

# 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](http://www.vinash.org.au) E-mail [vinstaff@vinash.org.au](mailto:vinstaff@vinash.org.au)  
Phone: 9798 2501; 9798 2503 (for urgent matters Marguerite 0414 566 961) Fax: 9798 2504  
Parish Office Hours: 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday



**Fourth Sunday of Lent C**

**March 10, 2013**

This weeks reflection has been contributed by Karl Pobre, a member of our Youth

As a young person trying to navigate through this life, it is all too often to be tempted to pursue things that instantly gratify and pleasure, yet in the end leave us with only feelings of emptiness and guilt. Today's social expectations and influence from the media places ego on a pedestal and almost demands that our time, energy and resources to be spent only for ourselves. Ultimately, we turn away from the teachings of the Church. We can often identify ourselves in the prodigal son, who turns away from the graces and blessings of his Father.

The pig-farmer in this parable may represent the world and all its worldly things. The prodigal son sought refuge from the pig farmer once he squandered his money, but was only provided filth and no lasting sustenance. It was only through inward conviction, faith and repentance that the prodigal son found reconciliation with his father. He not only received forgiveness without reprimand but all the blessings he had before he left his father's home.

Thus, the story of the prodigal son is one of forgiveness and grace. What greater love is that of a parent's love for their own child, who has reared them since birth, have grown to know them intimately and who wants only what is best for them. The parable portrays the Lord as not a vengeful one, but of a loving Father, one who loves unconditionally and one who seeks and celebrates reconciliation. As a young Catholic this is wonderfully liberating!

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\* We celebrate International Women's Day this Sunday 10th March 2013. We give thanks to God for \*  
\* the many women who have contributed greatly to the life of our Church \*  
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Messages from Fr. Alan:

- **Donations for Stations of the Cross & Blessed Sacrament Chapel**

The target figure for the Stations of the Cross has already been reached. Thank you for your generous response.

Future donations will now go towards the renovation of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. These envelopes are in the seats and can be placed on the Second Collection. The requests for these donations will conclude on Palm Sunday.

- **Acolytes and Altar Servers**

Would you please make known your availability for the Easter Services (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday) by putting your name on the paper provided in the Altar Server's Sacristy or alternatively contact the Parish Office at 9798 2501 or email [vinstaff@vinash.org.au](mailto:vinstaff@vinash.org.au).

- **Easter Ceremonies**

One of the ideas expressed at our Liturgy Meeting last Tuesday was the possibility of operating a camera for those parts of the ceremony where will be outside so everyone can see. Please contact the parish office on 9798 2501 or email [vinstaff@vinash.org.au](mailto:vinstaff@vinash.org.au) should you feel you would be able to help.

God not only puts us on this journey but He wants to join us on it, if we will only let Him.

The Psalmist asked, "where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there" God calls us to take a new path, the Path of Faith and trust in Him.

## Reconciliation

**Wednesday 13/3/2013 7:00pm**

## Confirmation

for the young people of this parish will be celebrated on Saturday 25th May at 3:00pm (N.B. change of date) by Bishop Terry Brady.

To register for this sacramental program please take registration form from the back of the church (pamphlet racks) and return it to Marguerite at the Parish Office.

**PARISH STAFF:**

*Fr. Alan Gibson CM  
Carmen Yap*

*Marguerite Martin*

**THE PARISH MENS GROUP** will meet this Tuesday night in the Parish Meeting Room at 7:30pm. The meeting involves about 10 to 15 minutes of reflection and then chat about any issues people wish to discuss. Any men interested please feel free to come along.

**Let us pray together:**

In our journeying with you,  
 may we never lose our sense of direction,  
 never lose sight of the landmark  
 towards which we travel.  
 And should cloud or rain obscure our vision,  
 may we draw closer to you,  
 so that our feet may tread  
 in you footsteps,  
 your words be our encouragement,  
 and your love our protection.  
 May we be a sign of your love  
 and a welcome to others this lent  
 encouraging them to tread in your footsteps.

**Parish Masses this week:**

Monday 12noon  
 Tuesday 7:00 am  
 Wednesday 12noon  
 Thursday 9:00 am  
 Saturday 9:00 am  
**Sunday:** 8am, 10:00am 6:00PM  
 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 9:00am

Ashbury Parish Weekday Mass: Monday to Saturday  
 8:00am

Summer Hill Parish Tues & Fri 9:00am Wed & Thurs.  
 8:30am

An Anointing Mass will take place at Cardinal Freeman Nursing Home on Tuesday 12th March 2013 at 11am. Fr. Alan will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation & Mass on Wednesday 13th March from 2:00pm.

Thanks,  
 Fr. Alan



The Youth Group is looking for  
**YOU!**

Would you like to act or help out with the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at Ashfield Park  
 Please contact: **Dominic** on

**0426216210** or via email **domsky007@yahoo.com**

**Catholic Schools Week**

Sunday the 10th of March marks the beginning of Catholic Schools Week. 216,000 students from NSW and the ACT will celebrate 'Every Child Counts', the theme of Catholic Schools for 2013.

The initiative strives to build community awareness of, and the strength and distinctiveness of, Catholic schools throughout the country.

St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School invites the parish community to attend a special Liturgy celebrating Catholic Schools Week at St. Vincent's Church on Thursday 14th March at 1:00pm

The Liturgy will be followed by the school's classrooms being open to the community to see for themselves the wonderful learning that takes place at St. Vincent's. St. Vincent's P & F Association will also provide afternoon tea for the visitors where people can mingle with the parents and friends of the School.

**We hear the story of The Prodigal Son. We sometimes go back to go forward. Have you turned in the wrong direction before? Are you willing to accept the Father's forgiveness? Are you willing to forgive others?**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**ENTRANCE PROCESSION:** Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**FIRST READING:** The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the Passover (Joshua 5:9-12)

**PSALM:** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord (Ps 33:2-7)

**SECOND READING:** God reconciled us to himself through Christ (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:** Your brother here was dead and has come to life (Luke 15:1-3. 11-13)

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.



**Next Sunday's Readings**  
 Fifth Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 43: 16-21  
 Ps 125  
 Philippians 3:8-14  
 John 8:1-11