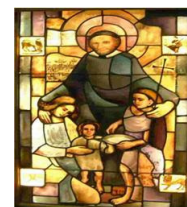


St Vincent's Parish, Ashfield



A parish under the pastoral care of The Congregation of the Mission known as Vincentian priests and brothers.

12 Bland Street, Ashfield 2131 www.vinash.org.au E-mail vinstaff@vinash.org.au
Phone: 9798 2501; 9798 2503 (for urgent matters only 0418 114 610) Fax: 9798 2504
Parish Office Hours: 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday

Fourth Sunday of Lent C

March 14, 2010

Week 4: When Service is rejected

The "Me Disease"

Like a deadly virus, the disease of self-centeredness filters through our culture. From the driver who deliberately cuts us off in traffic to the friend who talks only about their kids, job and everything about them, we're saturated with symptoms of the "Me disease". The symptoms are rude behaviour, selfish conversations and sheer indifference.

The deterioration in our society can be traced all the way back to the parable of the "prodigal son" feeding the needs of the "me generation" that lives by the principle "I can do whatever I want as long as it doesn't hurt anyone", we see the contamination of the "me disease" thrive in the younger son's actions. Unfortunately, the "me" attitude is not confined to secular society alone. Even Christians quickly claim their "rights" when they're offended, as we discover the "me" virus cleverly masquerades itself in the older son's faithful service, yet thriving when challenged by the generosity of the Father toward the return of his lost brother. The devastation caused by the "me" virus in the two brothers is evident, the younger dispossessed of his dignity and the older isolated from his joy. Both gone astray, both in need of the Father's grace.

Jesus still searches for the lost. Where did he find you? At a nightclub? Living life like a rebel? Buried under a pile of books at university? Or perhaps he found you sitting in a church pew, convinced you had it all together, that you could set things right with God on your own terms...sort of like Nicodemus, the learned Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin. Yet even to him Jesus said, "You must be born again".

Wherever you were, the Saviour came looking for you because you are valuable to Him. You are worth every moment of His search...for when you answer His call you can be sure to meet the Father's open arms and his shout of "Welcome home my child".

Rosanna Riccio

When was the last time you felt spiritually lost? Do you feel lost right now? If you have lost your way, spend some time asking God to show you the way back home to Him.

"Create in me a Serving Heart"

Our Lenten **Penitential Service** will be held at
7pm Wednesday 24th March

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in this Parish on Pentecost Sunday 23 May at 10am. Bishop Brady will be the celebrant. If you would like your child to be involved in the program of preparation for confirmation please return the registration form obtained from the back of the church ASAP. The first meetings will be on either the 17 or 18 March in the Parish Meeting room at 6.30pm.

Men's Group meeting this Monday 15th March 2010

Lenten programme will be undertaken this Monday commencing at 7:30pm in the Parish Centre. Invitation is extended to all men of the Parish to share the Lenten journey together.

The Gregorian Schola of Sydney will chant Vespers for Lent at St Vincent's Church, Bland Street Ashfield, on Saturday March 27 commencing at 4pm. All are welcome. To join the schola ring 8741 2341.



Calling all parishioners who are seeking a leisurely Saturday morning stroll. The Youth sub-committee will be doing a letter box drop to our neighbours informing them of our Holy Week ceremonies. Please join us at 10am at the parish house Saturday March 27 if are able to assist.

White Book for the period Easter to Pentecost are available at \$4 from Lillie in the foyer.

DE LA SALLE COLLEGE ASHFIELD....OPEN DAY

Wednesday March 17, 2010 3:00 to 7:00pm.
Hear the Principal's address at 4:00pm or 5:30pm.
Enrolling Now! 9797 3200
www.dlsashfield.catholic.edu.au

PARISH STAFF:

Fr. Michael Walsh CM
Carmen Yap

Marguerite Martin

Do you know... Five Bethlehem College girls made it through to the next round of the CSDA Public Speaking competition. All of the girls were magnificent. The following girls will compete next Friday evening when Bethlehem hosts the round. Congratulations to Emma (Yr 12), Sarah (Yr 12), Sinead (Yr 11), Lia r (Yr 10) and Annelise (Yr 8). Congratulations must also go to the girls for attending all their training sessions and a special thank you to Ms Haid for her outstanding support and training of the girls and our ex-student Erika McRae (2009 Vice President) for supporting the girls in their preparation for the big night.

Bethlehem also has a number of elite sports women who train and achieve outstanding success in their sport outside of school as well as in competitions at school. We congratulate Kiara (Yr 11) for her selection to the NSW Comets Basketball, Lia (Yr 10) for her excellent performances in the pool as well as the NSW Surf Championships at Swansea-Belmont where she made the final of her age swim and was placed 18th overall. Lia's Taplan team was placed 10th overall. Marissa (Yr 9) for competing with the A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers Football Club who play every Sunday and are currently trialling for the forthcoming season. Gracia (Yr 8) competed in the Nepean Tennis Open. Gracia competed against the 5th seed from NSW on 19th February but was unfortunately defeated. She is looking forward to the next tournament in Bathurst this Thursday 11 March 2010.

OPEN DAY... BETHLEHEM COLLEGE ASHFIELD

Tuesday 16th March 2010. Tours: 3.00pm -7.00pm. Meet the Principal: 5:00pm—6:00pm and 7:30pm—8:30pm

Parish Masses this week:

Monday	12 Noon
Tuesday,	7:00am
Wednesday	12 Noon
Thursday	9:00am
Saturday	9:00am

Sunday : 8am, 10:00am, 6pm

Polish Mass 12 noon

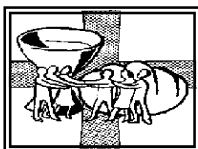
Reconciliation: Saturday 8:10am —8:40am

Rosary: Saturday after 9:00am Mass

Morning Prayer: Saturday 8:40am

Cardinal Freeman Village Chapel

Sunday, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Friday, Sat 9:00am



Care for God's creation has always been an important part of Christian tradition. In this week's Project Compassion story we meet Clare from the Southern Highlands in Papua New Guinea. Clare works in the maternity ward, supporting local women to



have access to safe maternity services. She also works as an educator on maternal health issues and provides ongoing support to mothers about child health, nutrition and prevention of disease. Your donation to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion helps PNG communities to have access to safe maternity and child health facilities as well as primary health care.

"CatholicCare are hosting their annual St Patrick's Day Luncheon at NSW Parliament House on 17 March 2010. Included in the luncheon will be a superb two-course lunch and beverages, entertainment, lucky door prizes and much more - all with a special Irish flavour. Cost of luncheon \$120 per person or \$1100 for a table of ten. For further details and bookings contact Jenny Edwards at CatholicCare 9390 5377."

Voice of the Youth (Age 16—35) is a series of talks that provides an opportunity for young people to get together to share their faith. Along with Catechesis sessions from the Bishops, there will be music, testimonies, prayers, WYD11 update I information, food and entertainment. It will be held mainly at Sacred Heart Parish, Cabramatta. Contact Fr. Liem Duong for further details or refer in the notice board.

Lenten Reflection 2010

Are you doing The Reflection?

Thousands of people across Australia have taken up the challenge and are doing something special this Lent. The Reflection is an online initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, in which they share their insights into the Sunday Gospel readings of Lent. It's not too late to start! The Bishops' reflections for the first weeks of Lent are currently available to you whenever you want to access them. Just go to <http://thereflection.vividas.com>. Do The Reflection in a group, with your family or by yourself. The main thing is to just give it a go!

Fourth Sunday of Lent C

ENTRANCE PROCESSION: Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad for her, you who love her; rejoice with her, you who mourned for her, and you will find contentment at her consoling breasts.

FIRST READING: Having entered the promised land, the people of God celebrated the Passover (Joshua 5.9a, 10-12)

PSALM: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord (Ps 34.1-2, 3-4, 5-6)

SECOND READING: Through Christ, God has reconciled us to himself (2 Corinthians 5.17-21)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!
I will rise and go to my father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

GOSPEL: This brother of yours was dead, and has come to life (Luke 15.1-3, 11-32)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: My son, you should rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.



Next Sunday's Readings

Fifth Sunday in
Lent C

Isaiah 43.16-21
Ps 126.1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5, 6
Philippians 3.8-14
John 8.1-11