



ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH NOWRA

30 North St, Nowra

nowra@dow.org.au

02-44231712

nowraparish.au

**THIRD
SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
YEAR A**

**SUNDAY
14TH
DECEMBER
2025**



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
5.30PM Kangaroo Valley

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

Finance Secretary: Anne Gonzaga (nowrafinance@dow.org.au)

Catechist Coordinator: Veronica Passoni (Mon & Wed, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm)

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

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

Philippians 4: 4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading

Isaiah 35

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.
Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 145

R: Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

Second Reading

James 5: 7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming.
Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for
the precious fruit of the ground until it has
had the autumn rains and the spring rains!
You too have to be patient; do not lose heart,
because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do
not make complaints against one another,
brothers, so as not to be brought to
judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to
be seen waiting at the gates. For your
example, brothers, in submitting with
patience, take the prophets who spoke in the
name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61: 1

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was
doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are
you the one who is to come, or have we got to
wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go
back and tell John what you hear and see; the
blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are
cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are
raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed
to the poor; and happy is the man who does not
lose faith in me.' As the messengers were
leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about
John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to
see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then
what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine
clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are
to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out
for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much
more than a prophet: he is the one of whom
scripture says: Look, I am going to send my
messenger before you; he will prepare your way
before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children
born of women, a greater than John the Baptist
has never been seen; yet the least in the
kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Communion Antiphon

Isaiah 35: 4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do
not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he
will save us.

Coming up this week

Sunday- 14/12/25

Annual Christmas Party after mass,
Vincentia

Carols by the Convent, 6pm Berry

Tuesday

Adoration at 7:30 am, Vincentia

Rosary at 8:00 am, Vincentia

Wednesday

Craft group 9:30-12pm, Parish centre,
Nowra

Choir Practice at 3:30 pm, Vincentia

Adoration & Rosary at 5:00 pm, Vincentia

Thursday

Adoration at 7:30 am, Vincentia

Rosary at 8:00 am, Vincentia

Adoration & Rosary at 5:00 pm, Culburra

Stella Maris study and prayer group

starting with 5.30 mass, Culburra

Choir Practice at 6:15 pm, Nowra

St Joseph's Mens Adoration Group

8pm-6am, Nowra

Friday

Craft group 10am - 12pm, Vincentia

Rosary 5pm, Bomaderry

Soup kitchen fortnightly, Nowra School
of Arts Annex, contact Shannon Chittick &
Sue Hill

Saturday

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: **Sue Aston, John
Keenan, Remedios Paliza** and **Patricia
Ryan***

*Recently Deceased: **June Marjorie Spurr**
and **Peter Keenan***



Diocesan Events

Stouthearted men's program- in 2026

Stouthearted is a new Jesus centred men's program designed to meet a desperate need in men. It's an 8-week program that draws from well-known experts, shares powerful teachings and models real world conversations.

In addition to the main sessions, there are short daily reflections that include video input, bible study, and self-reflection.

The Stouthearted program will be running in Wollongong will be beginning on **Monday 2 February and finishing on the last Monday of March**. First free is free, course cost \$70.

More about the program: stouthearted.com.

To register: dow.sh/stouthearted

Reach Higher Program- University of Notre Dame

Through the University of Notre Dame Australia's Reach Higher program, future teachers can earn their degree while continuing to work in regional, rural and remote communities across Australia with flexible, community-based support tailored to their needs

- Maximise local teaching opportunities by supporting participants to pursue university degrees while minimising relocation and income disruption.
- Strengthen community engagement through partnerships, co-created solutions and graduates who inspire future generations to pursue higher education.
- Flexible delivery by learning where it suits you.
- Financial support through scholarships, employer contributions and access to government funding.

To learn more about the Reach Higher program, contact us at education@nd.edu.au.

Shalom World: A Global Catholic Media Hub – Your One-Stop Destination for True Peace!

No matter where you are on your faith journey, Shalom World invites you to dive into inspiring content, faith-filled adventures, uplifting news, and deep prayer—anytime, anywhere! <https://shalomworld.org/>



Parish Events

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



ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH NOWRA

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**. If teenagers/adults would like to be a part of the choir or band for the Mass, please join the rehearsal on **Wednesday 17th Dec at 7pm** in **St Michael's Hall**. For more information, contact: Sophie Pavlis (0439 018 374) or Frances Fairs (0427 475 339).

Sacramental Program of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion & Confirmation

This weekend is Enrolment Weekend for the programme in 2026. 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. There is an expectation that the Candidates will attend Mass on a weekly basis and attend the scheduled lessons with their parents/carers.

Catechist/Sacramental Mass and Lunch

To all Past, Present and Future Catechists and Sacramental Leaders please join us for the Catechist/Sacramental Leaders Mass and Luncheon to be held on **Tuesday, 16th December at 9.30 am, St. Michael's Catholic Church**. For any queries, please contact Veronica on 0473 360 183

Carols by the Convent

The Young Adults of St Michael's warmly invite you to Carols by the Convent, a family-friendly carols evening on the beautiful lawns and in the church of St Patrick's, Berry. In the midst of the festive season's busyness, may we take a moment to pause - to reflect, to listen, and to recognise the quiet presence of God among us.

When: **Sunday, 14th December at 7:30pm**

Where: **St Patricks Church, Berry**

BYO Dinner from 6pm, on the St Patrick's Church grounds

Parish Notices

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

On Thursday some weeks ago, the Blessed Sacrament was adored for 24 hours straight due to rostered adorers and people popping in. SO GOOD! Please sign in when you visit the chapel, even if it's just for 2 minutes.

If Mass is being held in the church, please vacate the chapel.

Christmas Ceremonies

Anyone involved in our Parish Christmas Ceremonies from any of our Parish Communities is invited to attend the Christmas Ceremonies Meeting to ensure we are all planning and working with One Parish Voice.

Whatever your involvement in our Christmas Ceremonies, please come along to the **Parish Centre at 6pm on 16 December**.

Remember to bring along your good ideas, brilliant solutions and lots of festive spirit!

Thank You

CWL wishes to thank you for your most generous support of their recent Christmas raffle. Congratulations to John and Helen Ison 1st prize and Kathie Piggott 2nd prize.. We take this opportunity to wish you all a most Happy Holy Christmas