



Shoalhaven catholic news

nowraparish.org.au

Nowra Parish
Established 1863

St Michael's, 30 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

Sisters of the Good Samaritan Sesquicentenary

On 2 February 1857, Archbishop Polding, the first Archbishop of Sydney founded The Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of Saint Benedict, to care for the poor and destitute of the early colony. In the past 150 years the sisters have set up schools and orphanages and there are now more than 100 communities working in Australia, Japan, the Philippines and Kiribati.

Back in 1893, the first community in Nowra was established, so it was fitting that there should be a special celebration in Nowra for the Sesquicentenary (150 years) of the work and ministry of the Sisters. On 18 February, Saint Michael's Parish had a Mass of Thanksgiving for

the ministry of the sisters in Nowra. The Bishop of Wollongong, Most Rev. Peter Ingham DD, was the principal celebrant together with our Parish Priest, Fr Patrick Faherty.

Bishop Peter spoke of the work of the sisters over the years, and later Sr Clare Condon sgs, the Good Samaritan Congregational Leader — “born and bred” in the Diocese — addressed the congregation and thanked Fr Pat and the parishioners for their continued care and support. Many sisters attended, among whom were former parishioner Sr Beverly Caffery sgs, as well as former teachers at St Michael's. The sisters present were very pleased to see the good work that the lay teachers now continue

as they keep alive the Good Samaritan spirit of “love your neighbour.”

Following the Mass and blessing of new and refurbished buildings Peter Walsh, a senior parishioner and former pupil of Saint Michael's was invited to speak. He kept those present enthralled and entertained as he recounted episodes of his school-days in the nineteen-twenties.

Later the sisters were guests at a luncheon in the new Parish Centre, now part of what was the classroom block built in 1918. Many amusing incidents were recalled and so many memories were revived.

Sr Margaret Prendergast



(Back row): Sr Margaret Prendergast, Sr Patti Faulkner, Sr Clare Condon, Sr Lia van Haren, Sr Eileen Brown, Sr Geraldine Kearney, Sr Maureen Shelvey, Sr Patricia Lawless (Front row): Sr Kathleen Sheehan, Sr Philomena Barry, Sr Beverley Caffery, Sr Rita Fitt, Sr Gemma Cahill

Anzac Day Reflections

The customary 8am Mass was celebrated at St Michael's on Anzac Day. At the conclusion of Mass the special address was given by Lieutenant Joseph Lindsay RAN.

At 3.30am on Sunday, 25 April 1915, the Anzac landing force climbed into rowing boats destined for the beach at Gallipoli. In silence, the first boat touched land. The Anzacs sprang out and advanced on the enemy. It was 4.29am. Lance Corporal W. Francis recalled those first moments when he was about forty yards from the beach. He wrote:

One single shot rang out—followed by a dead silence... By now we were hoping for all hell to be let loose—machine guns, shrapnel—anything but this nerve racking silence.

He did not have long to wait. Soon after those first Australians set foot on shore—the bullets came. Some of the men in the boats were hit as the hail of fire intensified, striking down the helpless men as they rowed desperately to land. The men threw down their packs, turned to the enemy and climbed up the steep slopes before them, chasing back the Turks. Within ten minutes they had scaled the vertical cliffs and stood triumphantly more than three hundred feet above the coast.

During the day individuals and small parties advanced more than one and a half miles from the sea, but then they were halted and pushed back.

One quarter of the Australians that died in the eight months of the campaign died on the first day – two thousand men – and thousands wounded.

Casualties on all sides amounted to approximately one hundred and seventy thousand. Turkish casualties were over eighty six thousand.

Although they failed to win their objective of victory in the Dardanelles, the Australians had established themselves as grim, determined fighters. They had won an imperishable renown for their glorious deeds. The heavy casualties demanded that the campaign be commemorated.

Shrines of remembrance were dedicated across the length and breadth of Australia. Soon after the shrine of remembrance



in Melbourne had been dedicated in the early 1930s, renowned historian and journalist, Brian Fitzpatrick wrote:

In a generation, there will be no more old soldiers to march up the hill and stand with bowed heads behind the barriers; no more widows and orphans to lay wreaths when the ceremonial is done and the people are given access to the shrine...

Over ninety years later, there are still widows and orphans to lay wreaths to those who have fallen in campaigns since. Today—in every city and town in Australia—there will be Anzac services. Old soldiers will talk of the courage and individual initiatives of Australian soldiers who—facing disaster—saved the day 92 years ago.

Others will take time to honour those who have fought and died for Australia in every campaign that followed the war to end all wars. Every Australian should take time to think of the effects of war and resolve to pursue the quest for peace.

We must never accept the view that it is useless to speak of peace. Our problems are human-made—and therefore they can be solved by humans. President John F Kennedy once said:

No problem of human destiny is beyond human beings. Man's reason and spirit have often solved the seemingly unsolvable—and we believe they can do it again... For, in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet—we all breathe the same air—we all cherish our children's future—and we are all mortal.

Today's serving men and women show their resolve to the peace and freedom we enjoy in Australia as a legacy to those Anzacs who died 92 years ago.

Bits & Pieces

In May some 130 children received their **First Holy Communion** throughout the Parish.

Confirmation: On Sunday 24 June, Bishop Peter confirmed 127 young parishioners. Both occasions were most joyful and significant for the families involved and for the entire Parish. Our very special thanks to the teachers from St Michael's and our catechists for their wholehearted support and cooperation.

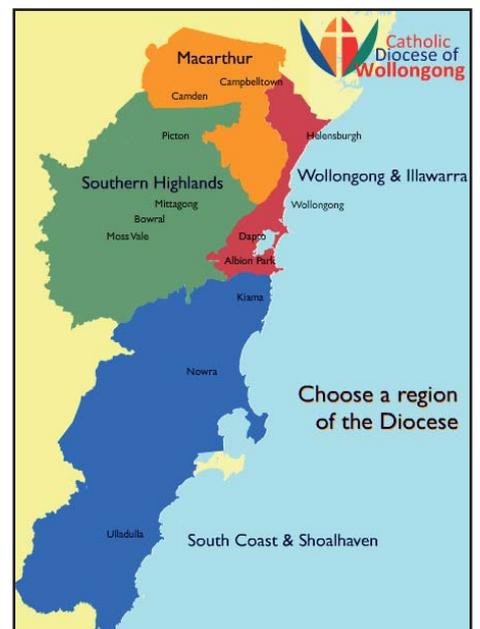
Generosity: Over the past six months the Parish as a whole has contributed \$14,600 to the annual missions appeal, \$2,196 to the Good Friday collection for the Shrines and sacred Places in the Holy Land, \$14,940 to Project Compassion, and \$2,000 to Darfur.

In preparation for **Pentecost** we were blessed once again with a beautiful Taizé Evening conducted by Les Ambrus. The evening was most prayerful and reflective.

New website

The Diocese of Wollongong launched its long-anticipated website in May. Fr Richard Healey spent many hours working on the site, which features loads of information about the Diocese and the Catholic faith, as well as information about each parish and agency. It is well worth a visit:

dow.org.au



Interfaith Dialogue

On Monday evening, 18 June, Dominican sister Trish Madigan visited our parish to speak about “Interfaith dialogue between Christian, Muslim and other religions and the role of women in this dialogue”. It was a cold and miserable evening but the fifty to sixty brave souls who ventured out were warmed and enthused by a truly inspirational speaker. Sr Trish stood there and just talked to us, as to a group of friends, about things that were obviously close to her heart. She emphasised the need for “Interfaith” relationships to promote friendship and understanding between all religions. Sister reminded the gathering that “Interfaith Dialogue” applies to the dialogue and relationship with non-Christian religions, whereas Ecumenism applies to dialogue between Christian denominations.

Sr Trish spoke of all four levels at which interfaith dialogue can take place. When you think about it these are fairly obvious:

1. We can meet someone of another faith in the business of our everyday lives; over the back fence, in the supermarket queue, at a meeting etc. Here we have a chance to be friendly, open and receptive.

2. We can meet in small discussion groups and Trish told us how this has been occurring in the city.
3. We can become involved because of family involvement - an interfaith marriage either in immediate or extended family.
4. We can set out to study the theology of various religions (most of us are happy to leave this to the experts).

We then learnt a little more of how the second level is working in parts of Sydney and the suburbs. Small groups of no more than about eight or nine people from various faiths meet monthly and share a knowledge of their own practices and culture. A topic is chosen for each faith and a person of that faith speaks about it and answers questions and concerns. Some of these groups include five, six or more faith groupings but are limited to no more than three persons of any particular faith.

The meeting was then thrown open for questions and these came thick and fast. Sr Trish’s answers showed a wide knowledge of and close association with much of the concern expressed.

The emphasis of most questions was on Islam - naturally in the present

climate. Sr Trish stressed that the vast majority of our Muslim population have nothing whatever to do with terrorism. She pointed out that there are many families of third generation Muslims from various ethnic groups (Turks for example) who have been living in this country for many years and to some extent their ethnicity defined them still, just as our Irish, Scottish, English, Italian, Greek, Polish, etc. heritage still influences our lives and practices. Many of the children of this third generation are turning back to their roots and wanting to know more about the cultural and religious customs of their grandparents. Some embrace these; some adapt them to the Australian way of life just as so many of our earlier migrant families have.

An end was called to questions as we might well have been there all night. Then as we mingled for the inevitable “cuppa” it was found that there was quite a representation from other churches in the district and everyone was just “blown away” by all that had been learnt from a truly gifted communicator.

A big “THANK YOU” to Carmen Gauci and the Parish *Young Adults Group*, who organised and promoted the evening.

Peggy Luxford



Special Overseas Experiences

Dell Reynolds

On a recent sojourn overseas, we witnessed two wonderful Catholic Ceremonies.

The first was at the Cathedral of Civitavecchia (the sea port for Rome, Italy).

We went to Mass at noon on Sunday and discovered that the 10am Mass had included First Holy Communion. Unbeknown to us the noon Mass was to include Confirmation. What a busy day! So on a bright, sunny day we walked up the wide front steps to see the magnificent interior with breathtaking stainglass windows and paintings – the only place for us was standing room – the church was absolutely packed to the rafters. Everyone was smartly dressed and the atmosphere was one of expectation, happiness and excitement.

The children entered in a solemn procession (all dressed in cream/white albs, similar to altar servers' outfits)

– an impressive sight – followed by the Bishop. The Mass was celebrated in Italian. The congregation sang hymns which added to the atmosphere. After the children received communion, their names were read out as they received their certificates and they were seated around the altar for the remainder of Mass. Afterwards, families gathered to take photos.

The second experience was in Athens, Greece. We went to 6pm Mass on Sunday at the Cathedral of St Denis – without our camera!

It was packed and guess what? It included Confirmation. Again the Church's interior was magnificent. The

congregation was 99% Filipino and the Mass was, surprisingly enough, in English. There was a choir of about 20 Filipino women dressed in white albs with bright green collars. The musical instruments included a cello, keyboard or piano and maybe a guitar. Again, you could sense a great atmosphere of celebration.

The children were all dressed in white/cream albs and wore crowns made of green

leaves. They walked down the aisle with their parents/sponsors on either side. Throughout the Mass the choir sang and it was like being lifted up to heaven.

After their confirmation, the children were seated in the altar area. Then they alone sang a hymn about their love for God (without accompaniment). It was very moving.

So, these two experiences for us were very special.



(Above) Interior of the Civitavecchia Cathedral.



(Above) One of the Confirmation children; (Right) Interior of St Denis Cathedral, Athens.



Catholic Women's League

Robbie Forsythe & Marie Hanley

The Catholic Women's League is a group of women who come together to be a Eucharistic community which upholds the dignity of women and encourages their participation in church and society, to fulfil the mission of the church. The CWL exists at parish, state and national level with a permanent secretariat in Canberra which researches social issues and provides ways of presentation of a Catholic viewpoint to governments at all levels.

A small number of parishioners met with Fr Pat and suggested the possibility of re-forming a Branch incorporating the Nowra/Berry/Bomaderry/Culburra/Kangaroo Valley and Shoalhaven Heads centres and it was decided to hold a meeting in the Parish Centre on Tuesday 29 May to discuss the possibility of forming a Branch. 17 local women attended the meeting expressing an interest in the formation of the group. Members from the Diocesan and the Bay & Basin branches attended lending their support and information.

A follow up meeting was held on 12 June for the election of a committee – President: Marie Hanley; Secretary: Katherine Brandon; Treasurer: Gemma Thomas. The Branch will meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the Polding room of the Parish centre at 10.00am. Fr Pat has agreed to be the attending Chaplain of the Branch.

New members are always welcome. There is a Diocesan joining fee of \$25. Spiritual and social activities are provided for all women, catholic and

non-catholic. Ecumenism is very active especially at parish level. Retreat days and conferences featuring informed guest speakers are organised by Diocesan and State Councils. Some Branches fund raise to support the Bishop's Bursary Fund for the education of priests for the Diocese of Wollongong and Fellowship of Least Coins which supports women in prison. Members attend functions in other churches and those of other CWL branches. One of the major projects of CWL is the protection of women and children.



~ Invitation ~

Inaugural Annual St Michael's Dinner

St Michael's Parish Pastoral Council invites all parishioners to celebrate the Feast Day of our Patron Saint on Saturday 29 September 2007 with the Vigil Mass and a Parish dinner to follow. The Celebratory Mass will commence at 6pm. All parishioners are very welcome to participate in the Mass; the dinner, commencing at 7.15pm will be by ticket at a cost of **\$25 per adult** and **\$10 per child** (12 years and under). Tickets will be limited (for catering purposes) to approximately 200 people — so first-in-first-served. Information regarding the purchase of tickets will be available in the Parish Bulletin during August. If you require a table to be booked for a large group you will need to contact Robbie at the Parish Office.

Dinner will be a catered, sit down event with two courses, featuring a selection of roast dinners and a vegetarian meal. There will be a selection of sweets to follow. You will be welcomed with canapés. BYO alcohol or soft drink. Light dinner music will be played during the evening by a live group, the Morrison Family. Tea and coffee will be provided.

There will be a guest speaker following dinner – **Mr Daniel Hopper**, the Diocesan Coordinator of the World Youth Day.

We look forward to this being an Annual event celebrated by as many parishioners across the Parish as possible.

St John the Evangelist High School

Helen Crocco

St John the Evangelist Catholic High school has been a busy place in recent weeks. The school celebrated its 18th Birthday with our Annual Foundation Day Mass on 25 May celebrated by Fr Richard Healey. The Foundation Day Fair on Friday 25 May raised over \$3000 for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. Plans have begun for our 20th Anniversary with an enthusiastic committee in place.

The school play, "Those Learned Ladies", was a great hit with retired parishioners who attended our complimentary matinee performance on Wednesday 20 June.

The 50th Anniversary of NAIDOC was commemorated in a series of events at St John's this year. In addition to our annual NAIDOC Liturgy and Flag Raising Ceremony on Thursday 28 June, Community members, elders and parents commissioned our Yarn Circle, Bush Tucker Garden and Reconciliation Totem Walk on Wednesday evening 27 June. Our Indigenous boys dance group performed at both occasions.



The group also performed at the NAIDOC ceremonies for each of the primary schools, St Mary Star of the Sea, Milton and St Michael's, Nowra. Our Indigenous girls dance group performed for the first time on Thursday morning. Parents and visitors were invited to view the Year 12 Aboriginal Studies students' major works which were on display in the school Library. A significant feature of this year's events, which took place in the school Hall on

Wednesday 27 June, was the acceptance by the Director of Schools, Peter Turner, and the subsequent unveiling of the reconciliation-inspired paintings by Vic Morrison. The program for the evening included performances by the Morrison family and an extraordinary combined orchestra consisting of members of the Shoalhaven Youth Orchestra, Sydney Conservatorium and Australian National University.



(Clockwise from above)
Students prepare to cut the Foundation Day cake; the Yarn Circle, Bush Tucker Garden and Reconciliation Totem Walk; Cast members from 'Those Learned Ladies.'



St Michael's Parish Centre

Fr Patrick J. Faherty

On an overcast Sunday afternoon 89 years ago (21 April 1918) parishioners of the Shoalhaven assembled in this same location in the presence of the local Mayor Charlie Bennett and welcomed His Grace Michael Kelly, the Archbishop of Sydney, to bless and officially open this building, which was described in the press of the day as the New Convent School and Parish Hall. At that date it would be another 7 months before the end of the Great War. The ceremony would have been a very welcome occasion, presenting an opportunity to rejoice and celebrate for a rural community that had lost a significant number of young men in the War over the four-year period, as had so many towns and communities throughout Australia.



To build such a structure in 1918 would have been a significant achievement indeed for a parish community. Many generations of children and parishioners have been educated here by dedicated and very gifted and prophetic Sisters of the Good Samaritan.

The Parish Hall has been the venue for some wonderful entertainment and in particular some memorable musicals over the years.

Thanks to the direction of Shoalhaven City Council that we, as a parish, take a more analytical view of the future of this building, we undertook the task of refurbishing this building. Special thanks to the professional vision and creative skills of our Architect Charles Granville and the workmanship of Project Coordination our Contractors. So it is that today we are delighted to invite Bishop Peter to bless and open this refurbished building which, please God, will enjoy a second Spring.



I wish to thank our Pastoral Councils, our Parish Finance Committee and the parishioners who attended the various meetings that were held, and eventually came to a unanimous decision to proceed with this project.

Iwant to gratefully acknowledge a number of Diocesan personnel who have been most cooperative and generous in their support. This is most important when dealing with large sums of other people's money.

I thank Tony Abela in his capacity as Diocesan Finance Administrator who always gave prudent and practical advice; Graham Maynard as Diocesan property manager was always most approachable and optimistic; Tony Sanderson and Trevor Kellam from the Catholic Development Fund gave practical and helpful advice on arranging finance.

From the beginning we were blessed with an Architect who was most accommodating and reassuring in the person of Charles Granville. His offsider Daniel Smith has also been

readily available and responsive to our needs. Project Coordination personnel were great to work with – pleasant, cooperative, and careful.

Much water has flown underneath the Shoalhaven Bridge since this building was first opened. At times the waters have been turbulent—the story of society and the Church.

Finally, a senior parishioner and past-pupil of what was the New Convent School, Peter Walsh, shared a few reflections of the story of yesteryear.

Photos on this page show Bishop Peter blessing the new building, and part of the crowd on the day.



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2008

SHOALHAVEN MACARTHUR ILLAWARRA SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS



The WYD 2008 theme, received from the Holy Father is:

‘You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses.’

Acts 1:8

The official World Youth Day program contains a week-long program of events, and in the year and week prior, a number of lead-up events.

These are the key events in the year ahead:

1 July 2007 to 15 July 2008 - *Journey of the Cross and Icon of Our Lady* across Australia

- **8-9 December 2007** - Initial visit to the Diocese of Wollongong
- **25 March - 5 April 2008** - Main visit of the Cross and Icon through the Diocese of Wollongong

Thursday 10 - Monday 14 July 2008 - Days in the Diocese of Wollongong, including homestay with Nowra parishioners.

Tuesday 15 July 08 - Opening Mass of welcome celebrated by Cardinal Pell, followed by concert. ***KEY EVENT* FREE**

Wednesday 16 - Friday 18 July 08 - Catechesis (teaching) sessions every morning and Youth Festival events in afternoon / evening. **[*Registration Required]**

Thursday 17 July 08 - Arrival and welcome of the Holy Father (Sydney Harbour). **[*KEY EVENT* FREE]**

Friday 18 July 08 (evening) - Stations of the Cross - a re-enactment of Our Lord's Passion and Death through the streets of Sydney. **[*KEY EVENT* FREE]**

Saturday 19 July 08 - Pilgrimage walk to Randwick Racecourse (TBC); Evening Vigil with The Holy Father and sleep out 'under the stars'. **[*Registration Required]**

Sunday 20 July 08 - 9am Closing Papal Mass and event. Entry to main venue only by weekend ticket. Overflow venue free.

There will also be a variety of supporting programs and events including *Days in the Dioceses*, *Youth Festival*, *Journey of the WYD Cross and Icon of our Lady* and *Vocations Expo*.

Journey of the Cross and Icon in Nowra Parish ~ DRAFT ITINERARY ~

The Cross and Icon needs to tell the stories of local communities. How does the Cross and Icon contribute to our journey as the people of God locally and what stories will be added to its journey?

Saturday 29 March 2008

5pm - Evening - St Joseph's Church, Kangaroo Valley (overnight to Milton)

Sunday 30 March 2008

1.15pm - Fishing boat (from Ulladulla) to Indigenous community, Wreck Bay

3pm - Walk to HMAS Creswell, Jervis Bay

5pm - Travel via Naval Helicopter (HMAS Albatross)

6pm - St John's High School, Nowra (overnight)

Monday 31 March 2008

8.30am - Farewell Liturgy, St John's High School, Nowra

10am - Travel to St Michael's Church, Nowra

2pm - Walk across Shoalhaven Bridge and through Bomaderry

3.30pm - Travel to Kiama via local fishing boat.

Amanda Lloyd (St Michael's School) is the local contact person for the World Youth Day in our parish. If you would like to be involved in forming a **WYD Parish Team** - to help plan (1) the visit of the Cross & Icon to our Parish, (2) Days in the Diocese events in our local area and (3) leading a group of young people to WYD 2008 - please give Amanda a call on **0402 912 112**.

Visit the Diocese of Wollongong WYD website for updated information: **wydo8woll.org**.

Parish Clergy:

Fr Pat J Faherty (Parish Priest, Nowra)

Fr Richard Healey (Assistant Priest, Nowra)

Fr Ronan Kilgannon (resident in Kangaroo Valley)

Fr Leo Duck (Assistant Priest, resident in Vincentia)

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

Nowra: (02) 4423 1712

Vincentia: (02) 4441 5571

Email: office@nowraparish.org.au