



ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH SHOALHAVEN

30 North St, Nowra

nowra@dow.org.au

02-44231712

nowraparish.au

**FIFTH
SUNDAY
OF
EASTER**

**SUNDAY
3RD
MAY
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- 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

Communion Antiphon

John 15: 1,5

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

Reflection

The gospel readings for this week and next week shift the focus away from the resurrection and begin to set us up for the departure of Jesus from the earth – the Ascension – and the sending of the Holy Spirit – the Pentecost event. Today's gospel passage comes from the very long Last Supper discourse in the gospel of John. When Jesus speaks about 'going away' for a time it could be interpreted as the period of his death and rising that are about to occur in the chronology of the story. However, the gospel of John is written a very long time after the death of Jesus; perhaps as much as 70 years after Jesus. Given this period of time between the events and the writing, we know that the writer was also referring to this longer time of Jesus 'going away'. By the time of the writing of this gospel the early Christians were starting to come to terms with the fact that Jesus probably wasn't going to return in their lifetime. They had seen the devastating destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Romans in 70CE which they thought had signalled the end of all time. However, here they were, still alive and still no sign of Jesus' return. The theme of being present and being absent is very strong in this gospel. The discussion about Jesus and the Father being one is part of this theme. Jesus is God present in the world. God has come to dwell among the people. When Jesus speaks of preparing rooms in the Father's house, it is a reference to preparing the disciples to 'live' in God; to dwell in God just as God has dwelt in the people.

PRAY FOR:

Sick: **Maria Graham, Bill Hilzinger, Margaret Broomhead, John Owen and Ian Cartledge**

Recently Deceased: **Timothy Kennedy, Margaret King, Colin Prior, June Handley, Walter Galbraith and Robert Luxford**

Death Anniversary: **Martin Gaffey**



Coming up this week

Tuesday- 05/05/26

Rosary after 5:30 pm Mass, Berry

Adoration at 7:30 am, Vincentia

Rosary at 8:00 am, Vincentia

Wednesday- 06/05/26

Choir Practice at 3:30 pm, Vincentia

Adoration & Rosary at 5:00 pm, Vincentia

Thursday- 07/05/26

Adoration at 7:30 am, Vincentia

Rosary at 8:00 am, Vincentia

Margaret King Funeral at 10:30 am, Vincentia

Adoration & Rosary at 5:00 pm, Culburra

Stella Maris Prayer Group at 6:30pm, Culburra

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

Friday- 08/05/26

June Handley Funeral at 11 am, Berry

Rosary at 5:00 pm, Bomaderry

Saturday- 09/05/26

The Man Walk at 7:15 am for coffee before walk @Providence Blue Cafe, Sanctuary Point

Parish Notices

Mary Help of Christians Feast Day Luncheon

Celebrate the Feast Day of Mary Help of Christians with a luncheon at **Culburra Bowling Club** on **Sunday, 31 May 2026** at 12 midday.

Cost: \$30 per person.

For bookings or enquiries, please contact **Kerrie** on **0411 787 449** or **Daphne** on **0448 963 573**.

Project Compassion Boxes and Envelopes

Parishioners are kindly reminded to return their **Project Compassion boxes and envelopes** to the church by **Sunday, 10 May**.

Your generosity and support make a real difference in the lives of those experiencing poverty and hardship. Thank you for walking with us in solidarity with the poor and for helping bring hope, dignity, and practical assistance to communities in need.

Parish Notices

Paschal Candle Contributions

With grateful hearts, we invite parishioners to contribute towards the purchase of Paschal candles for our church. The Paschal candle is a beautiful symbol of the risen Christ, the Light of the World, and holds a central place in our liturgical celebrations, especially during the Easter season.

Contributions may be made according to the size of the candle selected. Previous Paschal candles will be given to those who contribute. We thank you for helping us continue to mark our worship with dignity, beauty, and reverence.

Would you like to Become Catholic?

Have you been inspired by our celebration of Easter and would like to begin a journey into becoming Catholic. Our RCIA process begins again on the 4th May at 5:30pm here at St Michael's parish centre. We would love to hear from anyone who is interested in enquiring about becoming Catholic. Please contact Fr Darren (darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au) or call the Parish Office on 4423 1712, for an initial discussion and confirm that you can come along on the 4th May. We look forward to supporting you on this exciting journey of faith and life.

Sacraments

We have begun registrations for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation for candidates** who are in year 3 and older. The first orientation session will be held on **Sunday 10 May at 4.00 pm**, with an alternative session on **Monday 11 May at 4.00 pm**.

Barbara Sweeny Poetry Collection

Barbara Sweeny was a faithful parishioner who died in September 2024. She was blind and loved to compose poems and prayers, then type and give them as presents to many people. Sue Delaney is looking for copies of Barbara's poetry and hopes to compile a book to honour her memory. Please leave poems at the Parish Office for Sue.

Thank You

Peggy Luxford and families would like to say a special thank you to Fr Damien, Mgr. Pat and all the parishioners who joined them in celebrating the Requiem Mass to farewell Robert (Bob) Luxford.

Liturgical Ministers Ongoing Formation Dates – Advance Notice

We give heartfelt thanks to everyone who serves our parish in the liturgy— acolytes, servers, sacristans, musicians, readers, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, collectors, welcomers, and more! Your generous service helps our community to worship God with reverence and joy.

To support and deepen these vital ministries, we will be holding a series of **Liturgical Formation Sessions**. These gatherings are an important opportunity to reflect on the meaning of the liturgy, grow in confidence in your role, and ensure that our celebrations remain faithful and unified, and to standardise best practices across our six churches. **All current ministers are strongly encouraged to attend**, and new volunteers are most welcome.

Session Dates (9:30am–12:00pm, including morning tea):

- **27 June:** Acolytes, Servers, and Sacristans
- **16 July** (10:00am -12:30pm): Communion to the Sick and Homebound
- **25 July:** Musicians
- **15 August:** Lectors/Readers
- **22 August:** Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Location: Parish Centre, Nowra

Please register via the **QR code** provided, or contact the parish office.



A Memorable 70th Parish Anzac Day Mass

Thank you to all who contributed to our 70th Parish Anzac Day Mass. The service was well supported by parishioners, Navy servicemen and St John's and St Michael's schools to make it a truly memorable event.

LEST WE FORGET

Information for the Parish Bulletin - Final Notice

If you wish to have relevant information published in this Parish Bulletin please submit your notice to the Parish Office, nowra@dow.org.au no later than 2:30pm, WEDNESDAY for the upcoming weekend bulletin.

Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 97: 1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 32

**R: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2: 4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed.

That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14: 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia !

Gospel

John 10: 1-10

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me;

so that where I am
you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,
so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?

Do you not believe

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:
it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly,

whoever believes in me

will perform the same works as I do myself,

he will perform even greater works,
because I am going to the Father.'