

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

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

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2013

What is the worst situation that a human being can face? It is to live without hope. It is with this that many cruel regimes attempt to subdue populations...to take hope away is to take away life.

Through the weeks of Advent, it is the readings from Isaiah that capture for us the hope that is Jesus. Isaiah shares his divine insights into what really resonates in the hearts of all God's people. It is the peaceful kingdom of God, where *swords are beaten into ploughs*, an environment of cultivation rather than extermination, where *the wolf lives with the lamb* and there is *no hurt, no harm..... for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord*.

Isaiah, the prophet, spoke of the Peaceful kingdom, as have prophets of recent time like Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa and now Pope Francis who share their vision and peaceful yet revolutionary action for the world.

John the Baptist's message was a call to change, starting with ourselves. It has always been very easy to look at our problems and correct them by blaming, pointing the finger at others and attempting to change others behaviours. In this how are we travelling? Are we in fact the *Brood of Vipers* who can admit to doing no wrong but actually don't *produce the appropriate fruit* to build up the kingdom.

John the Baptist implies that apathy and complacency work against God's intentions, and instead of bearing fruit cause rot. Is it my complacency not to rock the status quos that allows bullets to be fired and the poor to exist? It is in to this that we must allow the hope of Jesus, to come into our being to ignite and fuel our actions. It is into the dark, messy stable part of our being that Jesus will be born. *Marguerite Martin*

Sinead Kent, our Family Educator is coordinating a St. Vincent de Paul Brekky Van on December 28th. She has a 'Shopping List' to gather and would appreciate any offers from parishioners of donations to help her with the food items.

If you think you could help please call Sinead on 0420 653 637 or call into the Parish House 12 Bland Street form more details. Many thanks in Advance, from Sinead

- **St. Vincent De Paul Society Christmas Appeal** will take place this Sunday 8th December at all Masses and at the 9:00am Mass at Cardinal Freeman Village Chapel. Envelopes will be on the seats for people to donate on this Appeal.
- St Vincent de Paul will be distributing hampers to those in need in the Parish. Baskets will be available under the giving tree at the front of the church for those wishing to donate non-perishable food items and gifts.
- Bethlehem School will be celebrating their end of the year Mass with the parish this Wednesday 11th December at the midday mass. It is anticipated that the mass on this day will be a duration of 45 to 50 mins.
- Thank you to all the Parishioners who filled out the responses to the questionnaire last Sunday. The responses will be collated and presented to the parish next Sunday 15th December. A meeting to collate the responses will be held this Wednesday 11th December at 7pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms. The assistance of a few people willing to help is needed. Dinner will be provided.
- **Christmas Masses—Altar Servers**
To assist with organizing the roster for Christmas Masses altar servers wishing to serve at this time are asked to write down their availability on the list in the altar servers sacristy.
- **Communal Penitential Service**
Wednesday 18th December at 7:00pm

You are Invited!!! A Thankyou Party will be held at St Vincent's

Parish Offices on Thursday 12 December at 7pm. This occasion is being used to thank parishioners for the way they have contributed to the parish over the past year

through the various ministries in the parish. All parishioners are welcome. We especially extend a special invitation to those who are new to the parish.

BAPTISMS

Saturday, 7th December 11:00am

JESSABELLA MAE BARLES
JAYVER RACHANON SARMIENTO
AASHI VALENTINA SHORE KC



PARISH STAFF: Fr. Alan Gibson CM
Carmen Yap

Marguerite Martin



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2013

Tuesday 24th December

6:00 pm	Christmas Eve — Children's Mass
8:00 pm	Christmas Eve
10:00 pm	Polish Mass
12:00 am	Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25th December

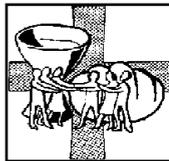
8:00 am	Christmas Day
10:00 am	Christmas Day
12:00 pm	Polish Mass

There will be NO evening Mass
in
English or Polish on Wednesday night

Please note there will be 9:00am Mass
on Christmas Day at Cardinal Freeman Village
(137 Victoria Street Ashfield)

Parish Masses this week:

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



Reconciliation: Saturday 8:10am to 8:40am

Morning Prayer: Saturday 8:40am

Saturday 9:00am - Rosary after mass

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

Polish Mass 12 noon

Cardinal Freeman Village Chapel

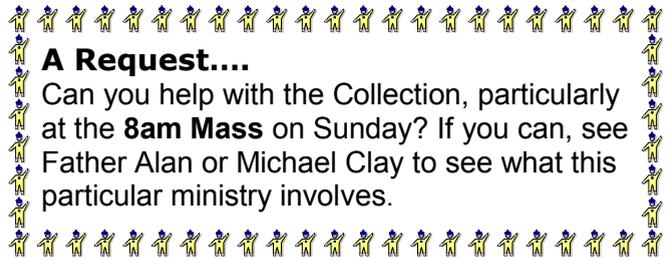
Tuesday 9:00am Sunday 9:00am

Ashbury Parish Weekday Mass:

Monday to Saturday 8:00am

Summer Hill Parish Mass: Monday: No Mass

Tuesday 8:30am. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
9:00am



A Request....

Can you help with the Collection, particularly
at the **8am Mass** on Sunday? If you can, see
Father Alan or Michael Clay to see what this
particular ministry involves.

An Evening of Carols



The 6:00pm Choir invites
you to join us in song and
getting in the
spirit of Christmas
FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER
at 7:30pm
in the Church

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas cards will be
available at the back of the church, selling for
\$6 per pack of ten cards. Money can be
placed in any of the poor boxes in the church.
Thank you.

Caritas Typhoon Haiyan Aid Response

Millions of people are now in need of emergency aid
in the Philippines. Please give generously to the
Caritas Australia Typhoon Haiyan Appeal.
Call 1800 024 413, donate online at
www.caritas.org.au or send your donation to
GPO Box 9830 in your Capital City.

**Youth Summer Schools of Evangelisation
2014—A Great Summer Retreat!** What are you
doing this summer? A week long retreat for young
people wanting to grow in faith and share the Christian
challenge with others. Theme: "Alive in the Spirit" *1
Peter 3:18*. Includes lectures and seminars, prayer,
music, fun and friendship. Two locations in **NSW —
Bathurst (5-12 January 2014) and Paterson (12
-19 January 2014)**. Run by the Disciples of Jesus
Community for over 25 years. For ages 16-35. For
more information see www.summerschool.org.au.

Second Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE PROCESSION: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the
nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your
heart.

FIRST READING: He judges the poor with justice (Isaiah 11:1-10)

PSALM: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever
(Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17)

SECOND READING: Christ, the hope of all people (Romans 15:4-9)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight his paths; all people shall see the salvation of God Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand (Matthew 3:1-12)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold
the joy which comes to you from God.



Next Sunday's Readings

Third Sunday of
Advent Yr A
Isaiah 35:1-6, 10
Ps 145:6-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11