

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



Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2013

Today, at an empty tomb full of light, begins the gathering of the community, of a small and fragile assembly of believers left to their own devices, of disciples whose faith has been shaken by the dashing of the dream. They come, their hearts darkened by sorrow, and leave full of a light they do not understand but cannot ignore. Something has happened here. Something they didn't plan and could not foresee. But something that will change their lives, give it focus, fill it with a new kind of passion, give it a purpose that will never end.

The cross has given way to the tomb now. The sense of yesterday's shattering loss has given way to new hope in them all. Life has changed entirely. Overnight. What they sought has not ended. Not really. Instead it has simply been given to them to complete.

The crowds have swollen now--you and I are in it, too, in fact. With our families, our ancestors, our friends, our children. But the experience is still the same: There's no doubt we're in awe. Obviously there has been an impact. Most of all, the confusion is extreme. Yes, I have been touched. Yes, I would like to change. Yes, I know I'm called to do something. I simply do not know what. Or how.

How, after all, do I follow the poor Jesus in a world where money is the goal? How do I follow the just Jesus in a society where women and minorities live by different rules and classism is on the rise? How do I follow the loving Jesus in a world fueled by nuclear weapons in a rich society where one whole class of people do not eat two meals a day?

It is a matter of taking the Light from the tomb and re-igniting it ourselves, wherever we are, however we can. It's about seeing where the darkness waits for the Light that is Jesus and taking it there. It's a matter of doing something more than agreeing that things must change and making some change in them ourselves, where we are, in our own lives and in the lives of others around us.

It's about leaving the tomb to participate in better world movements, to serve soup at a soup kitchen, to begin art projects for children, to provide shelter for battered women, to stand with others for economic justice, to get engaged in the process of co-creation ourselves so that others may rise from the tombs of their lives, too.

"Do this in remembrance of me," Jesus said at the Last Supper. This morning, in the shadow of an empty tomb, with the Resurrection behind him, he left the remembering, the blessing, the sharing of life for us to do.

We do not sing "Alleluia" today simply because Jesus rose from the dead but because, if we take Lent and Easter seriously, we have also risen with him, following his healing, blazing, shattering light to ignite it in his name where we are. Alleluia.

Sr Joan Chittister

Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Monday 15th April at 6:30pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms.

Charitable Works Fund Appeal

The first Charitable Works Fund Appeal will take place on Sunday 5th May.

Corpus Christi Procession The Corpus Christi procession will take place on Sunday 2nd June from 2:30pm—4:30pm. It will commence from St. Patricks, Church Hill and will conclude at St. Mary's Cathedral. The Book of Life is now in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for parishioners to write in their prayer petitions. Any parishioner willing to carry the Book of Life in the Procession on 2nd June are asked to see Fr. Alan.

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council is currently looking for 1 more person. If you are interested in serving the parish in this way, please see Fr. Alan after Mass or contact him at the parish office on 9798 2501 or email alan@vinash.org.au.

THE PARISH MENS GROUP will meet 9th April 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.

NB Thursday 16 May

**We are again hosting the BBI e-conference
*Gospel of St Mark***

A Crucified and Risen Messiah

Two excellent speakers

**Fr Francis Moloney SDB and Sr Michelle Connolly
RSJ.**

From 10am to 2.30pm.

However come for what part of the day you can!

BAPTISMS

Saturday, 6th April 11:00am

LIAM CSEREKLYEI

LUIEGEE RONIELL DELOS SANTOS

MATHATHIAS & ANTONINO FUNAKI

JESSICA ELOISE TRUTE



PARISH STAFF: Fr. Alan Gibson CM
Carmen Yap

Marguerite Martin

Catholic Weekly

This week's Catholic Weekly is a commemorative edition. It includes more than 20 pages welcoming Pope Francis and farewelling Pope Benedict XVI.

MAY THEY BE ONE is a special project of the Bible Society in Australia. It aims to provide Bibles for people in the Philippines. Although the Philippines is a Christian country, many people do not have a Bible. Backed by Churches across denominations and with the support of the Philippines' Catholic Bishops Conference, May They Be One aims to raise funds to provide five million Bibles to poor Filipino families at a subsidised price (approx. AUD \$1). In addition, about one million Bibles will also be given free to Filipinos in need. This weekend Mr. Richard Allcock from Bible Society Australia will be speaking to us at all Masses about the Bible campaign and to invite us to offer practical support.

Thank you for your assistance in supporting this unique and historic campaign. I look forward to visiting your Parish, starting off on 7th April, for the 8:00am Mass.

Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion. **Together, we are working towards the creation of the just and compassionate world that God desires.**

Parish Masses this week:

Monday 12 noon
 Tuesday 7:00 am
 Wednesday 12noon
 Thursday 9:00am
 Saturday 9:00am

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

Polish Mass 12 noon

Reconciliation: Saturday 8:00am to 9:30am

Rosary: Saturday after 9:00am Mass

Morning Prayer: Saturday 8:40am

Cardinal Freeman Village Chapel

Sunday 9:00am



Thank you!!!

Our Lenten Journey is completed and now we start our Easter Journey to Pentecost. We warmly welcome our Easter new life, in our neophytes, **Carol and Linda**. It is now the whole communities responsibility to welcome them and assist them in things so familiar to us and but new to them. Our journey was highlighted by the banner behind the altar. It was amusing to hear comments like "I'm sure that littler figure is moving" and it was! getting bigger and closer each week of Lent. Thank you to the ingenuity of **Michael Clay, Mary McNally and Joyce Lim**, who now has made the journey banner burst with flowers! One of the thrusts this Lent was to connect and I think that possibly we learnt a few more names of the people we sit beside on Sunday. Our bulletin reflections were contributed from parishioners who are involved in some of the groups here at St Vincent's. Thankyou **Christian Moulder, Stephen Fenn, Kerry Guerin, Irene Sykes, Sinead Kent, and Karl Pobre** for your insights. Our Easter ceremonies were enhanced by thoughtful and beautiful music. As always we thank our wonderful and faithful musicians who give so generously to us. We also thank all those who ministered by reading, by being acolytes, by serving the altar, by being special ministers of the Eucharist and by collecting the gifts. We also thank **Alice Tam** who made the bread for Holy Thursday evening. And after the Vigil how beautifully the Hall was set up for our party to congratulate Linda and Carol. Thank you to our hospitality committee, led by **Lillie Furlong** and her helpers. Thank you to the Easter fire starters and those who put the fire away. Did you see the magnificence of the flowers on the sanctuary both on Holy Thursday and Easter Sunday? We also thank **Joy and Charles Lukasik** who generously provide these fabulous arrangements each week, and **Lynne Bryant and Linda Velasco** who carefully tended the altar and the flowers. Thankyou to all the actors and readers for the Stations of the Cross and the organisers of Passover Seder meal.

Second Sunday of Easter

ENTRANCE PROCESSION: Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

FIRST READING: The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily (Acts 5:12-16)

PSALM: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting (Ps 117:2-4. 22-27)

SECOND READING: I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever (Revelation 1:9-13.17-19)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

GOSPEL: After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them (John 20:19-31)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.



Next Sunday's Readings Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32. 40-41
 Ps 29:2. 4-6. 11-13
 Revelation 5:11-14
 John 21:1-19