

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

Second Sunday of Lent

March 16, 2014

Like so many other important events in the Bible, the events of this week's gospel occur on a high mountaintop. Mountaintops were places of special and dramatic encounter with God and the disciples' experience of the transfiguration is clearly no exception! In this instance, the disciples suddenly see Jesus' power fully revealed but they fail to fully understand what is going on. One might think how much more obvious could God be about trying to reveal Jesus' identity to the disciples, but still they don't really catch on. Peter thinks he has caught on the message. When the great prophets Elijah and Moses appear beside Jesus, Peter understands Jesus to be part of the line of prophets in the Hebrew tradition. He believes he has had a great insight and is so impressed that he wants to remain on the mountaintop—setting up tents in honour of Jesus, Elijah and Moses. In essence, Peter has still only partially understood who Jesus is. He thinks he is the Messiah, but a Messiah in the same mould as the prophets of old, a prophet of the old tradition. He has not understood that Jesus is breaking that mould and creating a new vision, a new tradition—one that is endorsed by the voice of God on the mountaintop. Rather than allowing the disciples to set up tents and remain in the 'high' of this experience, Jesus immediately leads the boys back down the mountain. This is perhaps the greatest message of this passage: that life is not lived on the mountaintop but back down in the valley. Although the mountaintop experience may have provided some new insight and new energy, it is back down in the valley that the world waits, that the real work needs to be done; that the sick and the poor are crying out for God's love and mercy. Gregory Sunter

Parish Dinner will take place in the Bethlehem/De La Salle Hall on Saturday 29th March 7pm for 7:30pm start. If you wish to come and haven't responded yet please do so ASAP.

Cardinal Freeman Village Tabernacle

The repairs to the tabernacle at Cardinal Freeman Village were completed last week. Many thanks to the people of the parish particularly residents of Cardinal Freeman Village for your generosity. Your contributions will ensure that the tabernacle will remain in good condition for decades to come.

**CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION FORMS
AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.**

**Mass on Wednesday
19th March**
will be celebrated at **9:00am**
instead of the usual time
of 12 pm

Parish Pastoral Council will meet on **Monday 17th March at 6:30pm** in the Parish meeting rooms.

Parish Finance Committee will meet on **Tuesday 25th March at 7:00pm** in the Parish meeting rooms.

Stations of the Cross The positive feedback about the Stations has made the project worthwhile. A plaque/or plaques acknowledging Station sponsors will be fixed soon. Also those people of the parish who donated time and money to the project will be acknowledged. Owing to the increase cost to restore and hang the Stations there has been a shortfall on the amount of money originally donated. If anyone feels they may be able to help to make up the shortfall, it would be most appreciated.

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.

- Representatives from our parish community will speak at all Masses this Sunday 16th March regarding the Sydney Alliance Assembly on 26th March. An explanation of what the Assembly is all about will be given and parishioners will be encouraged to attend this event.

**Farewell Mass for His Eminence,
Cardinal George Pell
Thursday 27th March 2014
7:30pm (doors open from 7:00pm) St.
Mary's Cathedral, Sydney**

Please join us as we farewell His Eminence, Cardinal George Pell and give thanks for his service as the Archbishop of Sydney. All are warmly invited.

DATES FOR DIARY

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

Parish Masses this week:

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

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

Morning Prayer: Saturday 8:40am

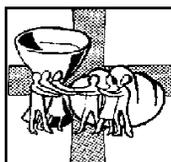
Saturday 9:00am - Rosary after mass

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

Polish Mass 12 noon

Cardinal Freeman Village Chapel

Tuesday 9:00am Sunday 9:00am



Ashbury Parish Weekday Mass:

Monday to Saturday 8:00am

Summer Hill Parish Mass: Monday: No Mass

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

Second Sunday of Lent

ENTRANCE PROCESSION: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

FIRST READING: The call of Abraham, the father of God's people (Genesis 12:1-4)

PSALM: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you (Ps 32:4-5, 18-20. 22)

SECOND READING: Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more (Romans 5:12-19)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the Shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: His face shone like the sun (Matthew 17:1-9)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased: listen to him



Next Sunday's Readings

Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17:3-7

Ps 94:1-2, 6-9

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

John 4:5-42

**Vincentian Student House
in the Solomon Islands**

Recently a request has been received from the Solomon Islands. The student house there is in desperate need of funds as there is a lack of adequate accommodation and drinking water. Sometimes drinking water has to be transported from 6km away. A leaving collection will be taken up for those who would like to contribute on the 4th Sunday of Lent. A brochure entitled Help needed for our International Mission in the Solomon Islands which outlines in more details the difficulties and challenges faced is now on the parish noticeboard.

Your donation to **Project Compassion** helps **Caritas Australia** pursue justice and assist those who are the most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice.

This week we meet Deng and his family in South Sudan. During the civil war Deng, who is blind, and his family fled their village. Returning many years later, they are rebuilding their lives with the help of a food security program.

With your support, families like Deng's can be confident of a more secure future and can rebuild their lives.



St Benedict's Monastery Arcadia You are invited to four Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Days for 2014 at St. Benedict's Monastery, 121 Arcadia Rd., Arcadia tel: 9653 1159 **Sundays: 18 may, 17 August and 16 November.** Arrival: 10am for 10:30am.

Presentations, Introduction to Christian Meditation, two periods of meditation, Eucharistic Celebration and information exchange. Conclusion: around 3pm. Books and CDs are available for sale, BYO picnic lunch, tea and coffee provided.

Self-catering overnight accommodation may be available in the monastery guest house and **can be arranged through Br Terry on 0438 282 318. Enquiries** to Ann Bergman: anniebergman@hotmail.com or **9498 2625** or Ann Lomas atlomas@bigpond.com or **9456 4775.**