



ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH NOWRA

30 North St, Nowra NSW 2541

02 4423 1712

nowra@dow.org.au

www.nowraparish.au



28th Sunday in Ordinary time

12 October 2025

Pastor: Fr Damien Ellis (damien.ellis@dow.org.au)

Emeritus Pastor: Mgr Patrick Faherty (pat.faherty@dow.org.au)

Priests: Fr Victor Vincent (victor.vincent@dow.org.au)
Fr Ronan Kilgannon

Parish Secretary/ Sacramental Coordinator: Asha Joy

Finance Secretary: Anne Gonzaga

Catechist Coordinator: Veronica Passoni

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 09:30 am to 01:30 pm

Parish Schools: St Michael's Catholic Primary School, Nowra

St John the Evangelist Catholic High School, Nowra

Churches

Holy Spirit, Vincentia

23 St George Ave, Vincentia NSW

Our Lady Help of Christians, Culburra

126 The Lake Cct, Culburra Beach NSW

Sacred Heart, Bomaderry

46 Bunberra St, Bomaderry NSW

St Joseph's, Kangaroo Valley

130 Moss Vale Road, Kangaroo Valley NSW

St Michael's, Nowra

24 North St, Nowra NSW

St Patrick's, Berry

15 Albert Street, Berry NSW

Mass Times

Weekend Masses

Saturday

05:00 pm Culburra

05:00 pm Bomaderry

Sunday

08:00 am Berry

11:00 am Kangaroo Valley

09:30 am Nowra

05:00 pm Nowra

09:30 am Vincentia

Every First Saturday

10:00 am Nowra

Weekday Masses

Tuesday

08:00 am Vincentia

05:30 pm Berry

Wednesday

08:00 am Nowra

05:30 pm Vincentia

Thursday

08:00 am Vincentia

05:30 pm Culburra

Friday

08:00 am Vincentia

10:00 am Nowra

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday

In Berry after 05:30 pm Mass

Thursday

In Culburra before 05:30 pm Mass

Friday

In Vincentia after 08:00 am Mass

In Nowra from 09:00 to 10:00 am Mass

Every First Saturday

In Nowra from 09:00 to 10:00 am Mass

Entrance Antiphon: Psalm 129

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.

First Reading: 2 Kings 5

Naaman the leper went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, as Elisha had told him to do. And his flesh became clean once more like the flesh of a little child.

Returning to Elisha with his whole escort, he went in and stood before him. **'Now I know'** he said, **'that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel. Now, please, accept a present from your servant.'** But Elisha replied, **'As the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will accept nothing.'**

Naaman pressed him to accept, but he refused. Then Naaman said, **'Since your answer is "No," allow your servant to be given as much earth as two mules may carry, because your servant will no longer offer holocaust or sacrifice to any god except the Lord.'**

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 97

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

- 1) Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.
- 2) The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.
- 3) All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 2

Remember the Good News that I carry. 'Jesus Christ risen from the dead, sprung from the race of David'; it is on account of this that I have my own hardships to bear, even to being chained like a criminal – but they cannot chain up God's news. So I bear it all for the sake of those who are chosen, so that in the end they may have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus and the eternal glory that comes with it. Here is a saying that you can rely on: If we have died with him, then we shall live with him. If we hold firm, then we shall reign with him. If we disown him, then he will disown us. We may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful, for he cannot disown his own self.

Gospel Acclamation: 1 Thessalonians 5

Alleluia, alleluia!

For all things give thanks to God,
because this is what he expects of you in
Christ Jesus.

Alleluia!

Gospel : Luke 17: 11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him. They stood some way off and called to him, **'Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.'** When he saw them he said, **'Go and show yourselves to the priests.'** Now as they were going away they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan.

This made Jesus say, **'Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.'** And he said to the man, **'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.'**

Communion Antiphon: Psalm 33:11

The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Reflection

Today's gospel is one of the stories unique to the gospel of Luke. At the same time, it is a commonly known story that is often cited to demonstrate the value of saying thank you. However, as usual, there's more to this story than initially meets the eye. One of the recurrent themes of the gospel is at play here: the message of salvation that Jesus brings is available to all, not just the Jews. The first reading is an interesting link with the gospel of Luke. In chapter 4 of the gospel, when Jesus visits Nazareth and preaches in the synagogue, he later tells a story about the prophets Elijah and Elisha responding to the needs of Gentiles rather than Jews. He tells the story to make the point that the message of salvation is not reserved exclusively for the Jews. The incident involving Elisha that Jesus refers to in chapter 4 is the one we hear in today's first reading. Whilst both the first reading and the gospel tell stories about the healing of those with skin diseases, the common factor is actually about their expressions of gratitude and conversion of heart. In the gospel, all ten men are healed but it is only the stranger; the foreigner; the Samaritan, who comes back to give thanks and to praise God. The others – Jewish men, presumably – are only concerned about themselves and have no time to acknowledge the graciousness of God that they have experienced. The gospel writer has Jesus emphasise the point that it is the Samaritan – the outsider – who has recognised God's activity in his cure and come back to give praise and thanks. It is only he who has experienced the change of heart; the conversion of faith.

Coming Up this Week

Sunday- 12/10/25

Berry community Morning tea, parish hall,
after 8am mass

Community Group Meeting after 09:30 am
Mass, Vincentia

Choir Practice at 04:00 pm, Bomaderry
Monday

Tuesday

Sanctus Summit, Holy Hour + Fellowship,
Nowra, 6.30pm

Wednesday

Craft group 09:30-12pm, Parish centre,
Nowra

Choir Practice at 03:30 pm, Vincentia

Thursday

Stella Maris study and prayer group
Culburra, starting with 5.30 mass

Choir Practice at 06:15 pm, Nowra

St Joseph's Mens Adoration Group
8pm-6am. Nowra

Friday

Rosary, 5pm Bomaderry

Soup kitchen fortnightly, Nowra CWA
rooms , contact Shannon Chittick

Saturday

The Man Walk at 07:30 am @Providence
Blue Cafe, Sanctuary Point
and @Kerry Street, Sanctuary Point

PARISH GIVING

Please consider donating to support our parish.

*We understand that less people are carrying cash now,
so we have the Diocese of Wollongong MassApp to
allow you to donate on a once off or regular basis.
Use your Smartphone camera to scan the QR code or
go to <https://www.dow.org.au/giving2/parishgiving/> to
register for our Parish - it takes a minute to register and
set up your donation.*

*All donations made are safe and secure – you need to
register then enter your card details then confirm your
information before any payments or donations are
processed.*



We pray for:

Sick: **Jessica Arnold**

Death Anniversaries: **Vera Guthrie and
Veronica Webster**

Recently Deceased: **Aurelia Lattanzio,
Beryl Crocker, Erzsebet Caliskan, Mary
Bell, Nadia and Max Bristow**

PARISH NEWS

HOLY SPIRIT COMMUNITY GROUP MEETING

Date: 12 October 2025
Following the 09:30 am Mass

Fr Damien will be attending
All parishioners are encouraged to attend to keep up
to date on various matters affecting our
Holy Spirit Community

HOLY SPIRIT PASTORAL COMMITTEE MEETING

19 October 2025 after 09:30 am MASS

Sacramental Program of First Holy Communion

During the Spring break - 27th September to 12th
October 2025 the Sacramental Leaders are also on
break and will not be available. Parents and Carers
are strongly encouraged to still bring their children to
Mass over this period. The Programme resumes again
on 18/19 October 2025 when the Sacramental
Leaders are back. See you then.

Anointing Mass in Berry

On Tuesday, 21 October at 10.30am. St. Patrick's
Catholic Church in Berry will be hosting its annual
Anointing of the Sick Mass.
Mass will be followed by lunch in the hall. Please
bring a plate to share.

This Sacrament continues Jesus' healing ministry for
physical, emotional and spiritual healing and
provides spiritual comfort,
forgiveness of sins and hope. It is also appropriate
for the elderly to receive an Anointing. Everyone
most welcome to this most important Mass.

Note – There will be no 5.30pm. Mass that afternoon.

CWL Monthly meeting

This has been postponed until Tuesday 21st October
9:30 am for 10:00am start.
Sorry for the inconvenience. All most welcome

Significant Wedding Anniversary Mass

Saturday the **25th October** at **10am** at
St Michael's Nowra

We are delighted to have 7 couples at this stage
celebrating significant milestones. It's not too late if
you would like to attend. This is a wonderful occasion
for the parish and all parishioners are most welcome
to join us. Contact Katherine 0411 023943

Foundations: Moving in the Power of the Holy Spirit

- CAMPBELLTOWN Tuesday 14 October, 7–9 pm
- WOLLONGONG & ZOOM Wednesday, 15 October, 7–9 pm

Registration: <https://dow.sh/fpoc2025>

Cost: Free

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses..." (Acts 1:8)

When we try to do things in our own strength, we can quickly become burned out, resentful, or lose hope. Parish renewal is too big a task for any one of us. As St Paul reminds us, "we can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). It is God's Church, God's mission, and God's power that we need.

This formation will explore how we can grow in openness to the Spirit's presence, learn to recognise His promptings, and move confidently in His power. Together we will reflect on how the Holy Spirit equips us to persevere with joy, sustain hope, and bear fruit that endures for the renewal of our communities and the transformation of the world.

Save the Date – Formation Opportunities in Liturgy

Two Formation Opportunities in Liturgy will take place on Saturday 1 November at Holy Family Parish, Ingleburn. Following Mass for All Saints at 9am, the first session for Lectors will run from 9.45am to 10.30am.

After a break for morning tea, the second session will focus on Lay Leadership in the absence of a Priest and the ministries involved, finishing around midday. Registration details will be available next week.

Mission Mindset Retreat

Saturday, 18 October 2025 12pm St Mary Star the Sea Parish Centre, Gerringong

We are all called to mission, wherever we are and whatever we are doing. We are missionaries of the everyday. Join NET Ministries Australia & New Zealand as they dive into what it means to have a mission mindset. Whether you're interested in mission or wondering what it looks like in our church, come along and bring a friend. We hope to see you there atop the beautiful hill overlooking Gerringong!

RSVP by Thurs 16 October via email to

youth@dow.org.au or register

dow.org.au/events/mission-mindset-retreat

Milton Overnight Young Adult and Families Pilgrimage

Young Adults around the diocese are invited to join a special overnight pilgrimage at St Mary Star of the Sea, Milton as we conclude this Year of Jubilee. Experience festival vibes: camping on the hill behind the church, live music, food truck, late night adoration, talks, a pilgrimage walk up to the Church, and Mass with Bishop Brian Mascord.

Details:

When: Saturday 15 November, 1pm arrival to Sunday 16 Nov 12pm

Where: St Mary Star of the Sea, Corks Lane Milton

How to get there: Carpooling is highly recommended.

Buses will be available (numbers depending) from Wollongong and Campbelltown

Cost: Free! Dinner available for purchase on Sunday night.

For more details, including schedule and registration: visit dow.sh/miltonp. Don't forget your pilgrim passports to get stamped as you record your journey and receive guidance for reconciliation and how to gain a plenary indulgence. Gather your friends, bring your swags or tents and come as Pilgrims of Hope!

Diocese of Wollongong Men's Prayer Breakfast Launch

Friday, 28 November 6:30am-8am

Xavier Conference Room, 38 Harbour St Wollongong

Guest Speaker: Peter Abela

Enjoy a breakfast buffet, prayer and inspiring guest speaker input.

Be supported and inspired by other men, seeking to be authentic disciples on mission.

RSVP: Monday, 17 November dow.sh/mpb25

Cost: \$20

The Men's Prayer Breakfast Series is organised by the Office of Renewal and Evangelisation and menALIVE in the Diocese of Wollongong

Clarification Regarding Last Week's Bulletin

In last week's bulletin, a notice was included about the upcoming march for Palestine in Nowra on Sunday 12th that contained the phrase "two years of calculated genocide in Gaza." This statement does not reflect the position of the Catholic Church or of our parish community. Its inclusion was regrettable, and I apologise for any hurt or confusion it may have caused.

As a Church, we affirm the dignity of every human life and pray for a just and lasting peace in the Holy Land.

The suffering and loss of innocent lives—Israeli and Palestinian alike—is a tragedy that wounds the heart of God and all people of goodwill.

On 7 October 2025, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican Secretary of State, spoke to Vatican Media about the war in Gaza, calling it "inhuman." He said, "It is unacceptable and unjustifiable to reduce human beings to mere collateral damage." The Cardinal noted that "the situation in Gaza is even more serious and tragic than it was a year ago, following a devastating war that has claimed tens of thousands of lives," and reminded the world that while every nation has the right to defend itself, this must always respect the principle of proportionality and the sanctity of human life. He urged that we "recover a sense of reason, abandon the blind logic of hatred and revenge, and reject violence as a solution."

Pope Francis had likewise voiced deep concern for those suffering in Gaza. In the book for the Jubilee 2025, *Hope Never Disappoints: Pilgrims Towards a Better World*, Pope Francis highlighted the famine and displacement endured by Palestinian families and insisted that "what has happened must be investigated." The Holy Father added that "according to some experts, what is happening in Gaza has the characteristics of a genocide," but that this "should be carefully investigated to determine whether it fits into the technical definition formulated by jurists and international bodies." His words call the global community to pursue truth and justice through dialogue, discernment, and lawful means—not vengeance or despair.

At his General Audience in September, Pope Leo XIV renewed the Holy See's appeal for peace, expressing his "deepest sympathy for the Palestinian people in Gaza, who continue to live in fear and survive in unacceptable conditions, forced—once again—from their lands." The Pope called for an immediate ceasefire, the release of hostages, a diplomatic solution to the crisis, and full respect for international humanitarian law, reminding the world that "the inviolable human dignity of all must be respected."

As followers of Christ, we do not take political positions, but we are called to reject all violence, to advocate for peace, and to show compassion to all who suffer. Let us continue to pray for the people of Gaza and Israel, for those who mourn, and for a peace founded on justice, truth, and the mercy of God.

— Fr Damien Ellis