



ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH NOWRA

30 North St, Nowra

nowra@dow.org.au

02-44231712

nowraparish.au

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

SUNDAY
21ST
DECEMBER
2025



Parish staff

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

Catechist Coordinator: Veronica Passoni

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

Parish Schools: St Michael's Catholic Primary School, Nowra
St John the Evangelist Catholic High School, Nowra

Churches

St Michael's
Nowra



Our Lady Help of
Christians
Culburra Beach

Sacred Heart
Bomaderry



St Patrick's
Berry

St Joseph's
Kangaroo Valley



Holy Spirit
Vincentia

MASS TIMES

Saturday

4PM Bomaderry
5.30PM Culburra
6PM Vincentia

****Every first Saturday****

10AM Nowra

Sunday

7.30AM Berry
9.30AM Nowra
10AM Vincentia
11.30AM Kangaroo Valley
6PM Nowra

Tuesday

9.30AM Nowra
5.30PM Berry

Wednesday

7.30AM Nowra
5.30PM Vincentia

Thursday

7.30AM Nowra
5.30PM Culburra

Friday

10AM Nowra

RECONCILIATION

Tuesday

Berry- after 5.30PM Mass

Wednesday

Vincentia- before 5.30PM
Mass

Thursday

Culburra- before 5.30PM
Mass

Friday

Kangaroo Valley- before
5.30PM Mass

Nowra- 9AM to 10AM

First Saturday

Nowra- 9AM to 10AM

Entrance Antiphon

Isaiah 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a
Saviour

First Reading

Isaiah 7: 10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the
Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming
either from the depths of Sheol or from the
heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not
put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience
of men

without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,

will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child

and will soon give birth to a son

whom she will call Immanuel,

a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 23

R: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Second Reading

Romans 1: 1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has
been called to be an apostle, and specially
chosen to preach the Good News that God
promised long ago through his prophets in the
scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who,

according to the human nature he took, was a
descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ
our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the
spirit of holiness that was in him, was
proclaimed Son of God in all his power
through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our
apostolic mission to preach the obedience of
faith to all pagan nations in honour of his
name. You are one of these nations, and by his
call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then,
who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be
saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1: 23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 1: 18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His
mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but
before they came to live together she was found
to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her
husband Joseph, being a man of honour and
wanting to spare her publicity, decided to
divorce her informally. He had made up his mind
to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared
to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife,
because she has conceived what is in her by the
Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you
must name him Jesus, because he is the one who
is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this
took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord
through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,
a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When
Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the
Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his
home.

Communion Antiphon

Isaiah 7: 14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a
son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Coming up this week

Sunday- 21/12/25

Tuesday- 23/12/25

Rosary at 8:00 am, Vincentia

Wednesday- 24/12/25

Christmas Eve

Thursday- 25/12/25

Christmas Day

St Joseph's Mens Adoration Group

8pm-6am, Nowra

Friday- 26/12/25

Rosary 5pm, Bomaderry

Saturday- 27/12/25

The Man Walk at 7:30 am @Providence

Blue Cafe, Sanctuary Point

If you would more information, please contact the parish office.

PRAY FOR:

*Sick: **Jessica Arnold** and **Kyri Pavlis***

*Death Anniversaries: **Allan Mason, Tony Aulsebrook** and **Patrick Firmstone** (died on 25/12/2022)*



Pastoral Letter

From Bishop Brian

The Light That Cannot Be Overcome

It is with a heart full of sadness that I write to you in the wake of the tragic events that have unfolded in Bondi on Sunday afternoon. In this season of Advent, a time when we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, this terrible event weighs heavily on us all. We find ourselves burdened with grief and questions in the face of this senseless loss of life and the pain inflicted on so many. The killings that took place last Sunday in Bondi are a painful reminder of the reality of violence, hatred and fear, all of which were directed at our Jewish brothers and sisters here in Australia and therefore directed at all of us. Pope Leo XIV has cried out "Enough of these forms of antisemitic violence". This is a cry that we all should be making as people of

faith, a people of peace and a people who are called to honour the dignity of every human being. A people who are called to love. On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we hear the Gospel proclaim the story of Mary and Joseph, who, amidst their own fears and uncertainties, trusted in the promises of God. The angel's words to Joseph, "Do not be afraid" (Matthew 1:20), echo across the centuries to us now. These words are a reminder that God is ever with us, even in the darkest of moments, Emmanuel, God with us, dwells among us, bringing light into our shadows and hope into our despair.

Advent is a season of waiting, yearning, and hoping. It is a time when we are reminded that God, entered into a violent broken world, not with a display of aggression, but rather with the vulnerability of a child. In Jesus the wisdom of the world is subverted, and we find not only the answer to our eternal longing but the courage to choose hope amidst the challenges of the here and now.

In this time of grief, we are called to reject further division and hate, and to embody the forgiveness and love that Advent heralds. Just as Mary's quiet "yes" to God changed the course of history, we are invited to say "yes" to being instruments of peace, healing, and reconciliation. Let us open our hearts to those who are most affected by this tragedy, those who are grieving, those who are injured, and even those whose actions have caused such harm. As a community of faith, we are called to be a sign of God's mercy, to stand in solidarity with the suffering, and to proclaim through our actions that no darkness can overcome the light of Christ (John 1:5).

As we approach Christmas, let us draw strength from the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and Reconciliation, where we encounter Christ, the source of all hope and consolation. Let us bring our grief, our questions, and our fears to God, trusting in God's infinite mercy and love. Let us also take comfort in the knowledge that God is always close to the broken-hearted (Psalm 34:18).

I encourage you to spend time in prayer with your families and in your parish communities during this final week of Advent. As we light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath, may its light remind us of the enduring hope we have in the coming of Christ, who is the Prince of Peace. May we, like Mary and Joseph, trust in God's plan and allow His love to guide us through this difficult time.

As your shepherd, I assure you of my continued prayers for you. I ask that you pray for me, for one another, for our Jewish brothers and sisters, and for peace in our world. Let us walk together in faith, hope, and love, as we look forward to the joy of Christ's birth and the promise of His abiding presence among us. The presence of love.



ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH NOWRA

Parish Events

Calling all Angels, Shepherds and Choir members!

All children of St Michael's Parish are invited to take part in the **Christmas Eve Family Mass** as Angels and Shepherds. If you would like to be involved, please come to the rehearsal on **Sunday 21st Dec at 4:30pm** in **St Michael's Hall**. The Christmas Eve Family Mass will commence with **Carols at 6:30pm**.

For more information, contact:
Sophie Pavlis (0439 018 374) or
Frances Fairs (0427 475 339).

Christmas Day Lunch- Vincentia

Don't be on your own. Come and celebrate Jesus' birthday with us at **Holy Spirit, Vincentia** following the 10am Mass in the Hall. 11:15am. Please bring a yummy plate to share. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Exposition of Blessed Eucharist- Vincentia

In Vincentia, the last day for the exposition of the blessed Eucharist will be next Monday 22nd December and will resume Monday 5th January.

Parish Notices

Sacramental Program for Reconciliation, First Holy Communion & Confirmation

The Sacramental Leaders are on a break. But still if you want your child to be registered, please send an email to nowrasacraments@dow.org.au

If your child is in Year 3 or above and has been Baptised, then they may register in the Reconciliation & First Holy Program for this year after Mass.

If your child is in Year 6 or above who have been Baptised, received their Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, may register for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Change of Venue for Weekend Masses

Please note that from **24 December onwards, for a period of two weeks**, all **weekend Masses at St Michael's** will be celebrated in the **Parish Hall**. This includes the weekend of **4 January**. We appreciate your understanding.

Changes in Mass

Please note that **from 26 December 2025 onwards**, there will be **no Friday evening Masses at 5:30 pm in Kangaroo Valley**.

Instead, **a Mass will be celebrated every Monday at 9:30 am at St Michael's Church, Nowra** starting **from 29 December 2025**.

Thank you for your understanding.

Parish Pastoral Council Update

The voting period for the Parish Pastoral Council has now concluded. We are currently in the process of reaching out to the elected candidates and nominees to confirm their acceptance of the positions. Once all acceptances have been received, the final list of council members will be announced to the parish community.

Thank you for your participation and continued support

Volunteers needed- Can You Help?

Across our Parish we have a real need for volunteers. We need Collection Counters, Readers, Greeters, Sacristans, Acolytes, Catechists, and Parish Office support.

Whether you've volunteered before or not, if you have a little time available to be an active part of your Parish, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact the Parish Office for more information about how you can help at: nowra@dow.org.au

Furniture Pick-Up & Delivery Help Needed

We are seeking assistance with the collection of nine (9) library chairs from St John the Evangelist Catholic High School Library and delivery to St Michael's Catholic Primary School Library. Pick-up and delivery must occur during school hours.

If you are able to help, please contact:

- Moira Anderson at St John the Evangelist – 4423 1666 or
- Karen Delany at St Michael's – 4421 3630

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Adoration Chapel- More Adorers Needed

If you have a spare hour each week, please consider spending it with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel.

There is at least one available hour each day that needs to be filled on the roster.

If you would like to become a regular, contact Patrick Van Der Moezel on 0430837427