

# 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

## Third Sunday of Lent

March 23, 2014

It never ceases to amaze me just WHO Jesus calls to proclaim him. It is always the most unlikely. The Samaritan woman falls into this category. For a start she is woman, she has a dubious background and to make matters worse she is a Samaritan. Their meeting at the well was Jesus' entrée into Samaritan society. Samaritans worshipped not at the temple in Jerusalem but up a mountain, Mt Gerazim. This was an important divisive distinction between the Jews and the Samaritans...where God was. The woman is amazed that Jesus not just talks to her but asks her to give him a drink. Their conversation runs on two levels. She is concerned about the daily grind, buckets and fetching water, carrying water and sating thirst in the midday sun. Jesus on the other hand is confronting all the other issues and needs in her life. He reveals to her that he has knowledge of her situation and then offers her "the living water" another chance at life, this time not with the God of the mountain, or the God of the temple but with the everyday God, the indwelling God revealed in him.. Jesus the Messiah. He creates in her a new sacred space. She left her buckets and jugs at the well, symbols of her former life of insatiable thirst, to go and proclaim, with amazement, Jesus. I love the element of doubt that is still there in this transformed woman when she calls people to Come and see and the unbelievable, astonished reassurance she needs "He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" Even confronted face to face with the truth, doubt can be there. Jesus came and stayed with the people of the Samaritan town anxious to see and hear him. In the end they also could proclaim with confidence 'He is the Saviour!'"

The questions that stay with me are:

- ✦ Do I see and hear Jesus proclaimed from unexpected people and places or do I only want to meet him in My church?
- ✦ Do I so fully trust in 'the living water' that I can leave my life back at the well?
- ✦ Do I realise I am a sacred site?
- ✦ Do I let my community reassure my faith and doubts?

*Marguerite Martin*

### 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 next 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.

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

**Sydney Alliance** The City Wide Assembly will take place on Wednesday 26th March from 7pm to 8.30pm at Sydney Town hall. Those who have registered are asked to meet up at St. Peter Julian Church, Haymarket at 6:00pm for the prayer vigil. If unable to make that time an alternative meeting place is at the left side of the Townhall where there will be a Sydney Archdiocese table at 6:30pm. If anyone would still like to go and has not registered please see Fr. Alan

**Stations of the Cross** Many thanks to those generous parishioners who were able to make a donation to greatly reduce our shortfall.

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

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

**Divine Mercy Lenten Reflection  
& Blessing with the St Faustina  
First Class Relic**  
**29 March 2014 Saturday 9am to 5pm**  
**Attendance is FREE**  
**Venue: St Vincent's Parish Hall,  
12 Bland Street Ashfield NSW**  
**Guest Speaker: Fr Michael Payyapilly**

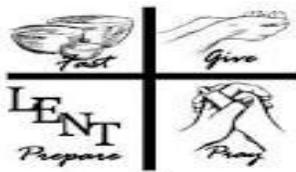
## Farewell Mass for His Eminence, Cardinal George Pell

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.

**10th eConference.** BBI and the ACBC are delighted to announce the 10th eConference entitled, Pope Francis: Modeling the Ministry of St. Peter to be streamed live over the internet on **Wednesday 11th June 2014** from 10am—3pm (AEST) for free. Anyone with a computer or a laptop can watch live.



### Parish Masses this week:

Monday 12 noon  
Tuesday 7:00 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

Ashbury Parish Weekday Mass:

Monday to Saturday 8:00am

Summer Hill Parish Mass: Monday: No Mass

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

Your donation to Project Compassion means vulnerable people can live in safe, supportive communities and have hope for the future.

For most of Archie's life, he lived with his parents and nine siblings in a one-roomed house beside the Plaridel River in the Philippines, an area prone to flooding and typhoons. An emergency resettlement program supported by Caritas Australia helped the family resettle into permanent and secure housing away from the flood prone river.

Thank to your support, his family has moved to a safe location and permanent house, and his family are now happier and healthier.

**Please donate to Project Compassion and help vulnerable families living in unsafe environments to resettle into secure housing, where they can start to have hope for the future.**



### Afternoon for Couples Hoping to Conceive:

Married couples (Catholic or otherwise) who are hoping for children, struggling to conceive, or who wish to better understand what the Church offers and promotes in regards fertility awareness and assistance are invited to an afternoon of information and discussion. It is also an important opportunity for fellowship with other couples facing similar difficulties.

**When: Saturday 12 April 2:00pm to 5:00pm**

**Where: Catholic Adult Education Centre, 2 Keating Lidcombe**

Please direct RSVPs and inquiries to [LMFevents@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:LMFevents@sydneycatholic.org) or phone (02) 9390 5290.

**Grace & Silence Retreat Days.** We would like to invite young women aged 17-30 yrs who are discerning their vocation to marriage, single or consecrated life or who would like to have a day of recollection to the Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa on Saturday 12 April; 24 May; 28 June. 9:30am to 4:30pm at 230 Fairlight Road Mulgoa. Cost \$20 which includes lunch. For more information & registration contact Sr. M Julie 0408 738 334 or [juliecar@gmail.com](mailto:juliecar@gmail.com).

## Third Sunday of Lent

**ENTRANCE PROCESSION:** My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

**FIRST READING:** Give us water to drink (Exodus 17:3-7)

**PSALM:** If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Ps 94:1-2, 6-9)

**SECOND READING:** The Love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us (Romans 5:1-2, 5-8)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL:** The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life (John 4:5-42)

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.



### Next Sunday's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

Ps 22

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 49:1-41