



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

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

23 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

4th Week: This is Our Parish



In today's Gospel, Peter professes his faith in Jesus, and Jesus speaks of building his Church. That is important for us. Our faith is personal, but it is never private. We belong to the Body of Christ. We belong to the Church. And in a very concrete way, we belong to this parish. Our parish is made up of several communities, each with its own story, relationships, and gifts. But we share one parish mission. This renewal invites us to move from simply attending Mass to taking responsibility for the parish we belong to. This week, I invite you to pray:

Lord, help me to see this parish as mine to love, support, and build.



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

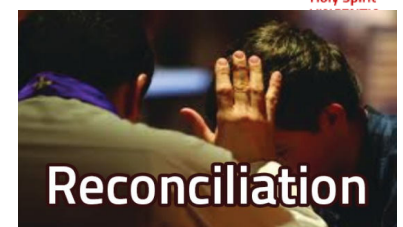
Friday

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 85:1-3

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

First Reading

Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:
I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 137

*(R.) Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.*

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 11:33-36

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!
You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Psalm 103:13-15

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

This is Our Parish

Jesus says to Peter, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church." Faith is personal, but it is never private. Jesus forms a people. He builds a Church. Our parish is made up of several communities, but we share one mission and one responsibility.

Planned Giving Renewal

An invitation to *trust, generosity, and shared responsibility*. A prayerful commitment to the mission and future of our parish.



*For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.*

MATTHEW 6:21

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.

Coming up this week

Sunday- 23/08/26

Baptism 11:00 am, Vincentia

Tuesday- 25/08/26

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- 26/08/26

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- 27/08/26

Adoration 7:30 am, Vincentia

Rosary 8:00 am, Vincentia

Funeral 10:30 am, Nowra

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- 28/08/26

Craft Group 10:00 am,
Vincentia

Rosary 5:00 pm, Bomaderry

Saturday- 29/08/26

The Man Walk 7:15 am for
coffee before walk

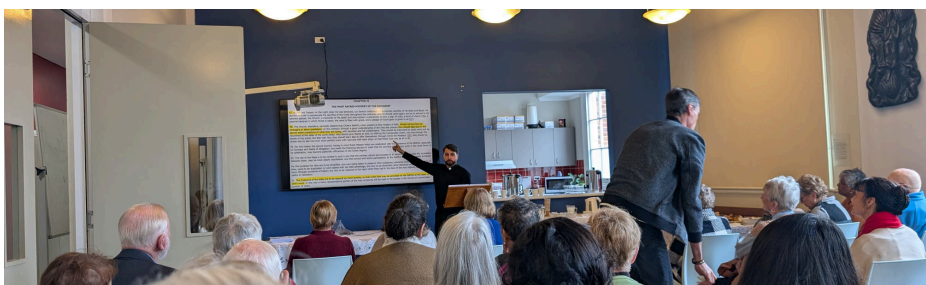
@Providence Blue Cafe,
Sanctuary Point

Parish Notices

Update Liturgical Ministers Formation

Last Saturday a large group of parishioners from our church communities met with Fr James to update knowledge and discuss the ministry of Reader. Skill development, common practices for parish masses and helpful resources were discussed.

There is now a break in this series of formation sessions with the next session for Greeters and collectors on 31st October.



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.

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.

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, Sandra Shanahan, Margaret Broomhead and Ian Cartledge**

Recently Deceased: **Sandria Griffiths, Joan Smith and Phyllis Taliano**

Death Anniversaries: **Frank Neurohr**

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.

CWL Nowra

CWL Nowra branch will be holding a toiletry drive for Talbot House/John Purcell House (accommodation for homeless men) and Sassi (Shoalhaven Homeless Hub) crisis accommodation for women and children).

Suggested items include deodorants, shampoos, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shaving cream.

There will be a basket available at **St Michael's Nowra, St Patrick's Berry and Sacred Heart Bomaderry** on **5/6th September** and **12/13th September**.

Thank you...Your support is very much appreciated.... If you have any queries please contact Katherine on 0411 023943.