

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
Phone: 9798 2501; 9798 2503 (for urgent matters 0410 894 651) Fax: 9798 2504
Parish Office Hours: 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2013

It was John the Baptist in prison who sent the message, "Are you the one?" John, who in the element of the wilderness was so sure, was now incarcerated and losing hope. John needed that reassurance. Jesus' response was to tell of the arrival of the kingdom in terms of restoration of life to the poor and the disabled and happiness to people who were faithful to him. It was for this John had lived and preached. It is a very human quality to feel doubts in times of hardship and John in jail must have been looking deeply into his life and his life decision to follow the call of God. Was this the outcome...or was he trying to share once again with his own followers that this man Jesus indeed was the one, just listen to him. Either way Jesus' message to John was to reassure and bring the Good News of hope. Hope is the most vital quality of life...and in the past week the world has been praising a man who spoke of hope, who lived with hope and gave hope, Nelson Mandela who has gone to his eternal reward. He like John must have had some dark times in jail where doubt crept in to steal his hope. It was his determination about the part we all have to play to achieve the just society that brings our assured salvation.

Marguerite Martin

Communal Penitential Service
Wednesday 18th December
at 7:00pm
Sacramental Reconciliation

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.

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

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that frightens us most. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and famous?' Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in all of us. And when we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

Nelson Mandela



Thursday Mass 19th December

The Staff of De La Salle College will be attending our parish Mass on Thursday 19th December at 9:00am. They will also prepare the liturgy.

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.

I would like to thank everyone, for the tremendous response already to my appeal for food items for our St Vincent de Paul Brekky Van service on December 28th. I am continually in awe at the generosity of support and spirit this community of St Vincent's Ashfield offers. I will leave a basket in the church porch for any donations of cookies, bread or toiletries that you might like to leave. Once again my heartfelt thanks, and feel free to contact me direct should you have any questions on: 0420653637. Happy Advent, Sinead Kent

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

RESULTS FROM ADVENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Thanks again to all Parishioners who answered the questionnaire at our Masses two weeks ago. We had 263 responses. The six main areas that emerged were work, family relations, health, faith/personal issues, society and finance/housing.

The answers were collated and categorized last Wednesday evening and the results from this are as follows:

Family Relationships	83 replies
Faith/Personal Issues	83 replies
Health/Ageing	81 replies
Society	79 replies
Work	80 replies
Housing/Finance	67 replies
Youth	47 replies
Church/Parish	42 replies
Other	12 replies

The raw data from which these categories emerged will be posted on the parish website within the next two weeks. Any responses parishioners might have to these results would be most welcome and can be made either by emailing vinstaff@vinash.org.au, telephoning the parish office on 9798 2501 or approaching me personally.

Fr. Alan Gibson cm, Parish Priest

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.



Third Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE PROCESSION: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING: God himself will come and save us (Isaiah 35:1-6. 10)

PSALM: Lord, come and save us (Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17)

SECOND READING: You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon (James 5:7-10)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else? (Matthew 3:1-12)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



Next Sunday's Readings

Fourth Sunday of
Advent Yr A
Isaiah 45:8
Ps 23:1-6
Romans 1;1-7
Matthew 1:23