

# 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



Christmas

December 25, 2013

## Christmas

### ★ **Midnight Mass**

★ **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.

★ **FIRST READING:** A son is given to us (Isaiah 9:1-7)

★ **RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord (Ps 95:1-3. 11-13)**

★ **SECOND READING:** God's grace has been revealed to all people (Titus 2.11-14)

★ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Good news and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

★ **GOSPEL:** Today a Saviour has been born for you (Luke 2.1-14)

★ **COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** The word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

### ★ **Masses during the Day**

★ **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** A child is born for us, a son given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and

his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

★ **FIRST READING:** All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God (Isaiah 52.7-10)

★ **RESPONSORIAL PSALM: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.**

★ **SECOND READING:** In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son (Hebrews 1.1-6)

★ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations, and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!**

★ **GOSPEL:** The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory (John 1.1-18)

★ **COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.



The Parish Staff, Carmen Yap,  
Marguerite Martin  
and Fr Alan Gibson,  
wish all members of our community  
of St Vincent's  
the fullness of the God's blessings for  
this Christmas Season.

On behalf of the Parish we thank  
all those who by their generous gifts  
of time and resources have contributed  
so much to our parish over the past year.



### **Jesus, the Light of the World**

Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news of the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart. May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving. Amen

## DEATH AND BIRTH ON THE SAME PAGE

Birth and death are two of the seminal experiences that change the way we experience the world. Our ground shifts, new rules of engagement are needed as we come to terms with the fact that our former world is no more.

The death of Nelson Mandela calls the story of South Africa to a new place. Archbishop Desmond Tutu has ...mused: "What will happen to us now that our father has gone?" The spiritual inspiration and the political and social reform that Nelson Mandela accomplished now needs to continue without his physical presence.

His death, pretty-much like the deaths of those nearest and dearest to us, brings with it a time of uncertainty, an experience of abandonment, a grief that is shared by all who knew and loved him. His death requires a new imagination and resolve, especially for the people of his nation.

In the same way, the birth of a child is a game-changer, especially for those most immediately involved with the arrival of a new infant.

Schedules are shaped by the baby in an intuitive kind of conversation between the child, the mother and father. The priorities of the parents must be adjusted in order for the child to become an integral part of the family.

As is the case when someone we love has died, so when someone we are learning to love is born, the same imagination and resolve are needed as we adjust to our growing family.

For millions, the birth of Jesus has shaken the foundation of their lives. His arrival has caused profound social change as "lowly are raised up and the mighty cast down from their thrones."

His arrival has taken the whole of human history and given it a redeemed meaning and value. Through the arrival of Jesus, God has signalled to the whole human family that our hope is found not through power, nor through violence or wealth, but rather in humble service, through loving relationships and through a readiness to "straighten out our crooked ways", to open our eyes to what is true, and noble, to forgive without conditions, in other words to be "born again".

Just as the passage through death to eternal life is a total mystery to us, the passage from the womb to birth represents the same kind of mystery for the one being born and requires a radical trust in the goodness of life and in the Giver of Life.

Jesus' arrival reminds us of the profound truth that only in love will we and our world find our way to a peace that is just and available to all.

Clearly, we still have a long way to go before this hope is accomplished, but it won't hurt us one bit to spend time this Christmas allowing Jesus' birth to enter the landscape of our hearts, our relationships and our daily endeavours, and call us to taste life anew, much as a newborn child might do.

**Father Kevin Bates**



Thank you for all the Christmas cards and gifts we have received.

Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.



### Parish Masses this week:

Monday 12 Noon

Tuesday 7:00am

Wednesday 12:00 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



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.

## Holy Family

**ENTRANCE PROCESSION:** The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

**FIRST READING:** Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents (Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14)

**PSALM:** Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways (Ps 127:1-5)

**SECOND READING:** Concerning the Christian life in the world (Colossians 3:12-21)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23)

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.



### Next Sunday's Readings The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Matthew 2:2