeds that you have done but if you touch them, really touch them they will never forget how you made them feel."*

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES



**IAN & THERESA MCKINNON,
WITH THEIR 9 CHILDREN - L TO R
ANNE, BETH, JOHN, MARK, DAVID, CLARE,
LYN, TERRY & ROSS.**

On Saturday, 7 May 2005, 50 years to the day, Ian and Theresa McKinnon celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. The celebration took place at their home at Falls Creek. In attendance were all of their nine children and 20 of their 21 grandchildren. The celebration consisted of afternoon tea with family and friends followed by dinner with just the family.

The afternoon tea was a delight. Many St Michael's parishioners were invited together with many from Ian's church of St Andrew's, the Tuesday morning tennis ladies and other family friends. Commencing with a short thanksgiving prayer ceremony, the afternoon culminated with speeches and the cutting of the cake, beautifully made and decorated by Vonnie Muller. Both Fr Pat and Rev Brian Burton spoke of the great example of married love Ian and Theresa have given, not only to our church communities, but to the wider community through their many community based activities.

Once invited guests departed, the

family settled in to party! The celebration consisted of a shared meal (approximately 40 people) ending in an exchange of gifts. Ian and Theresa presented each of the children with a copy of their recollections of their courtship, engagement, wedding day and honeymoon. The little booklet contained some photos and the promise of the story continuing. Ian and Theresa's children presented them with a DVD. The DVD was made up of contributions from each of the 9 children. They each put together about 5 to 10 minutes of memories, photos, video clips and/or thoughts of Ian and Theresa and growing up as their children. Following the showing of the DVD they also presented their parents with a computer so that they could now use the internet.

Ian and Theresa report the celebration as a highlight of their married lives!

Long time parishioners, Joan and Greg Watts celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, 14 May. They celebrated with their children, grandchildren, family and friends with a dinner at Pelican Rocks Restaurant at Greenwell Point. Members of the wedding party were present as well as many family and friends who had also attended the wedding 50 years ago.

On Sunday morning, 15 May, Joan and Greg and their family attended 9.30am Mass at St Michaels. Father Pat gave them a special blessing and family members par-

ticipated in various parts of the Mass.

Joan and Greg were married at St Mary's Star of the Sea in Gerringong on 14 May 1955. The wedding took place at 9.30am. It must have been difficult for both families, for as well as preparing for a wedding, the cows still had to be milked.

The early start was due to the fact that Catholics at that time had to fast from midnight to receive Holy Communion.



JOAN & GREG WATTS.



SISTER PATRICIA AND SISTER MARGARET CELEBRATED THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THEIR PROFESSION ON 6TH JANUARY 2005. THEY ARE PICTURED WITH FATHER STEVEN, FATHER LEO, FATHER RONAN AND FATHER PAT WHEN THEY ATTENDED A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND WERE PRESENTED WITH A MEMENTO FROM THE

THE LONG WAIT IS OVER!



BISHOP PETER ASSISTED BY FR LEO DURING THE BLESSING & OPENING OF THE NEW CENTRE.

On Saturday, 11th June, Bishop Peter Ingham DD, Blessed and officially opened the new St Vincent de Paul Centre at Sanctuary Point.

The ceremony, incorporating a Liturgy which was chosen to reflect the good works of the Society, was appreciated by the ninety plus society members and visitors.

This new modern centre will provide an appropriate service to the Bay & Basin community for many years to come. For the wonderful people who have endured great hardship in a hopelessly inadequate facility for many years, the transfer to this new centre, was indeed an occasion for celebration.

Ivor Davies, as Shoalhaven Regional President, was the driving force in

initiating this project and persuing all the details associated with the planning, design and construction of the Centre. He may well feel well satisfied with the result.

In attendance and supporting the Bishop were Father Pat Faherty, Fr Leo Duck and Fr Ronan Kilgannon. Many Society volunteers participated in the Liturgy.

The NSW & ACT State President of the Society, Mr John O'Neill and his wife Imelda, the Vice-President, Mr Raymond James, the Shoalhaven Mayor, Greg Watson, the Member for South Coast, Ms Shelley Hancock were in attendance and addressed the gathering. Each speaker applauded the Society for addressing the needs of this community and pledged their support for the Society in the future.



SOME OF THE MANY PAST AND PRESENT VOLUNTEERS WHO ATTENDED THE CELEBRATIONS.

A POSTCARD FROM SR MARGARET – UK



This card will give an accurate description of the "privations" I have to endure!

It is just one room or passageway in a very grand house. The course I am doing is really excellent, with very good

lectures, and enriching subject matter - Scripture, spirituality and the Church. On Wednesday afternoons and Saturdays we organise a local bus to take us on various outings, so we see some places of interest. We have been to North Wales (quite close to us), Chester, Stratford-on-Avon, the Cotswolds and are going to York next Saturday. I was here for a very Flowery Spring, and just this week "summer" has arrived. We have had some warm days - 30c, but we also have daylight from 4am until after 10pm. I am keeping very well, so I hope all are the same. Much love and prayers.

Sr Margaret

WHY PARENTS GROW GREY!

The boss of a big company who needed to call one of his employees about an urgent problem with one of the main computers, dialed the employee's home phone number and was greeted with a child's whisper, "Hello."

"Is your daddy home?" he asked.

"Yes," whispered the small voice. "May I talk with him?"

The child whispered, "No."

Surprised, and wanting to talk with an adult, the boss asked, "Is your mommy there?"

"Yes."

"May I talk with her?"

Again the small voice whispered, "No."

Hoping there was somebody with whom he could leave a message, the boss asked, "Is anybody else there?" "Yes," whispered the child, "a policeman."

Wondering what a cop would be doing at his employee's home, the boss asked, "May I speak with the policeman?"

"No, he's busy", whispered the child. "Busy doing what?"

"Talking to Daddy and Mommy and the Fireman", came the whispered answer. Growing concerned and even worried as he heard what sounded like a helicopter through the earpiece on the phone the boss asked, "What is that noise?"

"A hello-copper" answered the whispering voice.

"What is going on there?" asked the boss, now alarmed.

In an awed whispering voice the child answered, "The search team just landed the hello-copper."

Alarmed, concerned and even more than just a little frustrated the boss asked, "What are they searching for?" Still whispering, the young voice replied along with a muffled giggle:

"ME".



THE STORY BEHIND THE MOTHER RUTH SCHOLARSHIP

Peg Luxford.

Mother Ruth was principal of St Michael's when the school included secondary classes to School Certificate level. Dedicated work by the Good Samaritan nuns and a few lay teachers had seen the school obtain full certification under the Wyndham Scheme in 1967. Due, however, to financial considerations (no State Aid back then!) it was decided to close the secondary school and in 1968 about 100 pupils went to the Government High Schools. Sadly, Mother Ruth died in April 1968 while still in charge of St Michael's. Over the following year an amount of \$1,700.00 was raised by both Catholic and non-Catholic sections of the community with the aim of establishing a memorial to a woman who epitomised all that was admired in the Good Samaritan nuns who had established and run St Michael's for almost a century. It was decided to introduce a scholarship to be awarded to a pupil of St Michael's to assist with fees at a Catholic Secondary School. The first

scholarship was awarded in 1970 and was worth \$70.00.

Incredible support from members of both the local Catholic and non-Catholic community, all of whom had tremendous regard for the work of the Good Samaritan nuns, has resulted in continued fund-raising over the next 30 plus years.

The constitution of the registered fund required that once a Catholic Secondary School was founded locally, then the scholarship should be awarded to a pupil proceeding to that school and the first such scholarship was awarded in 1990 after the opening of the St John the Evangelist High School.

At present a scholarship is held by each of 6 pupils in Years 7 - 12 at St John's and an amount of \$4,800.00 is disbursed from the fund each year. One of the original trustees, Dr Bill Ryan, is still a member of the scholarship committee.

THE UPSIDE-DOWN VALUES OF JESUS!

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It's the resurrection that motivates us to keep going with our work at the Farm. The resurrection is our promise of hope and new life. Without that, the small successes, the faltering steps forward, that the men make would seem so insignificant as to be worthless. But each of those successes, each small step, is an act of hope, a seed of new life which needs to be nurtured with care and attention.

In recent months quite a few parishioners have been inspired by this work and have come to volunteer at the Farm, offering their skills and energy, but most especially, coming to be present to the men, treating them with the respect and dignity they so deeply crave and need. Over the next six months we're hoping to welcome even more people who'll join us in this work of hope and new life.

If you would like to find out more about the Farm, or would like to visit, phone us on 44 23 0640.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works
Shoalhaven Doorknock Appeal
Vinnies needs your help from

20 - 28 AUGUST 2005

Each year the Society assists some 5,300 families and individuals locally with food, financial help, clothing and furniture - that's over \$200,000 in assistance.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO CONTINUE THIS WORK



You are invited to assist at the Doorknock Appeal by volunteering for three hours between August 20 and 28.

To Register, Phone 4276-4224 or email doorknock@svdpwgong.org.au

Volunteers must be 12 years of age or older.



BISHOP PETER PRESENTING IVOR DAVIES WITH SYMBOLS OF HIS OFFICE. FR PAT IN THE BACKGROUND AND BRIAN MURNANE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT.

On Saturday 16 April Ivor Davies was commissioned as Diocesan President of the St Vincent de Paul Society. The commissioning took place during the Vigil Mass at St Francis Xavier Cathedral Wollongong. Bishop Peter Ingham DD and Father Patrick Faherty concelebrated the Mass. State & Diocesan Council members, and Vincentians from the Shoalhaven area attended along with Vincentians from many regions throughout the Diocese. Ivor's family and friends gathered after Mass for supper.

THE FIRST SATURDAY GROUP

The First Saturday Group was formed in Nowra in February 1992. Fr Patrick Vaughan and Ann Barron received permission from Monsignor John Purcell to hold the devotions on the first Saturday of each month, provided it did not interfere with the celebration of weddings, which were a priority on Saturdays. The devotion originally began as 'The Five First Saturdays'. These Five First Saturdays are intended to honour and to make reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for all the blasphemies and ingratitude of mankind.

This devotion and the wonderful promises connected with it were revealed by the Blessed Virgin at Fatima, a small village in Portugal. Our Lady appeared to three children there in 1917, and one of the little girls, Lucia, told us that she said: "I promise to help at the hour of death, with the graces needed for salvation, whoever on the first Saturday of five consecutive months shall:

- * Go to Reconciliation.
- * Receive Holy Communion.
- * Recite five decades of the Rosary.
- * Keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the other mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me."

On the first Saturday of each month at St Michael's Church, Nowra, we have Confession/Reconciliation at 8.30 am, Mass at 9.00am, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, silent meditation and Benediction from 9.30am. Following the devotions we welcome all to join us for 'tea and talk' in the hall, and this completes a rewarding spiritual and social experience which we invite everyone to share with us.

Eithne Wood

Today I will learn that: "the wise parent realises that every day the building blocks are being laid for their child's future."

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST HIGH SCHOOL



STAFF SPIRITUALITY DAY - WATERSLEA - 26TH APRIL 2005.

The Eucharist has been described as the 'source and summit' of Catholicism. The day, devoted to the topic of the Year of the Eucharist, enabled members of staff to examine this mystery of faith. To assist the process of faith seeking understanding, we were most fortunate in having at our Spirituality Day, Sister Susan Connelly and Father Patrick Faherty.

Sr Susan (RSJ) works at the Mary McKillop Institute of East Timorese Studies and has been heavily involved in the area of social justice issues. Her presentation examined the meaning of the Eucharist using various Vatican source documents.

Father Pat Faherty explored areas on the Eucharist that provided a sound basis for all present. He focused on the Eucharist through Scripture, Church Teaching and elements of the Mass. Father provided many valuable resources for teachers to use in the classroom and for their own personal information.

AMAZING

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**SR SUSAN CONNELLY & FR PATRICK FAHERTY
PRESENTERS AT ST JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL STAFF
IN-SERVICE ON THE EUCHARIST.**

WORLD YOUTH DAY.

On another level, we wish to congratulate the students of Year 11 who were selected to attend World Youth Day. The students selected, **Shaun Donnelly, Tessa Gorman, Sarah Ison and Madeleine Kitchener**, will leave for a 20-day tour departing Sydney on 6 August to go to Paris, Lourdes, La Salette, Taize, Luxembourg and Cologne. We are delighted to also announce that a member from our faculty, Mark Malady, has been selected as a teacher representative for the Diocese to attend World Youth Day. We wish all who attend this gathering Godspeed and a safe journey and return.



FRONT ROW L TO R: SARAH ISON, MARK MALADY (TEACHER) SHAUN DONNELLY, TESSA GORMAN & MADELEINE KITCHENER IN THE BACK.

ST MICHAEL'S AT CROSSROADS MARCH 2005

At our March get together we had a great time with craft, songs and dancing. Fr Steven read the story of the Three Days of Easter and the Crossroaders learnt "Jesus Remember Me" as part of our Liturgy of the Word. St Michael's host Crossroads on the 2nd Friday of every month at Church of Christ, Illaroo Road North Nowra, 7 - 9pm.



ABOVE: LUKE GLOVER & PHILLIP THOMAS
"IN THE DANCING MOOD".



Helpers and supper are always welcome.

LEFT: HELPERS, HETTY PETRIE, MARY DUNN
AND SALVINA PULIS.



ST PATRICK'S LENTEN GROUP 2005

FROM LEFT: JULIE ROBISON, MARIE HANLEY, KATHERINE BRANDON, SUE McANDREW, HELEN DALATZ, FRANK TRACANELLI, (NOT SHOWN) MICHAEL ROBINSON, MAURIE HANLEY.



ABOVE: CLARE WALSH WITH HER GRANDMA,
ANNE DYNON ON THE OCCASION OF CLARE'S
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ON 28 MAY.

BELOW: ELLEN WALSH WAS CONFIRMED BY
BISHOP PETER ON SUNDAY 12 JUNE. ELLEN IS
PICTURED WITH HER SISTER CLARE.



BARBARA'S PARTY!

Approximately 60 people gathered on 15th January 2005, to celebrate Barbara Sweeny's 70th birthday. Barbara's relatives came from Melbourne, Brisbane, Burrawang, Sydney, Kiama, Wollongong, Campbelltown, and Woodstock to share this special occasion. Sr Thecla, who had prepared Barbara for her First Holy Communion, travelled by train from Sydney to be with her. Her God-daughter travelled all the way from Brisbane. Many local parishioners, together with our priest, Fr Pat and Fr Steven also joined in the festivities. (Fr Ronan got lost on his way.) Congratulations Barbara, on this significant birthday, may we all be here to celebrate the eightieth with you. God Bless.



BARBARA'S COUSIN, ANNE, FROM MELBOURNE,
SPEAKING AT BARBARA'S BIRTHDAY PARTY. IN
THE FOREGROUND, EITHNE WOOD, BOMAD-
ERRY, COUSIN MURIEL, BURRAWANG, BARBARA
AND SR THECLA.

2005 PASCHAL MEAL

This year, once again, the Parish Lenten Programme culminated in the celebration of the Paschal Meal in St Michael's Parish Hall.



SHOALHAVEN HEADS

While numbers were down on previous years those who attended revelled, in the warmth and friendship that are becoming such a feature of the evening

BAY & BASIN



CULBURRA



KANGAROO VALLEY



Harry Ray proved to be a superb Elijah even though he had a hard act to follow after Fr Ronan in 2003 and Fr Honorio in 2004.



BOMADERRY



BERRY



People of all ages came together from every area of the Parish.

NOWRA

