



# ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH SHOALHAVEN

Berry

Bomaderry

Culburra

Kangaroo Valley

Nowra

Vincentia

📍 30 North St, Nowra

✉️ [nowra@dow.org.au](mailto:nowra@dow.org.au)

☎️ 02-44231712

🌐 [nowraparish.au](http://nowraparish.au)

**15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

**12 July 2026**



## Parish staff

**Pastor:** Fr Damien Ellis ([damien.ellis@dow.org.au](mailto:damien.ellis@dow.org.au))

**Parochial Vicars:** Fr James Arblaster ([james.arblaster@dow.org.au](mailto:james.arblaster@dow.org.au))  
Fr Darren McDowell ([darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au](mailto:darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au))

**Retired Priests:** Mgr Patrick Faherty (Emeritus Pastor)  
Fr Ronan Kilgannon

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday 10:30 am to 2:30 pm

## Reflection - Fr Darren

### *Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts*

Following the Liturgy of the Word we commence the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This Liturgy begins with the Preparation of Gifts. In this ancient tradition, both the bread and wine which will become Christ's body and blood, as well as offerings for the poor are presented.

Because we are offering all these gifts to God, the procession and offering of gifts is so important. By way of music, and the inclusion of members of the congregation, we unite together in the one offering of Christ which the priest makes present on the altar. Christ will then offer the consecrated bread and wine, now his body and blood, back to us when we receive communion.

Through offering these physical gifts we also ritually place the sacrifices of our own life on the altar. As St Augustine wrote: "By presenting our gifts at the altar, we place ourselves on the altar. We ourselves, are his best and most noble sacrifice, and it is the mystery of this sacrifice that we celebrate in our offerings." (Augustine, City of God, Book 10 ch 6)

The sacrifices we place on the altar are the sacrifices of love and care, of time and energy, of work and play that we have undertaken for God's kingdom and glory. Thus, through the priest, we ask 'that my sacrifice and yours might be acceptable to God the Almighty Father' and we respond, praying that indeed, these sacrifices will be acceptable to God the Father 'for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church'.



## 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



## 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

## Entrance Antiphon

Psalms 16:15

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;  
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

## First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 64

*(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.*

You care for the earth, give it water,  
you fill it with riches.  
Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. **(R.)**

And thus you provide for the earth;  
you drench its furrows,  
you level it, soften it with showers,  
you bless its growth. **(R.)**

You crown the year with your goodness.  
Abundance flows in your steps,  
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **(R.)**

The hills are girded with joy,  
the meadows covered with flocks,  
the valleys are decked with wheat.  
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **(R.)**

## Second Reading

Romans 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The seed is the word of God,  
Christ is the sower;  
all who come to him will live for ever.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

Matthew 13:1 – 23

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again,  
but not understand,  
see and see again, but not  
perceive.

For the heart of this nation has  
grown coarse,  
their ears are dull of hearing,  
and they have shut their eyes,  
for fear they should see with  
their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their heart,  
and be converted  
and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes  
because they see, your ears  
because they hear! I tell you  
solemnly, many prophets and  
holy men longed to see what  
you see, and never saw it; to  
hear what you hear, and never  
heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the  
parable of the sower. When  
anyone hears the word of the  
kingdom without  
understanding, the evil one  
comes and carries off what was  
sown in his heart: this is the man  
who received the seed on the  
edge of the path. The one who  
received it on patches of rock is  
the man who hears the word  
and welcomes it at once with  
joy. But he has no root in him, he  
does not last; let some trial  
come, or some persecution on  
account of the word, and he falls  
away at once. The one who  
received the seed in thorns is  
the man who hears the word,  
but the worries of this world and  
the lure of riches choke the word  
and so he produces nothing.  
And the one who received the  
seed in rich soil is the man who  
hears the word and understands  
it; he is the one who yields a  
harvest and produces now a  
hundredfold, now sixty, now  
thirty.'

## Communion Antiphon

Psalm 83:4-5

The sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for her  
young:  
by your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
my King and my God.  
Blessed are they who dwell in  
your house,  
for ever singing your praise.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Sick: **Deb Egan, Irene Phillips,  
Kevin Owens, Peter Rose,  
Brenda Relf, Maria Graham,  
Andrew Wilson, Sandra  
Shanahan, Margaret  
Broomhead and Ian Cartledge**

Recently Deceased: **Annette  
Eastman, Poppy, Josephine  
Coffey, Marcia Ellis, Joachim  
Assmann and Carmel Harvey**

Death Anniversary: **Mary  
Rouen, Maria Starzak and  
Ludwik Starzak**

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### Catholic Care Cross + Gen Technology

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#### Session Dates & Times

Mondays 9:30am - 11am

- 27 July
- 3 August
- 10 August
- 17 August
- 24 August

**Location:** St John the Evangelist  
31 John Purcell Way, Nowra  
NSW 2541

Refreshments provided at each  
session.

#### To book your place:

Contact Jane Hollier  
0417 018 152  
janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au

## Coming up this week

### **Tuesday- 14/07/26**

Adoration 7:30 am, Vincentia  
Rosary 8:00 am, Vincentia  
Craft Group 9:00 am, Berry  
Faith Circles 2:00 pm,  
Vincentia  
Rosary after 5:30 pm Mass,  
Berry  
Sanctus Summit 6:30 pm,  
Nowra

### **Wednesday- 15/07/26**

Craft Group 9:30 am, Nowra  
Choir Practice 3:30 pm,  
Vincentia  
Adoration & Rosary 5:00 pm,  
Vincentia  
Faith Circles 7:00 pm, Nowra

### **Thursday- 16/07/26**

Adoration 7:30 am, Vincentia  
Rosary 8:00 am, Vincentia  
Liturgical Training 10:00 am,  
Nowra  
Adoration & Rosary 5:00 pm,  
Culburra  
Stella Maris Prayer Group  
6:30 pm, Culburra  
St Joseph's Mens Adoration  
Group 8pm-6am, Nowra

### **Friday- 17/07/26**

Craft Group 10:00 am,  
Vincentia  
Rosary 5:00 pm, Bomaderry

### **Saturday- 18/07/26**

The Man Walk 7:15 am for  
coffee before walk  
@Providence Blue Cafe,  
Sanctuary Point  
Baptism 11:00 am, Nowra

# Parish Notices

## UPDATE LITURGICAL MINISTERS FORMATION

**Liturgical Formation Sessions** are important opportunities for all our liturgical ministers to grow in appreciation for Mass, and to standardise best practices across our parish with its six churches. **All current ministers are expected to attend the session relevant to their ministry.** New volunteers are very welcome. If you cannot attend, please contact Fr James so alternative arrangements can be made for you.

**Session Dates (9:30am–12:00pm. Morning tea included):**

- **16 July:** Communion to Sick and Housebound (10am–12:30pm)
- **25 July:** Music Ministry (incl Choir Members)
- **15 August:** Lectors/Readers
- **22 August:** Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- **31 October:** Welcomers & Collectors

**Location:** Parish Centre, Nowra  
Please register via the **QR code** provided, or contact the parish office.



## Acolyte Training

There will be another training session for those interested in serving as Acolytes in our parish. This is a wonderful opportunity to be formed for this important ministry of service at the altar and to support the prayer life of our parish community. Anyone interested in attending the training is asked to please contact **Fr James** by the **end of July**.

## RCIA Group Gathering

Are you interested in becoming Catholic, or have been away from the Church for a long time? We are beginning a second RCIA group on Thursday mornings beginning 9th July at 10am at St Michael's Parish Centre. If you are interested please contact Fr Darren on 0403544938 or [darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au](mailto:darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au)

## Relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis – Steering Committee

The relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis will be visiting Nowra on **16 and 17 September**. This will be a special opportunity for our parish community to pray, reflect, and honour the life and witness of this young saint of the digital age.

A steering committee is being formed to help prepare for this significant event. Anyone interested in being part of the committee is invited to contact **Fr James**.

## Catholic Women's League Nowra

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> July** in the Nowra Parish Centre, starting at **10.15 am**

## Sea Sunday

This Sunday is Sea Sunday, the one day of the year Catholics are asked to reflect on the lives and the work of all seafarers.

National director of Stella Maris Australia, Fr Tony Cox SSC, says Jesus spoke of seeds being sown generously, noting this week's gospel message. He adds that mariners live on the margins of society and face dangers such as "treacherous seas" Originally known as the Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church operates in more than 300 ports globally and serves the spiritual, social and material welfare of mariners.

Find out more [mts.org.au/seasunday](http://mts.org.au/seasunday)



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