

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



Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 30, 2014

'There is none as blind as those who will not see!' This comment is often bandied around by harassed parents who magically can find socks and school lunch boxes and other 'difficult to find things.' My mother, the wise one, gave me the advice not to run and find items for family members, just keep on giving instructions to where the item may be. Sometimes I do and sometimes I don't! Surely Jesus, as the Son of God, could have restored the blind man's sight just by thinking about it, yet he covered his eyes with mud! The man accepted Jesus' touch. Jesus' touch would have been rough, as he rubbed thick, sandy, muddy paste on the man's eyes. Jesus then commanded him to go and wash. The blind man responded with openness to Jesus (what did he have to lose); and he participated in his own cure by following and trusting Jesus' words and washing in the pool. Did he know he would gain his sight? I feel we all have blind moments. We want the torch shone on what we want and placed in our hands. Or do we need to hear and trust Jesus' words, experience a bit of the mud and spittle, let it scour around our eyes a little, then to go and wash in the waters to discover the developing vision of the blind man. For some this Easter, the waters will be the waters of baptism, but for the baptised it will be to immerse ourselves deeper in our community of 'water people' with Eucharist. The man's sight was firstly Jesus, then with faith came to be the shared vision of the Son of Man.
The man said 'Lord I believe', and worshipped him.'
Marquerite Martin

DATES FOR DIARY

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

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

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 at all the Masses this Sunday. A Brochure Help needed for our International Mission in the Solomon Islands which outlines in more detail the difficulties and challenges faced is now on the parish noticeboard. If you would like to donate but are unable to do so today alternative ways of making donation is making out a cheque to the Vincentian Fathers and giving it in to the parish office or can be made by going to the Vincentian website www.vincentians.org.au

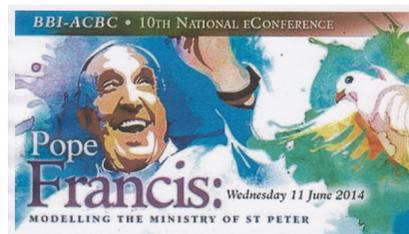
Sydney Alliance A meeting to debrief last Wednesday's Sydney Alliance Assembly at Sydney Town Hall will be held this Sunday night 30th March from 7:30—8:30pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms.

Masses with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick Fr. Alan will celebrate two masses at Cardinal Freeman Village next week which will include the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick— Tuesday 1st April at 10.30am at Cardinal Freeman Village Nursing Home (Clissold Street) and Wednesday 2nd April at 10.30am at Cardinal Freeman Village—The Lodge.

The First **Confirmation** Preparation meetings are to be held THIS week on either **Tuesday 1 April at 6.30pm or Thursday 3 April at 6.30pm** in the Parish Office. These meetings are for both parents and candidate.

Mark your diaries! Well worth participating
St Vincents Parish will host the e conference from the Broken Bay Institute entitled

Pope Francis:
Modelling the Ministry of St Peter
on **Wednesday 11 June**
from 10am - 3pm
Speakers include
Sr Monica Cavanagh



Just a friendly reminder...

Daylight Saving Time finishes next Sunday 6th April at 3:00am. Please don't forget to adjust your clocks next weekend.

Your support for Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia to build a just world by enabling vulnerable communities to be architects of their own future.

This week we meet Martina, a teacher in the Solomon Islands. Her favourite part of the school day is teaching the children songs from Caritas Australia's *Disaster Risk Management project* which was established after a string of natural disasters in the Pacific that threatened the homes and



communities of people living in the Solomon Islands. Through the power of nursery rhymes and songs, children are learning how to stay safe during an emergency.

Please donate to Project Compassion today so we can continue to educate teachers like Martina and help keep children safe during an emergency.

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 or phone (02) 9390 5290.

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

'Come Holy Spirit'



"Healing Mass", Friday 4th April 2014. St. Therese's Church, 15 Garrong Road, Lakemba. Rosary: 7pm, Reconciliation: 7-8pm, Prayer and Praise: 7:30pm, Mass: 8pm. Exposition (after Mass) The celebrant will be Fr. Hugh Thomas Csr
Enquiries: Rose Ph 9642 2359/0412 115 961

Seminary Open Day (6 April) Men seeking an insight into seminary life & formation to the Priesthood are invited to attend this Open Day at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd, 50-58 Abbotsford Rd, Homebush. 9:00am Morning Prayer, 10:00am Mass, 11:30am brunch, followed by talks, guided tour & time to chat with priests & seminarians. There's **no cost**, but **RSVP is essential** for brunch. Every enquirer's details are kept confidential. **Enquiries/RSVP: 9390 5970** or vocations@sydneycatholic.org.



Fourth Sunday of Lent

ENTRANCE PROCESSION: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, for all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast

FIRST READING: In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel (1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13)

PSALM: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want (Ps 22)

SECOND READING: Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you (Ephesians 5:8-14)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the Light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored (John 49:1-41)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.



Next Sunday's Readings

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37: 12-14

Ps 129

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:1-45