

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



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2013

Stress and tension is one of the symptoms of Christmas...Peace, Joy, Goodwill is screamed at us as we race around feeling none of it...but we know this is not new. The time before the first Christmas had its share of stress and tension too.

Consider the characters that Matthew presents to us today, Mary, Joseph, the Angel and the unborn Emmanuel.

Isn't it ironic that the whole Christmas tension starts with the greatest of all humankind, the 'gentle, chaste and spotless maid' and the cloud of adultery.

Joseph, *the man of honour* was the totally gutted betrothed. His plan for future generations, planned with Mary, was in tatters.

What did she tell him? How did the conversation go?

Joseph's tensions: to love or to leave, loyalty or betrayal, his stresses: humiliation, embarrassment and disappointment.

Joan Chittister writes, "Only unwilling change catapults us into what we did not plan to do. Only unwilling change really matters to the molding of the soul, to the stretching of the self beyond the self. Unwilled change is what seeks and reshapes me."

Joseph had real change thrust upon him. The plan was to leave quietly, but then he is visited by the angel. The angel gave Joseph clarity in vision. Joseph made that leap of faith, leaving behind his plan and fully entered into God's plan.

We all want to own our lives, to feel in control but sudden change, real change intervenes. Death, accidents, illness, unemployment, even tsunamis happen. At times like this, like Joseph, we want to run back to what we know, what we can control. We all need to meet angels. Joseph's angel was unnamed, our angels can also come in unnamed forms. The angel will ask you to accept and grasp life, to grow and mostly to decisively trust in the God who is named Emmanuel.. the God who is with us.

Marguerite Martin



We wish to thank the Parish for the support that is given to the **St. Vincent de Paul Society's** work in Ashfield, it is greatly appreciated. Have a Very Merry and Holy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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



Parish Office will be closed from
Wednesday 25th December to
Tuesday 14th January.
Office will reopen on Wednesday,
15th January 2014.
There will be no bulletins during
those weeks.

There will be NO 7:00am Mass on Tuesday 24th December

"LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS" St. Mary's Cathedral

The spectacular laser light story of Christmas is once again on at St. Mary's Cathedral starting every night at 8:30pm until midnight right through to and including Christmas Day night. Everyone is welcome to this free public event in the Cathedral forecourt where there will also be different choirs performing from 7:30pm. Bring family and friends and come and enjoy this year's theme "Lighting the World".

The Immaculata Mission School is a live-in formation course for young people aged 16-35 years. The Mission School will be held from 1-9 January at Sacred Heart Retreat Centre, Croydon (Victoria).

The Mission School is the work of the Sisters of the Immaculata. If you have any questions about the Mission School, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at immaculatamission.school@gmail.com or on 0439 038 417

World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2014

19 January 2014 is World Day of Migrants and Refugees. The theme is "Migrants and Refugees: Towards a Better World". A message from the Holy Father Pope Francis is on the notice board and the text can also be found on the Pontifical Council website www.pcmigrants.org.

Parish Masses this week:

Monday 12 Noon
Tuesday NO Mass
Wednesday 8:00am & 10am
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



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.

The New Evangelisation: What is it and what difference does it make? Fathers Maurice Nutt and John Fahey-Guerra, from the United States, will be conducting a Summer School at St. Clement's Retreat Centre, Galong, NSW 17-24 January 2014. Maurice and John bring their enthusiasm and expertise to these questions and we can bring our questions and understanding. Phone 02 6380 5222 or email: info@stclement.com.au for details.

Volunteers Mentoring Refugee Students

Mercy Connect Sydney is seeking volunteers to mentor students from a refugee background in primary and secondary schools, predominantly located in the South, south Western and Western areas of Sydney.

Volunteers commit to at least half a day per week for 4 school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is an advantage. Retired teachers are encouraged to apply. Training will be provided in February 2014.

Ashbury Parish Weekday Mass:

Monday to Saturday 8:00am

Summer Hill Parish Mass: Monday: No Mass

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE PROCESSION: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING: The Virgin will conceive (Isaiah 7.10-14)

PSALM: Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory (Ps 23:1-6)

SECOND READING: Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God (Romans 1:1-7)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; His name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, as son of David (Matthew 1:18-24)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.



Next Sunday's Readings

Holy Family

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Ps 127:1-5

Colossians 3:12-21

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23