

St Vincent's Parish, Ashfield

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

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Parish Office Hours: 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday



First Sunday of Lent A

March 1, 2020

So our journey to Easter has started. Last Sunday as I was driving to Mass I became aware that even on a Sunday evening so many drivers on the road had frantic agendas. So in the collective of cars stopped by a red light there will always be one who will toot with impatience the moment the light turns green. If they were behind me, I used to take this personally! Just everyone one is rushing, no time to enjoy the setting sun or the other people in the car. At Mass Fr Kevin Canty, kind of touched on this when he suggested for Lent we might take Prepare to Stop as our Theme.

Excellent idea Fr Kevin! Jesus ventures into the desert with no distraction after his baptism in the Jordan. He has heard that declaration that he is the Beloved Son. His consubstantial relationship (I've been waiting years to use that word in a sentence) with the Father and the Son didn't need words. He was to be God in the world and bring God to the world. He was to painfully redeem the world. He fully understood what it was that he had to achieve but he carried through his humanness the flaws of us all. So he Stopped and prepared. And faced the temptations to go off task. So this Lent be prepared to stop, reflect on what God is calling us to do and be in our world however complicated or simple. What stops us from achieving that? Is it impatience with others, with our selves, our situation. Is it the red light? Are our ears open to hear that we are the beloved children of God, saved by the redeemer and called to be Christ in the world.

Marguerite Martin

Fr Joji

Fr Joji will be away next week for Provincial Formation Commission Meeting. A Mass will only be celebrated on Wednesday and Thursday. There will be Communion Service on Monday, but NO Communion Service on Tuesday & Saturday.

Parish Choirs

If you love to Praise God with Song, you are invited to join the 8am and 10 am Choirs.

Regular Donations

Many parishioners have asked whether we can accept regular payments from credit cards and bank accounts. The answer is yes. If you like the convenience of automatic regular donations to the Planned Giving Envelope Program, please contact Carmen at the Parish office to get started.

Its First Sunday of the month

Please join us for a cuppa after Mass this morning in the hall



Open Day at De La Salle Ashfield

Wednesday 4 March 2020 from 3:00pm to 7:00pm

Take a tour of the College with our wonderful students
Converse with our dedicated Staff...Experience our College in action...Be entertained by live student performances & hear Principal's address.

CONFIRMATION will be held on 16th May. The first Confirmation meeting is on 12th March at the Parish office. Forms are now available at the back of the Church to be filled in and return in the Parish Office. For more information please contact Marguerite 0414 566 961 or the Parish office at 9798 2501.

CATECHISTS Our parish Catechists have returned to Ashfield primary school and last Wednesday could distribute the Ashes to the children. Our ministry at Ashfield boys high will start on 19 March at Josephs feast day! We are one Catechist short. If you would like to involve yourself in this vital evangelization ministry from our parish ring the parish office.

Garden Working Bee last Saturday _ A big **THANK YOU** to Rita, Wanda, Len and David for getting down and dirty amongst the weeds, tree trimming and tree cuttings. Much was achieved and also to Barbara who swung into action the next day to further help keep the weeds in check...thank you until next time when the dreaded weeds may make a come back.

CHURCH MAINTENANCE 100 CLUB ON SALE

TODAY! A fund raiser for the parish's ongoing maintenance, it runs for a 10 week period. For a single payment of \$40, 100 members choose one number 01 -100 randomly.

Father Joti will draw out two lucky numbers each week for 9 weeks. If you hold the first number drawn out, you will win \$80. The second number will win \$40. In the tenth and final week, first prize will be \$500 and second prize will be \$250. **The 100 Club is open to parishioners, family and friends.** Winners' names will be published each week in the church bulletin. Funds raised will be used to maintain our aging church building.

Numbers will go on sale TODAY after ALL masses. The 100 Club will commence when all 100 members have been signed up and are financial.

PARISH STAFF: Fr. Joti Bilowalu CM
Carmen Yap

Marguerite Martin
Aparna John (Mon & Tues)

Mary McNally (Safeguarding
Officer)

A request from St. Vincent's Primary School to parents bringing Children to Mass on Sundays. Could you keep an eye on your children when you are in the school/church car park. Please tell them not to write anything on the new wall/fence of the school playground which has occurred over the last two weeks. This has caused the fence to be repainted. We appreciate your cooperation.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK WWCC

If you are over 18 and you are a Reader, Special Minister, Acolyte or Collector at any of the Masses or other services at St Vincent's, you need to obtain a WWCC. This is a NSW State Government requirement. To get your WWCC, you can Google WWCC NSW. You will be taken to the website of The Office of the Children's Guardian where you follow the prompts. If you cannot do this by yourself, please contact Carmen on 9798 2501 to arrange a suitable time to meet me in the Parish House so I can help you apply. We would like all WWCCs to be handed in by the first weekend in April, if possible. Thank you to all the volunteer ministers who have so far provided their WWCC.

Mary McNally (Parish Safeguarding Support Officer)

We, the Parish community of St. Vincent's, with a genuine sense of belonging, strive to follow the example of Christ and spread the Vincentian spirit throughout the Ashfield district.

Parish Masses this week:

Monday COMMUNION SERVICE
Tuesday NO MASS
Wednesday 12 noon
Thursday 9:00am
Saturday NO MASS
Morning Prayer: 8:40am (Saturday)
Sunday: 8am 10:00am 6:00pm
Polish Mass 12 noon

Reconciliation:

Cardinal Freeman Village Chapel

Sunday 9.00 am First Wednesday of the Month, 3:30pm Reconciliation, 4:00 Mass & Anointing, First Friday of the month 9:00am Communion Service.



Palm Sunday April 5 - This year parishioners are asked if they could bring their own Palms (soft variety) or Olive branches to the church on Palm Sunday and maybe if you have a Palms (soft variety) or Olive Tree at home some extras could be brought along to share with others.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Indigenous minorities in the Philippines face regular discrimination and disadvantage. Manide woman, Shirley faced challenges supporting her children and sending them to school. With Caritas Australia's support, Shirley's life has been transformed.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help people like Shirley, and her children gain confidence and respect within their community.

Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through parish boxes and envelopes or by calling 1800 024 413



St Vincent's Ashfield Social Justice Group

The **Environment** committee of the parish Social Justice Group is lobbying our local MP's, asking them to vote for Zali Steggles' Climate Change Bill which will be introduced to the federal parliament in March; the proposed Climate Act will mandate:

A National Climate Risk Assessment

A National Adaptation Program

3. A Net-zero target by 2050 and;

Establish an independent Climate Change Commission

We believe that Australia needs a Transition Plan for reducing emissions; this plan needs to consider the needs of all people affected.

We are investigating ways to incorporate Pope Francis's encyclical, *Laudato Si*, into the life of the church and our own lives. We are taking multi-pronged actions; looking at how we introduce theme's of *Laudato Si* at individual, parish, local, state, and federal levels.

There will be a regular monthly Aboriginal Mass held at 11am at 11 Yarra Road, Phillip Bay (La Perouse) on the first Sunday of each month this year. There will be a mass this Sunday, 1st March at 11 am. The next mass will be held on 5th April at 11 am Visitors are welcome.

Social Justice group meets on the **3rd Saturday** of the month in the **parish centre** at **9.45am**. Our next meeting is Saturday 21st March at 9-45 am. NEW MEMBERS VERY WELCOME.

First Sunday of Lent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days

FIRST READING: Creation of our first parents, and sin (Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7)

PSALM: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned (Ps 50:3-6, 12-14,17)

SECOND READING: Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more (Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL: Jesus fasted for forty days and nights (Matthew 4:1-11)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.



Next Sunday's Readings Second Sunday of Lent A

Genesis 12:1-4

Psalm 32:4-5, 18-20, 22

2 Timothy 1:8-10

Matthew 17:1-9