



# St Michael's Parish, Nowra

Incorporating the Catholic Communities of St Michael's, Nowra – St. Patrick's, Berry – Sacred Heart, Bomaderry - Help of Christians, Culburra – St Joseph's, Kangaroo Valley – Holy Spirit, Vincentia.

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pg/stmichaelsparishnowra](http://www.facebook.com/pg/stmichaelsparishnowra)

Web page: [www.nowraparish.org.au](http://www.nowraparish.org.au)

Email: [office@nowraparish.org.au](mailto:office@nowraparish.org.au)

Office Telephone: 4423 1712

**Bookings for Weekend Masses, please see notice inside bulletin**

***Fifth Sunday in Ordinary time B***

***7<sup>th</sup> February 2021***

## ***MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE XXIX WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 2021***

***"You have but one teacher and you are all brothers" (Mt 23:8). A trust-based relationship to guide care for the sick***

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

The celebration of the XXIX World Day of the Sick on 11 February 2021, the liturgical memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lourdes, is an opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and to those who provide them with assistance and care both in healthcare institutions and within families and communities. We think in particular of those who have suffered, and continue to suffer, the effects of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic. To all, and especially to the poor and the marginalized, I express my spiritual closeness and assure them of the Church's loving concern.

1. The theme of this Day is drawn from the Gospel passage in which Jesus criticizes the hypocrisy of those who fail to practise what they preach (cf. *Mt 23:1-12*). When our faith is reduced to empty words, unconcerned with the lives and needs of others, the creed we profess proves inconsistent with the life we lead. The danger is real. That is why Jesus uses strong language about the peril of falling into self-idolatry. He tells us: "*You have but one teacher and you are all brothers*" (v. 8).

Jesus' criticism of those who "preach but do not practise" (v. 3) is helpful always and everywhere, since none of us is immune to the grave evil of hypocrisy, which prevents us from flourishing as children of the one Father, called to live universal fraternity.

Before the needs of our brothers and sisters, Jesus asks us to respond in a way completely contrary to such hypocrisy. He asks us to stop and listen, to establish a direct and personal relationship with others, to feel empathy and compassion, and to let their suffering become our own as we seek to serve them (cf. *Lk 10:30-35*).

2. The experience of sickness makes us realize our own vulnerability and our innate need of others. It makes us feel all the more clearly that we are creatures dependent on God. When we are ill, fear and even bewilderment can grip our minds and hearts; we find ourselves powerless, since our health does not depend on our abilities or life's incessant worries (cf. *Mt 6:27*).

Sickness raises the question of life's meaning, which we bring before God in faith. In seeking a new and deeper direction in our lives, we may not find an immediate answer. Nor are our relatives and friends always able to help us in this demanding quest.

The biblical figure of Job is emblematic in this regard. Job's wife and friends do not accompany him in his misfortune; instead, they blame him and only aggravate his solitude and distress. Job feels forlorn and misunderstood. Yet for all his extreme frailty, he rejects hypocrisy and chooses the path of honesty towards God and others. He cries out to God so insistently that God finally answers him and allows him to glimpse a new horizon. He confirms that Job's suffering is not a punishment or a state of separation from God, much less as sign of God's indifference. Job's heart, wounded and healed, then makes this vibrant and touching confession to the Lord: "I had heard of you by word of mouth, but now my eye has seen you" (42:5).

3. Sickness always has more than one face: it has the face of all the sick, but also those who feel ignored, excluded and prey to social injustices that deny their fundamental rights (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 22). The current pandemic has exacerbated inequalities in our healthcare systems and exposed inefficiencies in the care of the sick. Elderly, weak and vulnerable people are not always granted access to care, or in an equitable manner. This is the result of political decisions, resource management and greater or lesser commitment on the part of those holding positions of responsibility. Investing resources in the care and assistance of the sick is a priority linked to the fundamental principle that health is a primary common good. Yet the pandemic has also highlighted the dedication and generosity of healthcare personnel, volunteers, support staff, priests, men and women religious, all of whom have helped, treated, comforted and served so many of the sick and their families with professionalism, self-giving, responsibility and love of neighbour. A silent multitude of men and women, they chose not to look the other way but to share the suffering of patients, whom they saw as neighbours and members of our one human family.

Such closeness is a precious balm that provides support and consolation to the sick in their suffering. As Christians, we experience that closeness as a sign of the love of Jesus Christ, the *Good Samaritan*, who draws near with compassion to every man and woman wounded by sin. United to Christ by the working of the Holy Spirit, we are called to be merciful like the Father and to love in particular our frail, infirm and suffering brothers and sisters (cf. *Jn 13:34-35*). We experience this closeness not only as individuals but also as a community. Indeed, fraternal love in Christ generates a

community of healing, a community that leaves no one behind, a community that is inclusive and welcoming, especially to those most in need.

Here I wish to mention the importance of fraternal solidarity, which is expressed concretely in service and can take a variety of forms, all directed at supporting our neighbours. "Serving means caring ... for the vulnerable of our families, our society, our people" (*Homily in Havana*, 20 September 2015). In this outreach, all are "called to set aside their own wishes and desires, their pursuit of power, before the concrete gaze of those who are most vulnerable... Service always looks to their faces, touches their flesh, senses their closeness and even, in some cases, 'suffers' that closeness and tries to help them. Service is never ideological, for we do not serve ideas, we serve people" (*ibid.*).

4. If a therapy is to be effective, it must have a relational aspect, for this enables a holistic approach to the patient. Emphasizing this aspect can help doctors, nurses, professionals and volunteers to feel responsible for accompanying patients on a path of healing grounded in a trusting interpersonal relationship (cf. *New Charter for Health Care Workers* [2016], 4). This creates a covenant between those in need of care and those who provide that care, a covenant based on mutual trust and respect, openness and availability. This will help to overcome defensive attitudes, respect the dignity of the sick, safeguard the professionalism of healthcare workers and foster a good relationship with the families of patients.

Such a relationship with the sick can find an unfailing source of motivation and strength in the *charity of Christ*, as shown by the witness of those men and women who down the millennia have grown in holiness through service to the infirm. For the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection is the source of the love capable of giving full meaning to the experience of patients and caregivers alike. The Gospel frequently makes this clear by showing that Jesus heals not by magic but as the result of *an encounter, an interpersonal relationship*, in which God's gift finds a response in the faith of those who accept it. As Jesus often repeats: "Your faith has saved you".

5. Dear brothers and sisters, the commandment of love that Jesus left to his disciples is also kept in our relationship with the sick. A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned. To Mary, Mother of Mercy and Health of the Infirm, I entrust the sick, healthcare workers and all those who generously assist our suffering brothers and sisters. From the Grotto of Lourdes and her many other shrines throughout the world, may she sustain our faith and hope, and help us care for one another with fraternal love. To each and all, I cordially impart my blessing.

+ Franciscus



*Healing Mass* will be celebrated  
on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 10:00am** at Holy Spirit Church at Vincentia.

## PARISH MEETINGS

### **Catechists Meeting**

This coming **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 10:00am**  
in the Parish Center.

All volunteers are urged to attend this meeting.

Anyone who is interested in finding out more about the programs are most welcome to attend and ask questions.

#### **Why not BECOME A CATECHIST?**

Can you give one hour of your time each week during the school year?

We provide the training, guidance and materials you will need.

*Catechists are ordinary people sharing the stories beautiful stories from the Scriptures.*

### **Nowra Parish Exective Council Meeting**

The meeting will be held on **Thursday 11th February at 7:00pm** in the parish Center.

The P.E.C are the leaders from the various community within the Parish. If you have anything you wish to be brought at these meeting please contact your communtiy committee or send an email to the Parish Office.

### **Nowra Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**

The meeing will be held on **Thursday 18th February at 7:00pm** in the Parish Center.

The P.P.C is made up of the Community leaders as well as other appointed members of the parish. The aim of the PPC is to discuss the needs of the whole parish.

## READERS ROSTER NOWRA MASSES

Any persons interested in joining the readers roster for weekend masses at St Michaels are asked to contact Bernadette Pullen [bpullen@outlook.com.au](mailto:bpullen@outlook.com.au) or 0402136691 with contact details and preferred mass time (Sat Vigil 5pm, Sun 8am, 9:30am, 5pm)

We hope to publish a roster beginning in March.



**We prayerfully remember** the recently deceased **John Delauney, John Duffy (Foster, father of Sandra Conn), Bridget O’Riordan (Ireland)** and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: **Regina Werda, Denis O’Riordan (Ireland), Kathleen Cahill, Les Merriman, Michael & Stan Bright and Paul Coffey.** We

### ***Comfort—Lenten Program 2021 on sale now!***



In order to assist us on our Lenten journey... the diocese publishes a Lenten Program book each year that includes daily reflections and beautiful artwork from the Masters throughout Lent...

Books will be available from this weekend. \$5

### ***Registering for weekend Masses:***

For Nowra, Culburra, Berry and Bomaderry – will be using QR code system &/or check in at the door. **Church QR** can still be used until the diocese is registered with the “Service NSW”.

For Mass at Kangaroo Valley, please email [ronankangaroo1@gmail.com](mailto:ronankangaroo1@gmail.com)

For Mass at Vincentia - call **0435 862 156** or email [holyspiritvincentia@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritvincentia@gmail.com)

#### ***Weekend Masses***

<b>Nowra</b>	Saturday	5:00pm
	Sunday	8:00am
		9:30am
		5:00pm

<b>Culburra</b>	Saturday	5:00pm
<b>Bomaderry</b>	Sunday	9:30am
<b>K’Valley</b>	Sunday	11:00am

<b>Vincentia</b>	Saturday	6:00pm
	Sunday	9:30am
Croatian Mass Saturday		7:00pm
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month		

#### ***Weekday Masses***

<b>Nowra</b>	Monday to Friday	8:00am
	Wednesday	5:30pm
	Friday	11:30am

<b>Berry</b>	Tuesday – 5:30pm
<b>Culburra</b>	Thursday – 5:30pm
<b>Bomaderry</b>	Friday – 5:30pm

<b>K’ Valley</b>	Tuesday to Thursday	9:00am
<b>Vincentia</b>	Mon, Thurs & Friday	8:00am
	Tue & Wed	5:30pm

### ***Reconciliation / Confession times:***

**Nowra:** Saturday: 9.30 – 10.30am;

**Berry:** Tuesday following 5.30pm Mass;

**Culburra:** Saturday before 5.00pm Vigil Mass;

**Bomaderry:** Friday following 5.30pm Mass;

**Vincentia:** Saturday 5pm



**ROSARY:** You can join in praying the Rosary with one of several groups in the Parish:

Tuesday Morning after 8:00am Mass

Tuesday Evening after the Mass at Berry at 5:30pm

Friday afternoon before the Mass at Bomaderry at 5:30pm

*The Rosary is a prayer both so humble and simple, and theologically rich in Biblical Content. St John Paul II*

### ***Seeking Accommodation.***

A practising Catholic man in his early 50s who comes with references.

He has recently moved into the parish and is soon to start a new job.

He is currently living in the Vincentia area but would be happy to find a place somewhere within the parish, including Nowra and Bomaderry and surrounding area.

If you can help, please contact: **Rory Bowler: 0409 040 639**

***Thank you to C & S Tree Services*** –for the truck load of garden mulch, delivered to St Michael’s, Nowra. The mulch is being used in the gardens around the church, presbytery, hall and children’s garden at the school.

## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time B

### Entrance Antiphon

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

### A reading from the book of Job

Jb 7:1-4. 6-7

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?' Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!' Restlessly I fret till twilight falls. Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind. Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy.

### Response Psalm 146

(R.) Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;  
sing to our God for he is loving;  
to him our praise is due. (R.)

He fixes the number of the stars;  
he calls each one by its name. (R.)

2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem  
and brings back Israel's exiles,  
he heals the broken-hearted,  
he binds up all their wounds.

3. Our Lord is great and almighty;  
his wisdom can never be measured.  
The Lord raises the lowly;  
he humbles the wicked to the dust. (R.)

### A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Cor 9:16-19. 22-23

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! He bore our sickness and endured our suffering. Alleluia!

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Mk 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

### Communion Antiphon

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.