



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.

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Good Shepherd Sunday Year B

25th April 2021

Exegi monumentum aere perenius.

"I have raised a monument more lasting than bronze."

Horace 8BC



From Flanders in 1922 King George V remarked:

"We can truly say that the whole circuit of the earth is girdled with the graves of our dead . . . and, in the course of my pilgrimage, I have many times asked myself whether there can be more potent advocates of peace upon earth through the years to come, than this massed multitude of silent witnesses to the desolation of war."

Prior to 1917 when the Commonwealth War Graves Commission was founded by Sir Fabian Ware to mark and maintain the graves of the members of the forces of the Commonwealth who were killed, to build memorials to those who have no known grave and to keep records and registers, including, after the

Second World War, a record of the Civilian War Dead, soldiers were simply referred to as 'the dregs of society'; 'the scum of the earth', 'the bottom of the social heap'. There were no monuments to mark their sacrifices as with the Generals and nobility.

Today Generals and soldiers; their heroism and sacrifices are numbered side by side. In fact we have gone a step further in acknowledging the sacrifices and heroism not only of the men who were in the fighting but also of those innocent people who have been effected by the tragedy and horror of warfare. They too have had great violence inflicted upon them.

As an army chaplain in an infantry battalion, I once had a conversation with an army psychologist who was researching a paper for a doctorate, based on the effects of the Vietnam War on the second generation, i.e., the children of the Vietnam veterans. As she studied the information available from various welfare and medical agencies she discovered that she needed to change the focus of her studies from the 'second generation' to the "third generation" i.e., the grand-children.

It is obvious that the effects of wars do not end with the end of the battle. The scares of battle and warfare go much deeper than it was ever possibly imagined in the past. The effect of war touches the very core of human existence. It alters the nature of the human character and destiny. Humans were not made to kill. Every killing leaves a scar on humanity just like the marks made on Jesus during the process of his crucifixion.

I have known soldiers in the battalion in which I served who have been in the army for some years and have not had to fire a single bullet. Their acquaintances sometimes level criticism at them that they have not seen any 'action' (as though it was something to be longed for). But what most people don't see is that even in Peacekeeping Operations military personnel have to deal with conditions for which no amount of military training can ever prepare them. These can be anything from retrieving bodies in various states of decomposition and returning them to their bereaved, or to simply bury them with some dignity. Their duties may also involve them in operating in an hostile environment or which may turn violent without any warning. More often than not, the exposure to the extreme poverty and depravation of people living with the effects of conflict, leaves military personnel incapable of dealing with the affluence, expectations and even criticisms they find when they return home.

On ANZAC day we remember not the 'glory of war' as did previous generations. This day we remember the sacrifices made during times of conflict. We remember those innocents who lose not only their lives but their sense of hope, of a humanity reborn. We remember those who have had great violence inflicted upon them, even on those who have never even seen a battlefield.

We remember those of our society who after many passing generations are still grieving a member of the family who have not returned home, physically, emotionally or spiritually.

This year we will attend Mass, stand around our Monuments and Shrines or even do what we did last year, lighting up our driveways, as we honour *our* heroes, the ordinary women and men who gave so much of

themselves for the cause of justice and peace. In our own small, yet powerful way, we will once again tell governments and world leaders, who would wage wars against others that the cost is always too high. Here at St. Michael's parish we will pray that young and old; people from every class and culture will not have to make the same sacrifices. We will pray that that one day the struggles and sacrifices made by good people throughout the world will bear the fruits of a true and last peace.

Fr. Leo Mifsud O.M.I.

Kangaroo Valley Change to Mass time

From 24th April, Fr Ronan will celebrate Mass each Saturday at 9:00am.

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	5:00pm
	Sunday	9:30am
Croatian Mass Saturday		6:15 pm
1 st Saturday of the month		

Weekday Masses

Nowra	Monday to Friday	8:00am
	Wednesday	5:30pm
	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

Berry Tuesday following 5:30 Mass

Bomaderry Friday following 5:30 Mass

Culburra Saturday before 5:00pm Vigil Mass

Vincentia Saturday: 4:00pm

THE FUTURE OF CATHOLICISM IN AUSTRALIA

FORUM 1: Renewal Directions, Priorities, Hopes and Aspirations

*The Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform invites Australian Catholics to the first in a series of convocations via Zoom with guest speaker **Sr Joan Chittister OSB.***

Joan's address will combine practical proposals and visionary ideas around the themes of synodality, subsidiarity, inclusivity, transparency and accountability.

She will relate her presentation to local and overseas contexts, such as the Plenary Council process and submissions, Vatican II documents and the words of Pope Francis. The President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge supports the Convocation and will give an official greeting to the participants. He acknowledged in a recent interview that reform is needed in the Church because 'the current mode of leadership is unsustainable'.

FREE REGISTRATION - <https://garratt1.wufoo.com/forms/s1698nzm1qsjym3/>
or **GOOGLE:** garratt1.wufoo.com



We prayerfully remember the recently deceased especially **Ernie Royston** (North Nowra) and **Hilary Flynn** (Bay & Basin) those whose anniversaries occur at this time: **George Rouen** and **Audrey Collins**. We also pray for all who have died from Covid-19 in Australia and worldwide.

The Good Shepherd



Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd".

In Christ's day, shepherds stood on the bottom rung of the Palestinian social ladder. They shared the same unenviable status as tax collectors and dung sweepers. Only Luke mentions them.

During the time of the Patriarchs, shepherding was a noble occupation. Before David was appointed as king of Israel he too was a shepherd. His kingly qualities were always likened to the gentle caring of a shepherd.

Over time the leaders, who called themselves shepherds became corrupt.

In declaring himself to be a "good shepherd" Jesus is not only a claim that God's flock would be cared for but also that the kingdom itself would be restored.

When Jesus declared himself as the good shepherd, he was speaking to people who were hurt and angry at their leaders. They felt as though they weren't cared for, weren't valued, weren't seen. Jesus comes with an opposite message.

Jesus' leadership cares deeply for people. He knows them each by name and never expects them to walk a path that he has not walked before them. Jesus has shown that he is willing to give his life for his sheep. Jesus' is our model of what true, godly leadership is: it springs from love and sees those whom it is easier to ignore. Jesus values people and is on the front line always.

To be in the Lord's flock is to be in a life-changing, transformative relationship with the Lord. To know Jesus is to see our life changed by that very relationship. It is to know the voice of Jesus and be able to distinguish it from others, so that in all things God may be glorified.

If you think this reflection would encourage someone else, please share:

Need to talk about discerning God's call for your vocation in life?

contact

Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

or

Call the parish office (02) 4423 1712

and ask to speak to one of the Priests or Sisters.

Pope Francis to ordain nine priests for the Diocese of Rome

Pope Francis will ordain nine deacons to the priesthood at St. Peter's Basilica on Sunday, 25 April. All nine of them are currently on retreat in preparation for their priestly ordination. This date was chosen to coincide with the liturgical celebration of Good Shepherd Sunday. **By Vatican News staff writer**

Check in with the SERVICE NSW QR CODE

Nowra, Culburra, Berry and Bomaderry – **are now using the Service NSW QR check in (the Service NSW QR remembers your details) or signing in at the door.**

For Mass at Kangaroo Valley, please email ronankangaroo1@gmail.com

For Mass at Vincentia - **are now using the Service NSW QR check in you no longer need to book for Mass.**

Fourth Sunday of Easter Year B

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 32:5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 4:8-12

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1. 8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29. R. v.22

(R.) The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in men:

it is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes. (R.)

2. I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

3. Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord;
I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his love has no end. (R.)

A reading from the first letter of St John

1 Jn 3:1-2

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jn 10:11-18

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

Communion Antiphon

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.