ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH
SHOALHAVEN

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

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

SUNDAY 29TH 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- before 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

Lord's Entrance

Matthew 21:1-11

When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord has need of them," and he will send them immediately'. This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass'. The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

Entrance Antiphon

John 12:1, 12-13; Ps 23:9-10

Six days before the Passover,
when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem,
the children ran to meet him;
in their hands they carried palm branches
and with a loud voice cried out:
* Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!
O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory?
He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.
* Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

First Reading

Isaiah 50: 4-7

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 21

R: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.'

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones.

They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me!

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.'

Second Reading

Philippians 2: 6-11

His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are,
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2: 8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!

Coming up this week

Tuesday- 31/03/26
Adoration at 7:30 am, Vincentia
Rosary at 8:00 am, Vincentia

Wednesday- 01/04/26
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- 02/04/26
Adoration at 7:30 am, Vincentia
Rosary at 8:00 am, Vincentia
St Joseph's Mens Adoration Group
8pm-6am, Nowra

Saturday- 04/04/26
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**

Recently Deceased: **Rogelio Balanag**

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.

Good Friday Collections

On **Good Friday**, the **first collection** will be taken up for the support of the **Holy Land**. The **second collection** will be shared equally, with one half going towards the support of our **priests** and the other half assisting the needs of the **Parish**.
Thank you for your generosity and for the spirit of prayer with which you enter into the solemn liturgies of this sacred time.

Parish Events

Stations of the Cross – Berry

All are warmly invited to the **Stations of the Cross** in **Berry on Good Friday at 10:00am**. This devotion will be **conducted and enacted by the youth of the Parish**. It will take **place outdoors if weather permits**, or **inside the church if raining**.
Come and join us in prayer as we reflect on the Passion of the Lord.

Feast of the Divine Mercy

There will be a Divine Mercy holy hour to celebrate the feast of Divine Mercy - **12th April** (the Sunday after Easter) from **3 - 4pm** at **Saint Michael's Nowra**. There are wonderful blessings attached to celebrating this feast given to us by both Jesus himself to saint Faustina and through the church.
You are encouraged to join us on this special day. There will be prayers, songs, confession, adoration, and veneration of the Divine Mercy image.
If possible please bring a small plate to share for a time of fellowship following the holy hour in the foyer of the church. Thank you

Stella Maris Prayer and Study Group

Stella Maris Prayer and Study Group Meets on Thursdays during school term at 6.30pm, after Holy Hour Rosary and Mass.
All welcome for prayer, talks and a shared meal.
(please BYO plate to share.)
Contact 0435 336 195

Parish Notices

Notice Regarding the Crucifix

On Tuesday, the crucifix behind the Altar at St Michael's Church will be carefully taken down. This is being done for two reasons: first, there are safety concerns about how it is attached to the wall; second, its current position does not best serve the liturgical setting, as it obstructs the view of our beautiful heritage stained glass windows. The crucifix will be preserved with care and repositioned appropriately in due course. We thank parishioners for their understanding and continued reverence for the sacred furnishings of our church.

RCIA - Becoming Catholic

It is wonderful news that our parish has 20 people becoming Catholic this coming Easter. 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 (darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au) or calling the Parish Office on 4423 1712.

Parish Notices

Pastor's Update

Dear Parishioners,

As our investigations into the presbytery at St Michael's have progressed, it has become increasingly clear that the parish is dealing not with minor repairs, but with the consequences of many years of deferred maintenance. The work now required will be substantial. At the same time, this is not a project that can simply be rushed. Responsible stewardship demands that we proceed carefully, with proper advice and sound planning.

Over recent months, the parish has continued to move forward in this process. Professional input has helped clarify the extent of the restoration required, and planning has advanced sufficiently for us to understand that both structural repair and significant functional renewal will be needed. The goal is not merely to patch the building, but to restore it so that it can properly serve its intended purpose as suitable accommodation for the priests who serve our parish.

As this work develops, the parish must also continue to meet its normal responsibilities. Our ordinary pastoral, liturgical, and financial obligations remain. For that reason, the question before us is not simply how to repair a building, but how to do so in a way that is responsible, sustainable, and mindful of the wider mission of the parish.

I will continue to keep you informed as this planning develops further.

Fr Damien Ellis

Mass notices

Please note that on **Saturday, 4 April,** as it is the **Easter Vigil**, there will be **no First Saturday Mass in Nowra**.

On **Thursday, 2 April**, as it is **Holy Thursday**, there will be **no morning mass in Nowra**.

Also, on **Tuesday, 31 March,** due to the **Chrism Mass at the Cathedral**, there will be **no 5:30pm Mass in Berry**. The stations of the cross will also not be there.

We thank you for your understanding and invite you to keep our priests and parish communities in your prayers during this sacred time.

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