



ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH SHOALHAVEN

📍 30 North St, Nowra

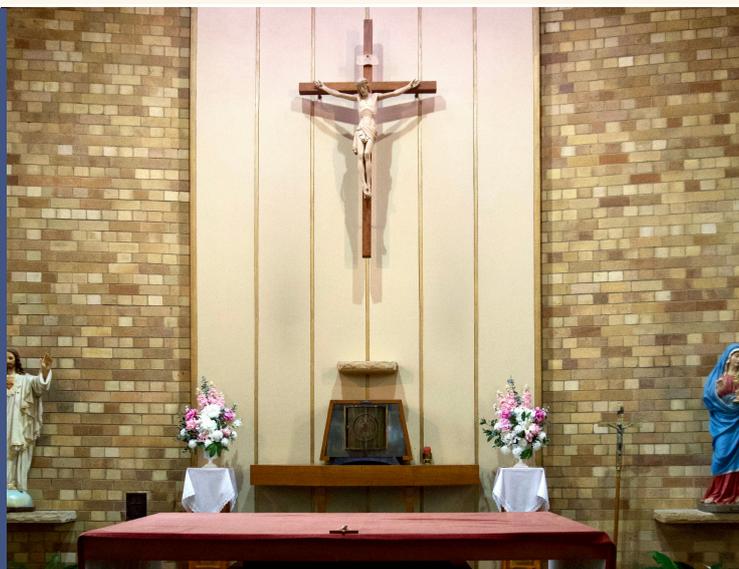
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🌐 nowraparish.au

**FIFTH
SUNDAY
OF LENT
YEAR A**

**SUNDAY
22ND
MARCH
2026**



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

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

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 42: 1-2

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

First Reading

Ezekiel 37: 12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 129

**R: With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.)

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.

Second Reading

Romans 8: 8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation

John 11: 25,26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

John 11:1-45

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. – It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied: 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.' He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw

herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Communion Antiphon

John 11: 26

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

Coming up this week

Tuesday- 24/03/26

Adoration at 7:30 am, Vincentia

Rosary at 8:00 am, Vincentia

Stations of the Cross at 5:00 pm, Berry

Sanctus Summit at 6:30 pm, Nowra

Wednesday- 25/03/26

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- 26/03/26

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- 27/03/26

Rosary 5pm, Bomaderry

Stations of the Cross at 9:15 am, Nowra

Saturday- 28/03/26

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

PRAY FOR:



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

Death Annivesary: Filomena Fridel, James Fryer, Peter Delaney, Francene Devoy and Paul Anthony Smith

Recently Deceased: Helen Pirie and Julie Thow

Additional notice:

A Requiem Mass for Helen Pirie will be held at Sacred Heart Church, Bomaderry, on Thursday March 26th at 11:00 am

Parish Events

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.

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.



ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH

SHOALHAVEN

Parish Notices

Pastor's Update



Dear Parishioners,

In recent weeks I have begun sharing with you the condition of the presbytery at St Michael's and some of the practical challenges now facing our parish. I would like to assure you that this has not simply been a matter of identifying problems; considerable work has already been undertaken behind the scenes to understand what is required and how best to proceed. Following initial inspections, the Finance Council sought further professional advice regarding the presbytery. We have now advanced into a more detailed stage of assessment and planning. Architects and other consultants have been engaged to assist in determining what will be necessary to restore the building, address its structural and functional deficiencies, and ensure that any future use is safe, practical, and appropriate.

Because the building is historically significant, this process is necessarily more complex than an ordinary renovation. Matters of design, heritage sensitivity, council requirements, diocesan consultation, and long-term suitability all need to be taken into account. This means that progress must be careful and deliberate, but it also means that the parish is not standing still. We are actively addressing the issues before us.

Please continue to pray for wisdom and prudence as this work continues, and for all who are helping the parish discern the best path forward.

Fr Damien Ellis

Feast Day & Mass Schedule Changes

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

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

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

- **Tuesday, 31 March**

Due to the **Chrism Mass at the Cathedral**, there will be **no 5:30pm Mass in Berry.**

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

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

Triduum & Easter Services

HOLY THURSDAY

Time	Church
5:30 pm	Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Culburra
6:00 pm	St Patrick's Church, Berry
6:30 pm	Holy Spirit Church, Vincentia
7:00 pm	St Michael's, Nowra

GOOD FRIDAY

Time	Church
10:00 am	Stations of the Cross Berry, Bomaderry, Culburra, Kangaroo Valley & Vincentia
3:00 pm	Passion of the Lord Berry, Nowra, Culburra & Vincentia

EASTER VIGIL

Time	Church
5:30 pm	Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Culburra
6:00 pm	St Patrick's Church, Berry
6:30 pm	Holy Spirit Church, Vincentia
7:00 pm	St Michael's, Nowra

EASTER SUNDAY MASS

Time	Church
7:30 am	St Patrick's Church, Berry
8:00 am	Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Culburra
8:00 am	Holy Spirit Church, Vincentia
9:30 am	St Michael's, Nowra
10:00 am	Holy Spirit Church, Vincentia
11:30 am	St Joseph's Church, Kangaroo Valley
6:00 pm	St Michael's, Nowra