

# 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)

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

*Sixth Sunday in Ordinary time B*

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

## **Change in Weekday Mass times for Fridays.**

*Mass times for Fridays for the next 5 weeks will be as follows*

**Nowra – 11:30 am & Bomaderry – 5:30pm**

***The 8:00 Mass will be cancelled till after Easter.***

Current health regulations stipulate school Masses cannot be open to the public (Parish). Therefore children of St Michael's will now celebrate Mass at 9:30am.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES**

**Nowra - 8:00 am and 7:00pm**

**Berry – 6:00pm**

**Culburra – 8:00am**

**Kangaroo Valley – 9:00am**

**Vincentia – 8:00am and 5:30pm**



## **We are no longer taking phone registrations.**

For Nowra, Culburra, Berry and Bomaderry –**We will be using the QR code check in or signing in at the door.**

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)

## **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 throughout Lent. Books will be available from this weekend. \$5



## OUR UNCONSCIOUS SEARCH FOR GOD

FR. RON ROHLEISER OMI

How do we search for God?

It is easy to misunderstand what that means. We are forever searching for God, though mostly without knowing it. Usually, we think of our search for God as a conscious religious search, as something we do out of a spiritual side of ourselves. We tend to think of things this way: I have my normal life and its pursuits and, if I am so inclined, on the side, I might have a spiritual or religious pursuit wherein I try through prayer, reflection, and religious practices to get to know God. This is an unfortunate misunderstanding. Our normal search for meaning, fulfillment, and even for pleasure, is in fact our search for God.

What do we naturally search for in life? By nature, we search for meaning, love, a soulmate, friendship, emotional connection, sexual fulfillment, significance, recognition, knowledge, creativity, play, humor, and pleasure. However, we tend not to see these pursuits as searching for God. In pursuing these things, we rarely, if ever, see them in any conscious way as our way of searching for God. In our minds, we are simply looking for happiness, meaning, fulfillment, and pleasure, and our search for God is something we need to do in another way, more consciously through some explicit religious practices.

Well, we are not the first persons to think like that. It has always been this way. For instance, St. Augustine struggled with exactly this, until one day he realized something. A searcher by temperament, Augustine spent the first thirty-four years of his life pursuing the things of this world: learning, meaning, love, sex, and a prestigious career. However, even before his conversion, there was a desire in him for God and the spiritual. However, like us, he saw that as a separate desire from what he was yearning for in the world. Only after his conversion did he realize something. Here is how he famously expressed it:

*“Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things which you created. You were with me, but I was not with you. ... You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness.”*

This is an honest admission that he lived a good number of years not loving God; but it is also an admission that, during those years, he had massively misunderstood something and that misunderstanding lay at the root of his failure. What was that misunderstanding?

Reading his confession we tend to focus on the first part of it, namely, on his realization that God was inside of him all the while, but that he was not inside of himself. This is a perennial struggle for us too. Less obvious in this confession and something that is also a perennial struggle for us, is his recognition that for all those years while he was searching for life in the world, a search he generally understood as having nothing to do with God, he was actually searching for God. What he was looking for in all those worldly things and pleasures was in fact the person of God. Indeed, his confession might be recast this way:

*Late, late, have I loved you because I was outside of myself while all the while you were inside me, but I wasn't home, and I had no idea it was you I was actually looking for in the world. I never connected that search to you. In my mind, I was not looking for you; I was looking for what would bring me meaning, love, significance, sexual fulfillment, knowledge, pleasure, and a prestigious career. Never did I connect my longing for these things with my longing for you. I had no idea that everything I was chasing, all those things I was lonely for, were already inside me, in you. Late, late, have I understood that. Late, late, have I learned that what I am so deeply hungry and lonely for is contained inside of you. All these years, I never connected my restlessness, my seemingly selfish and lustful pursuit of things, with you. Everything I am lonely for is inside of you and you are inside of me. Late, late, have I realized this.*

*We are fired into life with a madness that comes from the gods.* So say the Greek Stoics. They are right. Our whole life is simply a search to respond to that divine madness inside us, a madness Christians identify with infinite yearnings of the soul. Given those yearnings, like Augustine, we plunge into the world searching for meaning, love, a soulmate, friendship, emotional connection, sexual fulfillment, significance, recognition, knowledge, creativity, and pleasure, and that earthy pursuit, perhaps more than our explicit religious pursuits, is in fact our search for God.

Best to realize this early, so we do not have to write: *“Late, late, have I loved you!”*

### Weekend Masses

**Nowra** Saturday 5:00pm  
Sunday 8:00am  
9:30am  
5:00pm

**Culburra** Saturday 5:00pm  
**Bomaderry** Sunday 9:30am  
**K'Valley** Sunday 11:00am  
**Berry** Sunday 8:00am

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

### Weekday Masses

**Nowra** Monday to Thursday 8:00am  
Wednesday 8:00am & 5:30am  
Friday 11:30am

**Berry** Tuesday – 5:30pm  
**Culburra** Thursday – 5:30pm  
**Bomaderry** Friday – 5:30pm

**K' Valley** Tuesday to Thursday 9:00am  
**Vincentia** Mon, Thurs & Friday 8:00am  
Tue & Wed 5:30pm

### Reconciliation/Confessions

**Nowra** Saturday: 9:30 – 10:30  
**Culburra** Saturday before 5:00pm Vigil Mass  
**Vincentia** Saturday: 5:00pm

**Berry** Tuesday following 5:30 Mass  
**Bomaderry** Friday following 5:30 Mass



You may have noticed this device at No. It is a Donation Point Tap device and enables the parish to accept cashless donations.

The Donation Point Tap device processes a set donation of \$10.00. Simply tap your debit/Visa or MasterCard to donate. It is secure and the screen will show if your donation has been successful.

Your card must be held on the device to donate – it cannot read your card details from your wallet or bag as you walk past. The device makes a loud beep sound when you hold your card on it.

The Diocese is providing a Donation Point Tap to every parish in the diocese.

*CathFamily* is dedicated to assisting families in making the home the living heart of the church. The aim is to provide innovative and contemporary resources that Catholic families can adapt into their own family.  
<https://cathfamily.org/about/>

**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*

**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.*

Mount Carmel Retreat Centre 2021 Program – is now available to download from the parish website.  
<https://www.nowraparish.org.au/docs/Parish/Other/CarmeliteRetreatProgram2021.pdf>



**We prayerfully remember** the recently deceased, **Patricia Shelley** and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: **Patrick Maguire**. We pray also for all who have died from Covid-19 in Australia and worldwide.

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time B

### A reading from the book of Leviticus Lv 13:1-2. 44-46

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v.7

(R.) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,

whose sin is remitted.

O happy the man to whom the Lord

imputes no guilt,

in whose spirit is no guile. (R.)

2. But now I have acknowledged my sins;

my guilt I did not hide.

I said: 'I will confess

my offence to the Lord.'

And you, Lord, have forgiven

the guilt of my sin. (R.)

3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,

exult, you just!

O come, ring out your joy,

all you upright of heart. (R.)

### A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Cor 10:31 – 11:1

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia!

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark Mk 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

### READERS ROSTER NOWRA MASSES

A big thank you to all those who have made contact and volunteered to read at the Nowra Masses.

We are seeking people interested in reading at the **9:30am Mass**.

Please contact Bernadette Pullen [bpullen@outlook.com.au](mailto:bpullen@outlook.com.au) or 0402136691.

We hope to publish a reading roster beginning in March.

