



ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH

NOWRA



30 North St, Nowra

nowra@dow.org.au

02-44231712

nowraparish.au

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD YEAR A

**SUNDAY
11TH
JANUARY
2026**



Parish staff

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

Parochial Vicars: Fr Victor Vincent (victor.vincent@dow.org.au)
Fr James Arblaster (james.arblaster@dow.org.au)

Retired Priests: Mgr Patrick Faherty (Emeritus Pastor)
Fr Ronan Kilgannon

Parish Secretary/ Sacramental Coordinator: Asha Joy

Finance Secretary/Catechist Coordinator: Veronica Passoni

Finance Email: nowrafinance@dow.org.au

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 10:30 am to 2:30 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

****First Saturday of the Month****

10AM Nowra

Sunday

7.30AM Berry
9.30AM Culburra (last weekend)
9.30AM Nowra
10AM Vincentia
11.30AM Kangaroo Valley
6PM Nowra

Monday

9.30AM 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

Nowra- 9AM to 10AM

First Saturday

Nowra- 9AM to 10AM

Entrance Antiphon

Matthew 3:16-17

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

First Reading

Isaiah 42

Thus says the Lord:
Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the nations.
He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.
Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law.
I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause
of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have appointed you as covenant of the
people and light of the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the
dungeon.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 28

R: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court.

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour.

The God of glory thunders.

In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'

The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever.

Second Reading

Acts 10: 34-38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 9:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 3: 13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. A voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

Communion Antiphon

John 1: 32,34

Behold the One of whom John said: have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

Coming up this week

Sunday- 11/01/26

Tuesday- 13/01/26

Adoration at 7:30 am, Vincentia
Rosary at 8:00 am, Vincentia

Wednesday- 14/01/26

Choir Practice at 03:30 pm, Vincentia
Adoration & Rosary at 05:00 pm, Vincentia

Thursday- 15/01/26

Adoration at 7:30 am, Vincentia
Rosary at 8:00 am, Vincentia
Adoration & Rosary at 05:00 pm, Culburra
St Joseph's Mens Adoration Group
8pm-6am, Nowra

Friday- 16/01/26

Rosary 5pm, Bomaderry

Saturday- 17/01/26

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: *Christopher McManus* and *Ann Moses*

Parish Notices

Feast of Santo Nino

There is a special mass on **17th January** 2026 at 10 am at St Michael's, Nowra to celebrate the feast of Santo Nino followed by morning tea at the parish centre. All are welcome.

Our Parish Commitment to Respect and Safeguarding

Our parish is committed to being a welcoming, faith-filled community where every person is treated with dignity, kindness, and respect. We affirm a **zero-tolerance approach to abusive, bullying, or disrespectful behaviour** in any form. As members of the Body of Christ, we are all called to engage with one another in a spirit of mutual respect, generosity of heart, and Christian charity.

Creating a safe parish environment is a shared responsibility. Each of us has a role to play in ensuring that our parish is a place where all people feel valued, heard, and safe.

In this spirit, we uphold and echo the safeguarding commitment of the **Catholic Diocese of Wollongong**:

The Catholic Diocese of Wollongong is unwavering in its commitment to the safety and wellbeing of all persons in the diocese, in particular children, young people and vulnerable persons.

This is at the heart of everything we do. Every person has the right to be informed, heard, respected, empowered and to feel safe.

As a diocese, and as individuals, we commit to being safe people in the lives of all persons in the diocese, in particular children, young people and vulnerable persons, and to work together with them to create cultures that honour dignity, enrich wellbeing, and keep them safe.

We thank all parishioners for their cooperation and commitment to fostering a parish community grounded in respect, compassion, and care for one another.

Finance Council Update

As the Parish Finance Council progresses toward presenting its financial statement in February 2026, we would like to provide an update.

The Business Activity Statement (BAS) and Bank Reconciliation for 31 December 2025 will be completed in January 2026. An audit has been booked for February 2026. Once the audit has been completed the Finance Council will present its financial statement.

Questions? Email the Finance Council at nowrafinance@dow.org.au

Parish Office Update

Parish Office is now open **Monday to Friday, 10:30 am to 2:30 pm**

We would like to welcome Veronica Passoni as the new Parish Finance Secretary.

We are also looking for Parish Office volunteers, whether you've volunteered before or not, if you have a little time available during the week, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact the Parish Office for more information about how you can help at: nowra@dow.org.au or 02 4423 1712



Major Parish Updates

Welcome Fr James

Fr James grew up in Albion Park Rail as the eldest of three boys. He attended World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney as a Year 12 student, which was pivotal for his faith journey. That year, he first felt the call to the priesthood, but ignored it.



He went on to study Law and International Studies at the University of Wollongong, during which he also spent a year as an international student in Leon, Spain. Upon returning to Australia, Fr James wrestled with his faith and calling until he graduated from university, when he decided to enter seminary to further explore the call to priesthood.

After much discernment, Fr James realised this calling was the best path for his life and the best thing he could do for others and he personally committed his life to God.

After seven years in formation, Bishop Brian ordained James to the priesthood on 10 Dec 2022. Since then, Fr James has served in the Lumen Christi Parish Wollongong, and St Pauls Parish Camden, and has been chaplain to hospital, university, youth events like ACYF and WYD Portugal. He has also worked with CEDoW in schools ministry, regularly coordinates diocesan liturgical events, is a board member of CatholicCare, a member of the Diocesan Youth Council and a regular celebrant for Mass For You At Home.

In his spare time, he likes swimming, walks, fantasy books, history and politics podcasts, board games and video games, and a good flat white. He is also a celiac.

Fr James will commence his new appointment as assistant priest in Nowra parish effective the 12 Jan 2026.

With Gratitude and Blessing: A Farewell Message

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I thank God for the great gift of having served St Michael's parish. Together we have prayed, celebrated, mourned, and rejoiced. I have had the privilege of baptizing your children, witnessing your marriages, sharing in your sorrows at funerals, and celebrating the Eucharist with you week after week. These moments have shaped me deeply as a priest and as a person.

I am grateful for your faith, your generosity, and your patience—especially in my human limitations.



Thank you to our parish staff, volunteers, ministry leaders, and all who quietly serve behind the scenes.

Your love for the Church is visible in your actions, and this parish is alive because of you. As I go to my next assignment, I do so trusting in God's plan. Once again, thank you for your friendship.

Fr Victor Vincent

Farewell Party

There is a farewell party for Fr Victor following the 10 am Mass at **Holy Spirit, Vincentia** on **11th January 2026**. All are welcome.

Parish Pastoral Council

With gratitude to God and appreciation for the generosity of our parishioners, we are pleased to share the members of our Parish Pastoral Council. These parishioners have prayerfully discerned a call to serve and were selected through a process of parish election and priestly nomination.

The Parish Pastoral Council plays an important role in the life of our parish by listening to the needs of the community, reflecting prayerfully on our shared mission, and offering guidance and support to the parish priest in fostering the spiritual and pastoral life of the parish.

In addition to those elected and nominated, the Council is further enriched by the presence of two members who represent the broader diversity and life of our parish community: a representative from the Syro-Malabar Community and the Principal of St Michael's.

Members of the Parish Pastoral Council:

- **Patrick van der Moezel**
- **Frances Fairs**
- **Jordan Vance**
- **Anne Dynon**
- **Megan Beecher**
- **Lynette Burt**
- **Damien Gauci**
- **Donna Rainsford**
- **Sue Hill**
- **Kachi Ngai**
- **Kerrie Bennett**
- **Kim Watts**
- **Rajeev George** (Syro-Malabar Community Representative)
- **Bernard Cumming** (Principal, St Michael's)

We thank these members for their willingness to serve and give of their time, wisdom, and faith. We ask all parishioners to keep them in their prayers as they journey together in listening, discernment, and service for the good of our parish and the wider community.