

# 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



**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**February 23, 2014**

The first part of today's gospel passage is perhaps one of the most misunderstood of Jesus' teachings. The notion of turning the other cheek usually brings up notions of non-violence, submission, or even sometimes a victim mentality. It seems an odd teaching to tell someone who is being hit to simply stand there and present the other cheek to also be hit. It's odd because we generally fail to understand the cultural context that is the setting for this teaching.

In the first century, a master would discipline a slave or servant by striking them with the back of his hand. Assuming the master is right handed, a back-handed strike would be delivered to the right cheek of the person he faced. If the servant were to then present his left cheek to the master, it becomes impossible for the master to strike with the back of his hand and forces him into using an open-hand slap or a closed-fist punch to the left cheek. Not much of an improvement, you might think. However, servants were disciplined with the back of the hand and only equals fought in such a way that would deliver blows to the left side.

What Jesus is saying to those who are oppressed is to offer no resistance but at the same time stand up for yourself and make your oppressor recognise you and treat you as an equal, not an inferior. It is extremely dangerous advice! Its aim is to shame the oppressor.

The other two examples, surrendering your cloak when sued for your tunic and walking two miles when required to walk one are also examples of seeking to shame the one who would use their power and strength against you. That's not being a submissive wimp; that's staring the bully in the eye!

Jesus tells us that it's easy to love those who love us – anyone can do that. The test of Christian love is to love those who seem unlovable or even seek to make themselves appear unlovable. It's easy to stop saying hello to the person who never returns your greeting. It's easy to avoid the person whose disability makes you uncomfortable. It's easy to hate the person who's nasty to you. But Jesus says that it's these people who we must love. If we are only polite, pleasant and hospitable to our friends then we are failing to follow the footsteps of Jesus.

*Gregory Sunter*

**LENT IS APPROACHING!** Ash Wednesday  
March 5 **When I wake up on Easter Sunday Morning, how will I be different?**

Have you thought what you may do this Lent to achieve this joyous transformation Pope Francis urges us to bring joy back into our relationship with God and the World. **Lent is the time for change and for renewal.** So How do I do it?

**EASY!** Put your name down for a Lenten discussion group at the back of the Church and tap your friend on the shoulder and ask them to join you. These can be held in homes, maybe your home, or in the Parish House, Meet new people! Share your faith We will use the Encounter program from Wollongong diocese as our base material this year that has marvellous reflections by Sr Hilda Scott, a Benedictine Sister from Jamberoo and Fr Greg Homeming, a Carmelite Priest. Guaranteed to lift your heart and change your Easter!

**Sydney Alliance** The City Wide Assembly will take place on Wednesday 26th March from 7pm to 8.30pm at Sydney Town hall. The three issues which will be put forward for the 2015 State Elections will be Housing, Transport and the Work Start Programme. Parishioners are encouraged to give serious consideration to attending this event. Should you wish to attend you will need to register. To register online please go to website <http://www.sydneyalliance.org.au/news/2014/01/29/bridging-sydney/>. For those without internet and would like to attend please see Fr. Alan.

**Parish Dinner** will take place in the Bethlehem/ De La Salle Hall on Saturday 29th March 7pm for 7:30pm start.

Invitations have been sent out for those who are recorded on the Parish Census 2011 and also the Planned Giving Members.

Any Parishioner (new or old) including adult children who have not received an invitation, please see one of the Dinner organizers at the back of the church today.

Rosters for Readers and Special Ministers for March to May 2014 had been emailed and for those who have no emails, rosters are at the back of the church.

# Little Sparks Playgroup



Do you want to:

-  Have fun with your child?
-  Meet other parents and children?
-  Play, sing, laugh, share and try new things?

Then come along and try our Little Sparks Playgroup in the hall at St Vincent's School. Everyone is welcome, we have mums, dads, grandparents and aunties. We have families from many different countries

St Vincent's School Hall

Thursday's from 9am to 11am

Bring some fruit to share.

Sinead Kent 0420653637

Family Educator St Vincent's School

Where?  
When?



## Parish Masses this week:

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

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



## DATES FOR DIARY

5th March Ash Wednesday Masses 12pm & 6:30pm  
29th March Parish Dinner 7pm for 7:30pm  
17th April Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7pm  
18th April Good Friday Stations of the Cross at 10am (both Church and Ashfield Park) - Passion of the Lord at 3pm  
19th April Easter Vigil 6pm  
8th June Sunday Confirmation at 2:30pm  
19th — 21st August First Reconciliation  
16th — 23rd November First Communion at all Masses

**St Bakhita Centre for Sudanese Refugees**, 2 Hornsey Rd, Flemington (Homebush West) is again in need of volunteers. Hours are 9.30 – 12.45 Tuesday to Friday; or 5.30 – 8 (approx.) on Thursday evening. Volunteers usually volunteer for one session only. We are urgently in need of:

1. An Office Manager/Communicator
2. Teachers for Thursday Evening
3. Sewing Teacher
4. Child Minders
5. Early Education Teachers or Pre School Trained Volunteers
6. Anyone who can assist with Basic Computer Skills/TAFE Support/English Skills/Driving Theory/Citizenship/Sewing

If you can assist, please contact Sr Maria Sullivan on 0408 615 671 or [mariasull@bigpond.com](mailto:mariasull@bigpond.com)  
Thanks for your generosity and support over many years.

Ashbury Parish Weekday Mass:

Monday to Saturday 8:00am

Summer Hill Parish Mass: Monday: No Mass  
Tuesday 8:30am. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00am

## Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

**ENTRANCE PROCESSION:** O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

**FIRST READING:** You must love your neighbour as yourself (Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18)

**PSALM:** The Lord is kind and merciful (Ps 102:4, 8, 10, 12-13)

**SECOND READING:** All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God (1 Corinthians 3:16-23)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia, alleluia! Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** Love your enemies (Matthew 5:38-48)

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.



### Next Sunday's Readings

Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 49: 14-15  
Ps 61: 2-3, 6-9

1 Corinthians 4:1-5  
Matthew 6:24-34