St Michael's Catholic Parish
Nowra

30 North St, Nowra | nowra@dow.org.au | 02-44231712 | nowraparish.au

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2026

Parish staff

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

Parochial Vicars: Fr James Arblaster (james.arblaster@dow.org.au)
Fr Darren McDowell (darren.mcdowell@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 (Ph: 02 4421 3630)
St John the Evangelist Catholic High School, Nowra (Ph: 02 4423 1666)

Churches

St Michael's Nowra

Sacred Heart Bomaderry

St Joseph's Kangaroo Valley

Our Lady Help of Christians Culburra Beach

St Patrick's Berry

Holy Spirit Vincentia

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil
4PM Bomaderry
5.30PM Culburra
6PM Vincentia

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

First Saturday
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

Isaiah 66: 10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading

1 Samuel 16

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23

R: The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me
In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-2,5-8

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation

John 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

John 9:1-41

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered, 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.' Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered. They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them,

‘Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?’ His parents answered, ‘We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we don’t know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.’ His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, ‘He is old enough; ask him.’ So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, ‘Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.’ The man answered, ‘I don’t know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.’ They said to him, ‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’ He replied, ‘I have told you once and you wouldn’t listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?’ At this they hurled abuse at him: ‘You can be his disciple,’ they said ‘we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don’t know where he comes from.’ The man replied, ‘Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don’t know where he comes from! We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn’t do a thing.’ ‘Are you trying to teach us,’ they replied ‘and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!’ And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ ‘Sir,’ the man replied ‘tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said, ‘You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.’ The man said, ‘Lord, I believe’, and worshipped him. Jesus said: ‘It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.’ Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, ‘We are not blind, surely?’ Jesus replied: ‘Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, “We see”, your guilt remains.’

Communion Antiphon

John 9: 11,38

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,
I saw and I believed in God.

PRAY FOR:

Sick: **Kyri Pavlis, Andrea Mullins, Margaret & John Broomhead, John Owen, Helen Pirie** and **Ian Cartledge**

Death Annivesary: **Leigh Collin, Josephine Walsh** and **Mark Dominic**

Recently Deceased: **Anne Hale**

Coming up this week

Tuesday- 17/03/26

Adoration at 7:30 am, Vincentia

Rosary at 8:00 am, Vincentia

Stations of the Cross at 5:00 pm, Berry

Wednesday- 18/03/26

Choir Practice at 03:30 pm, Vincentia

Adoration & Rosary at 05:00 pm, Vincentia

Stations of the Cross at 6:00 pm, Vincentia

YA Lenten Group at 7pm, Nowra

Thursday- 19/03/26

Adoration at 7:30 am, Vincentia

Rosary at 8:00 am, Vincentia

Adoration & Rosary at 05:00 pm, Culburra

Stations of the Cross at 6:00 pm, Culburra

St Joseph’s Mens Adoration Group 8pm-6am, Nowra

Friday- 20/03/26

Rosary 5pm, Bomaderry

Stations of the Cross at 9:15 am, Nowra

Soup Kitchen 10-1pm, Nowra School of Arts Annex

Saturday- 21/03/26

The Man Walk at 7:30 am @Providence Blue Cafe, Sanctuary Point

Parish Events

St. Patrick’s Day Celebrations

We cordially invite you to join us for our St. Patrick's Day celebration on **Tuesday, March 17th in Berry.** We will gather for the stations of the cross at 5:00 pm followed by Mass, which will be followed by an evening of joyful festivities in the church hall. Please bring a plate to share

Holy Week Remembrance

Andrew Chinn Holy Week Remembrance: On Monday 30 March, Australian religious songwriter and singer, Andrew Chinn, will be visiting St Michael's Primary School to share his songs with the children. Andrew’s songs, such as “These Hands”, “Rainbow”, “An African Blessing” and “Rise Up!” are used in classrooms and liturgies around Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada. The remembrance will take place at the school, at 1:45pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Kairos Prison Ministry

Lord, we ask that you bless the members of the Kairos Prison Ministry team, preparing to share the Gospel at the South Coast (Nowra) Correctional Centre from 23–26 March 2026. We pray that your Holy Spirit will empower the work of the team, and prepare the hearts of the inmates, to be transformed by your love and mercy.

Parish Notices

Pamphlet Racks Nowra and Bomaderry

Please note that these pamphlets are provided by the local St Vincent de Paul Society for sale to parishioners. Please pay paper sellers at Mass on Sundays or place money into SVDP buckets or hand cash to any SVDP member either at the time of taking a pamphlet, or later.

RCIA - Becoming Catholic

It is wonderful news that our parish has 20 people becoming Catholic this coming Easter. They have been journeying towards this moment for the past twelve months and are now ready to be welcomed into our faith community. Please keep them in your prayers. How about you or your friends / family? Do you feel God calling you or someone you know to become Catholic? Perhaps you are Catholic and would like to complete your initiation within the Catholic church? We would love to hear from you and support you in this exciting journey of faith and life?
If you are interested in having an initial discussion, please contact Fr Darren on (**darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au**) or call the Parish Office on 4423 1712.

St Joseph's Adoration Group - Men praying for their wives

Are you single, married or widowed, and willing to sacrifice one hour to pray for your wife/future wife?
All you need to do:
1) Choose one hour between Thursday evening 6pm and Friday morning 6am.
2) Contact Patrick 0435 364 403

Choir for Easter Masses

We are looking for anyone willing to be a part of the choir for the St Michaels Easter masses.
No need to have an amazing voice, just an enthusiasm to enrich our wonderful Holy Week tradition.

Practice for Holy Thursday and Good Friday masses will be on Wed 18th and Wed 25th March at 5.30pm at St Michaels church.
Practices for Easter Vigil are already ongoing on **Thursdays 6.15pm at St Michaels church**.
Mass times: Holy Thursday 7pm; Good Friday 3pm; Easter Vigil Saturday 7pm.
Looking forward to seeing you there.

Pastor's Update

Dear Parishioners,

I would like to thank you sincerely for your continued support of our parish through your prayers, generous service, and financial giving. Since arriving in the parish in August 2025, I have been warmly welcomed into a vibrant community of faith, and I remain deeply grateful for the dedication shown across the many ministries and responsibilities that sustain parish life.
Very early on, however, it became clear that alongside the pastoral life of the parish there were also significant practical matters requiring urgent attention, especially in relation to some of our parish properties. Chief among these has been the presbytery at St Michael's. Initial inspections revealed a number of serious concerns, including unsafe verandahs, water damage, deteriorating services, and broader structural issues that make the building unsafe to occupy in its present condition.
Since then, these matters have not been left unattended. The parish has already taken important steps to address them. Professional advice has been sought, the Finance Council has been actively engaged, and further investigations have been undertaken so that the true scope of the problem can be properly understood.
I wanted to begin keeping you informed, because these matters affect the future life of our parish and require careful stewardship, prudent planning, and ongoing prayer.

Fr Damien Ellis

Changes to Mass Schedule

As we celebrate two important feast days in March, please note the following changes to our usual Mass schedule:

- **Thursday, 19th March – Feast of St Joseph**

There will be **no evening Mass in Culburra** on this day. Instead, Mass will be celebrated at **5:30 pm in Kangaroo Valley** as we honour St Joseph

- **Wednesday, 25th March – The Annunciation of the Lord**

In addition to the regular Mass schedule, there will be an **extra Mass at 11:30 am in St Michael's Hall**.

We encourage all parishioners to take part in these significant celebrations in the life of the Church.

Anzac Day Mass

ANZAC Day is about commemoration and tradition.
St Michael's Parish will once again commemorate the day with the traditional ANZAC Day Mass at **8.00am**.
This year is special for the Parish as it is the 70th anniversary of the first ANZAC Day Mass celebrated in the Parish. Whether you are going to the Dawn Service or planning to attend the March, the Mass fits in well to that timetable.