



ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH

NOWRA



30 North St, Nowra

nowra@dow.org.au

02-44231712

nowraparish.au

SECOND
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY
TIME
YEAR A

SUNDAY
18TH
JANUARY
2026



Parish staff

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

Parochial Vicar: 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 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

Psalm 65:4

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!.

First Reading

Isaiah 49: 3,5-6

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 28

R: Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God.

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I.

In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart.

Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1: 1-3

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation

John 1: 14,12

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 1: 29-34

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

Communion Antiphon

Psalm 22: 5

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

Coming up this week

Sunday- 18/01/26

Tuesday- 20/01/26

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

Wednesday- 21/01/26

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

Thursday- 22/01/26

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- 23/01/26

Rosary 5pm, Bomaderry

Saturday- 24/01/26

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: *Tapan Desmond Gomes* and *Hallie Parnell*

Recently Deceased: *Leigh Costain*

Parish Notices

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

Preparing Our Hearts for Lent

As the season of Lent draws near, we are invited once again to journey more deeply in prayer, reflection, and faith as a parish community. To support this sacred time, we are seeking parishioners who may feel called to lead Lenten study or reflection groups. These groups offer a wonderful opportunity to grow together in Scripture, prayer, and shared faith.

If you are interested in leading a Lenten study group, please contact the Parish Office at your earliest convenience so that materials may be ordered in good time. Thank you for your generosity in helping our community prepare our hearts for this holy season.



Notices (continued)

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

Notice Regarding the Tabernacle

As part of our ongoing care for the sacred spaces entrusted to us, the Tabernacle in St Michael's Church has been temporarily removed for necessary repair works. During this time, we invite the parish community to hold this work in prayer, in gratitude for the reverence and devotion it represents among us. Should you feel called to support the restoration, generous contributions would be warmly welcomed. Please contact the Parish Office for further information. May the Lord bless all who give with a generous heart.

New Appointments

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.

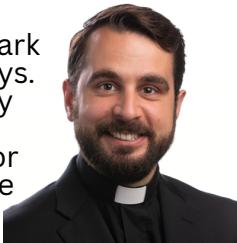
He went on to study Law and International Studies at the University of Wollongong, during which he also spent a year as an international student in Leon, Spain. Upon returning to Australia, Fr James wrestled with his faith and calling until he graduated from university, when he decided to enter seminary 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 commenced his new appointment as assistant priest in Nowra parish effective the 12 Jan 2026.



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 Dyon**
- **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.