

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent C

March 17, 2013

Our reflection this week is contributed by Sinead Kent, Family and Faith Educator attached to St Vincent's Primary School. Sinead's job is to connect school families and the Parish. We greatly value Sinead, who originally hails from Ireland and today can authentically share some of St Patrick's faith!

Today's Gospel is a challenge to all of us in this Lenten season to look closely at ourselves and how we live our lives, rather than focusing on the lives of others. The Gospel tells us that Jesus did not condemn this woman but instead he challenged the Pharisees and Scribes to, 'cast the first stone' if they had no sin themselves, and in lowering his head, Jesus offered them no further challenge but left them with their own consciences. How easy is it for you to openly point the finger, accuse and condemn? Have you ever been caught or accused, how did you feel?

The death penalty, stoning and the 'eye for an eye' mentality still exists in the world today, maybe not on our doorstep here in Australia, but if we are all part of the 'Body of Christ', it is our mission to be Christlike in prayer, action and love for all people who suffer accusation, live in fear and are offered no voice and no dignity. Who might you listen to and hear this week? Have you ever been humiliated in the name of the law?

St Patrick's experience as a slave, condemned to life without a voice for many years, so legend tells us, following his kidnapping. This is not unlike the voiceless women in the male-centred universe that our Gospel story was set, condemned in fact to a life that was little more than a life of slavery.

In Thomas Cahill's book, "**How the Irish Saved Civilization**," he writes; "*The papacy did not condemn slavery as immoral until the end of the 19th century, but here St Patrick in the fifth century is seeing it for what is. I think that shows enormous insight and courage and a tremendous 'fellow feeling'—the ability to suffer with other people and to understand what other people's suffering is like.*" I wonder if we could also embrace his understanding of the intrinsic value and great worth of every human being, especially the broken and excluded? What if we had the same passion to bring about change? What if we went way beyond dressing in green and downing a Guinness, and decided to not only "understand what other people's suffering is like", but to attempt to end that suffering as well? Slainte!

We thank God and pray for our new Pope Francis who in a homily last May 25, as Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, said this. "Instead of power as domination, consider power as a form of service, following the example of Jesus."

As you check the Easter Schedule for ceremonies please note well the **Christian Seder in the Parish Hall on Holy Thursday night at 9am** following the Holy Thursday Mass of the Last Supper.

The Christian Seder follows the format of the Jewish Passover meal that Jesus was celebrating with his apostles at the Last Supper. It is a ritual meal where the youngest asks the oldest, "What and why are we celebrating?" and the story unfolds, with the ritual eating of special foods. All are welcome. For further info ring Rosanna 0413 113 188

Easter Vigil Supper

We ask especially for prayers for Linda and Carol who will receive the sacraments of initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and Communion at the Easter Vigil, this year starting at 7pm.

After the Vigil please come welcome and celebrate a supper with us in the Parish Hall. Please bring a plate, with something nice to share!

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place on Monday 18th March 2013 at 6:30pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms.

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**

The first Essential meeting for the **Confirmation Program**, for both Parent and Child, is **next week** on either **Tuesday** evening 19 May @6.30pm or

Thursday evening 21 May @ 6.30pm.

It is entitled "The Challenge" If you want your child to be confirmed and they are 6th Class or older please register them in the program, forms at the back of the Church, and return to the Parish House 12 Bland St. or contact Marguerite 97982501

PARISH STAFF: Fr. Alan Gibson CM
Carmen Yap

Marguerite Martin

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 your 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.

**DE LA SALLE COLLEGE
ASHFIELD**

Open Day for De La Salle College Ashfield
will be held on 20th March between 3:00 to
7:00pm

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

St. Vincent's Parish Ashfield

2013



Thursday March 28

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30pm
Passover Meal 9:00pm

Good Friday March 29

Stations of the Cross 10:00am
(Church & Ashfield Park)
Polish - Stations of the Cross 12 noon
Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3:00pm

Saturday March 30

Reconciliation 8:00am—9:30am
RCIA Prayer & Preparation
for Easter Vigil 9:30am
Polish - Easter Food Blessing 12 noon
EASTER VIGIL MASS 7:00pm

Sunday March 31

Easter Sunday Masses 8:00am, 10:00am
and 6:00pm
Polish - Easter Sunday Mass 12 noon

CARITAS AUSTRALIA—PROJECT COMPASSION

Just a reminder to please return all Project Compassion
boxes and envelopes by Thursday 28th March (Holy
Thursday) so that they can be part of the procession of
the preparation of the Gifts at the 7pm Mass that
evening.

We hear the story of the women caught in adultery. Does our sin stop us from continuing on our Journey? Do we truly believe that Jesus clears our path? Can we be the sign of Christ by being a person of invitation to his love? Does the word Evangelisation scare us or can we encourage others to join us?

Fifth Sunday of Lent

ENTRANCE PROCESSION: Give me justice, O God, and plead me my cause against
a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you,
O God, are my strength.

FIRST READING: I am doing new thing and I will give drink to my people (Isaiah 43: 16-21)

PSALM: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Ps 125)

SECOND READING: Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order
to gain him (Philippians 3:8-14)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!
Will all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate. Praise to
you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

GOSPEL: Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone (John 8:1-11)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord.
Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.



Next Sunday's Readings

Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-7

Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24

Philippians 2:6-11

Luke 23:1-49