



ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH SHOALHAVEN

Berry

Bomaderry

Culburra

Kangaroo Valley

Nowra

Vincentia

📍 30 North St, Nowra

✉️ nowra@dow.org.au

☎️ 02-44231712

🌐 nowraparish.au

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

16 Aug 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

Property Manager: Donna Rainsford (nowra@dow.org.au)

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

Message from our Pastor

3rd Week: Faith that Persists

Today we hear of a woman whose faith persists. She keeps coming to Jesus. She keeps trusting. She keeps asking. That kind of faith challenges us. Faith is not only what we believe in a moment. It is what we live over time. That is why planned giving matters. It helps us move from occasional generosity to intentional generosity. It helps us make our support of the parish regular, prayerful, and deliberate. This week, I invite you to ask: Is my giving intentional, or is it mostly accidental?



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

LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 83:10-11

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading

Isaiah 56:1.6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 66

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **(R.)**

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.
(R.)

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.
Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

Communion Antiphon

Psalm 129:7

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:



Sick: **Raymond Keith Carter, Glenice Roach, Lisa Dunworth, Teresa Del Castillo, Bill Pride, Peter Moses, Audrey Knight, Deb Egan, Irene Phillips, Peter Rose, Brenda Relf, Maria Graham, Andrew Wilson, Sandra Shanahan, Margaret Broomhead and Ian Cartledge**

Recently Deceased: **Peter Rodden and Barbara Lansdowne**

Death Anniversaries: **Ambrogio De Bellis, Patricia Bourke and John Joseph Bourke**

Renewed & Sent: Parish Renewal Summit

St Gregory's College, Campbelltown, 1-3 October 2026.

Join clergy, religious, lay leaders, ministry volunteers and parishioners from across the Diocese of Wollongong for three days of inspiring keynote presentations, practical workshops, prayer, and opportunities to connect with others who share a passion for the future of our parishes. This opportunity aligns with Bishop Brian Mascord's Come & See, Go & Make: A Vision for Parishes, helping us to grow as communities where people encounter Jesus, become his disciples, and are sent to share the Gospel.

For the full program and registrations, visit renewedandsent.com.au.



Faith that Persists

In the Gospel, Jesus praises the Canaanite woman: "Woman, you have great faith." Her faith was persistent. It kept coming. It did not give up. As we continue our planned giving renewal, we are invited to reflect on the consistency of our own response to God. Planned giving is one way we make generosity intentional rather than accidental. This week, please pray: *Lord, help my generosity become more consistent, prayerful, and faithful.*

Reflection Series: Confessions of St Augustine

The Confessions of St Augustine - A timeless spiritual classic. Bishop David Walker, via zoom, is leading a four part series on "The Confessions of St Augustine".

Sessions are each Wednesday evening in **August (29, 26) from 5- 6 pm.**

Between each Zoom meeting, participants are invited to read sections of the text, guided by weekly handouts. There is no registration fee.

To enrol and receive the weekly Zoom links, kindly contact Lynne Kelly - lmkelly40@bigpond.com 0407540263 - or Milton parish office milton@dow.org.au 44551313.

2026 Significant Marriage Anniversaries Mass

If you are celebrating 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 or over 60 years of marriage this year, you are warmly invited to the Significant Marriage Anniversaries, celebrated with Bishop Brian Mascord on **Sunday 6 September 2026 at 2pm** at the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong.

Mass will be followed by light refreshments in the Xavier Centre Conference Room.

Registration is essential and must be completed online at dow.sh/ma26 by no later than **Monday, 17 August 2026.**

Coming up this week

Tuesday- 18/08/26

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

Wednesday- 19/08/26

Craft Group 9:30 am, Nowra

Choir Practice 3:30 pm,

Vincentia

Adoration & Rosary 5:00 pm,

Vincentia

Thursday- 20/08/26

Adoration 7:30 am, Vincentia

Rosary 8:00 am, Vincentia

Adoration & Rosary 5:00 pm,

Culburra

Choir Practice 6:30 pm,

Nowra

Stella Maris Prayer Group

6:30 pm, Culburra

St Joseph's Mens Adoration

Group 8pm-6am, Nowra

Friday- 21/08/26

Craft Group 10:00 am,

Vincentia

Rosary 5:00 pm, Bomaderry

Saturday- 22/08/26

The Man Walk 7:15 am for

coffee before walk

@Providence Blue Cafe,

Sanctuary Point

Liturgical Training 9:30 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):

- **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.



Transport Needed

Assistance

A parishioner is currently seeking assistance with transport to and from Mass.

She lives in Shoalhaven Heads and requires a lift to a morning Mass at St Michael's Church, Nowra.

If you are able to offer a lift, even occasionally, please contact the Parish Office with your name, contact details and availability.

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated and would help fellow parishioners participate in the celebration of Mass..

Parish Masses 17th to 20th August

The priests of the parish will be away on retreat from **17th to 20th August** and consequently there will be **no masses in the station churches (Berry, Vincentia and Culburra Beach).**

Mass will be celebrated at St Michael's Nowra as usual during this period.

Tuesday Mass Time Changes

As of 1st September 2026 our Tuesday mass schedule will change. **St Patrick's Berry** will have mass at **9:30am** followed by confessions on request, whilst **St Michael's Nowra** will have **confessions at 5pm** followed by **mass at 5:30pm**. This change will enable a revitalisation of our ministry with young adult group as well as offering an evening mass in Nowra where previously none had occurred.

Roof Repairs Holy Spirit Vincentia

Repairs to the church roof are scheduled to take place from 19th October to 27th November. Alternative venue for masses will be advised in due course.

Save the Date

The Relics of St Carlo Acutis will visit our parish 16th & 17th September.

This will be a special opportunity to pray, reflect and honour the life of this young saint of the digital age.

Fr James and his planning committee will update us in the weeks ahead.

Adult Sacramental Preparation

Have you been away from the Church for a while, unsure about the sacraments or never received Confirmation or Communion? In September we are beginning an adult sacramental formation group especially for you and anyone you know who has not been fully initiated or has been away from the practice of our faith for some time. If you would like to participate in this group then please contact Fr Darren by Friday 4th September on darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au or 0403544938.

New Catholics Welcomed

Last Sunday, 9th August, at St Michael's Nowra, two women were received into our Catholic tradition. This was the culmination of a journey of faith from other denominations for Heidi and Nadia. They received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion during the 6pm evening mass. Heidi & Nadia were overjoyed by this reception and completion of their sacramental journey and look forward to their ongoing participation with us. We warmly welcome them with joy to our Catholic family.



From left: Frances Fairs (sponsor), Heidi, Fr Darren and Nadia.