



ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH NOWRA

30 North St, Nowra NSW 2541

02 4423 1712

nowra@dow.org.au

www.nowraparish.au



29th Sunday in Ordinary time

19 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 (Mon-Tues, 09:30 am to 01:30 pm)

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 16

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

First Reading: Exodus 17: 8-13

The Amalekites came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick out men for yourself, and tomorrow morning march out to engage Amalek. I, meanwhile, will stand on the hilltop, the staff of God in my hand.' Joshua did as Moses told him and marched out to engage Amalek, while Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek.

But Moses' arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, Aaron and Hur supporting his arms, one on one side, one on the other; and his arms remained firm till sunset. With the edge of the sword Joshua cut down Amalek and his people.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 120

***Our help is from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.***

- 1)** I lift up my eyes to the mountains:
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth.
- 2)** May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard.
- 3)** The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night.
- 4)** The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and for ever.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3

You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were, and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures – from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

Gospel Acclamation: Hebrews 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart.

Alleluia!

Gospel : Luke 18: 1-8

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. ***'There was a judge in a certain town' he said 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death."***

And the Lord said, 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'

Communion Antiphon: Psalm 32

Behold, the eyes of the Lord
are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Reflection

The judge in this story only gives in to the distraught widow when she threatens 'to give him a black eye' (in the Greek)! Jesus is not saying God is like the judge who needs to be battered into submission. Jesus is saying we need to pray like that widow.

Think of what widows in Syria or Iraq are praying for tonight. Then think of one's own prayer. God is not the slightest bit interested in my usual trivial, self-promoting prayers. But He is interested in my being such a woeful pray-er and wants to change me.

Recall an incident of really urgent, intense prayer. Most likely, it was to do with a traumatic accident or fatal disease of a baby, of a spouse, of a parent too young. Apply that intense urgency to those in the world crying out: 'give us this day our daily bread'. In short, pray The Lord's Prayer with meaning.

We could pause for a moment to pray to live out the consequences of the 'Our Father' lest we are threatened with a black eye!

Coming Up this Week

Sunday- 19/10/25

Pastoral Committee Meeting 09:30 am,
Vincentia

Choir Practice at 04:00 pm, Bomaderry
Monday

Tuesday

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

Craft group 10-12pm, Vincentia

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: **Allan Douglas**

Recently Deceased: **Tom Basha, Aurelia
Lattanzio, Beryl Crocker, Erzsebet
Caliskan and Nadia**

PARISH NEWS

Sacramental Program of First Holy Communion

Welcome back to the Holy Communion Sacramental
Program! This weekend we start with Workshop 1.
Have you returned your Enrollment Form and
Resource Fees? See the Sacramental Leader to
check.

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

St Michael's Presbytery Garden tidy up

9am - 12pm 25th October

Your are invited to a general garden clean up.
It will include Whipper snipping n mowing, mulching
and trimming of the existing plants and rake and
removal of waste.

This is stage one this project, followed by light
refreshments. Please bring your tools, wear
comfortable clothes n shoes and a hat.
Also ... dig out your own banana plants to grow at
home.

I will provide juice, snacks, milk.
Contact Susi 0416156191 for more details.

Significant Wedding Anniversary Mass

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

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

Community Gathering in Vincentia

SAUGAGE SIZZLE - BBQ

Sunday 26th October

following 09:30 am Mass
Sausages, Bread, Tea & Coffee will be supplied by the
Community Group.

BYO: a) Drinks b) Salad/Sweets to share if you are
able

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Important Parish Notice: Upcoming Changes to Mass Schedules

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over recent weeks, **Father Ronan's health has declined significantly**, and another priest is now required to attend to **Kangaroo Valley**. Please continue to keep Father Ronan in your prayers, asking the Lord to grant him peace, comfort, and strength during this time.

In light of this, and with the desire to maintain the regular celebration of Mass across all our parish churches, I have needed to review and adjust both the **weekday** and **Sunday** Mass schedules. These changes also take into account that **Father Vincent** will be on annual leave during November. Upon his return in December, it is hoped that he will reside in **Nowra**, helping to strengthen fraternity and ministry across the parish.

As your Pastor, it is my responsibility to ensure that our Mass schedule is both **sustainable and reliable**. Therefore, the new timetable has been carefully constructed to operate effectively with **only two priests**. While at times we may have more than two priests available, we must always plan around the realities of **annual leave, conferences, illness, and other ministry commitments**. This approach ensures that the celebration of Mass can continue **consistently and reverently** across our parish, without sudden disruptions or last-minute changes.

Weekday Mass Schedule

(Effective from November 2025)

St Michael's Catholic Church, Nowra

Tuesday – 9:30 am
Wednesday – 7:30 am
Thursday – 7:30 am
Friday – 10:00 am

First Saturday of the Month

Mass – 10:00 am

These times aim to offer opportunities for both those who work and our local school community to attend Mass.

Station Churches (All at 5:30 pm)

Tuesday – **St Patrick's Catholic Church, Berry**
Wednesday – **Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Vincentia**
Thursday – **Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Culburra**
Friday – **St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kangaroo Valley**

Reconciliation Times

Before Weekday Evening Masses – 30 minutes prior to Mass (except Berry)

Berry – Following the Tuesday evening Mass
Nowra (Fridays) – 9:00 am, prior to the 10:00 am Mass
Nowra (First Saturday of the Month) – 9:00 am, followed by Mass at 10:00 am

Sunday Mass Schedule

(Proposed to begin from the Weekend of 13–14 December 2025)

Saturday Vigils

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bomaderry – 4:00 pm
Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Culburra – 5:30 pm
Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Vincentia – 6:00 pm

Sunday Masses

St Patrick's Catholic Church, Berry – 7:30 am
St Michael's Catholic Church, Nowra – 9:30 am
Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Vincentia – 10:00 am
St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kangaroo Valley – 11:30 am
St Michael's Catholic Church, Nowra – 6:00 pm

These revised times will allow adequate travel time between churches, enable our priests to connect with parishioners before and after Mass, and provide a broader range of options for families, shift workers, and those travelling on weekends.

I am deeply grateful for your understanding and cooperation as we make these necessary adjustments for the good of our parish community. Above all, please continue to pray for **Father Ronan**, for all our priests, and for one another, as we move forward together in faith and service.

With every blessing,
Fr Damen Ellis
Pastor

Saint Peter To Rot Catechist and Martyr for the Faith (1912-1945)



Peter To Rot was born on an island off the northeast coast of Papua New Guinea, 5th March 1912. His parents were Angelo To Puia, a village chief, and Maria la Tumul, adult converts who were part of this region's first Catholics. A devout young man, Peter had an intense prayer life and love of the Eucharist. At the age of 18, he became a lay catechist and ministered to the people of his own village. In 1936, at the age of 24, he married Paula la Varpit, who was also Catholic. The couple had three children. In 1942, the Japanese invaded the island and arrested all the missionaries. Peter continued to lead the village as best he could, caring for the sick, baptising, teaching the faithful, and assisting other catechists who were confused by the changes brought about by the Japanese who tried to get the people to return to their pre-Christian ways, and legalizing polygamy.

Peter openly opposed the regulations, and was arrested in 1945 for conducting religious gatherings. He was imprisoned in a cave. On the evening before his execution his wife Paula and their two children visited him. He had asked Paula to bring him his white laplap, his good shirt and his rosary beads. He wanted to face his persecutors dressed as a catechist. On July 7th 1945, Peter was given a lethal injection by his captors and died as a martyr for the faith. He was beatified in Port Moresby, PNG, on January 17, 1995 by Pope St John Paul II, declaring the heroic virtue of the devout catechist. His canonisation was approved by the late Pope Francis, and he will be canonised on Sunday October 19th 2025 by Pope Leo XIV. **St Peter To Rot** pray for Catechists and all missionaries.

Catholic Mission

This weekend you're invited to partner with the church in Zambia to help women overcome poverty and mothers give birth safely.

The women's cooperative led by Sr Jane will provide women with the training and support required to break the cycle of scarcity, and the Chilonga Mission Hospital is determined to ensure every woman and baby receives a safe and dignified start of life.

During World Mission Sunday, you are called to be "Missionaries of Hope among all peoples", and we invite you to extend Christ's love to those in need in Zambia. You can support this work by using the appeal envelope, going online at catholicmission.org.au/mission, or scanning the QR code.

