

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



Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 6, 2014

Over the last week I have dealt with the chaos and confusion that accompanies death. My dear, very old, extremely frail father in law who showed through his life, huge resilience to whatever life threw at him, finally went to God; and more tragically the death of a young man, a friend of my daughters who devastatingly took his own life. The funerals for these two graduates of life, were so vastly different. For my father in law, it was a celebration of 95 years of life. Of course it is sad when someone who is loved goes away from our sight, but there is a satisfaction about a life well lived. For the young man, I watched the pinched, tear stained faces of the young friends who came to mourn and say goodbye and to support the family who couldn't come to terms with the devastating reality of the coffin, holding their son and brother. I listened to the brother who couldn't understand why within their intimate relationship, he was left out of this terrible decision. To say "What a waste!" is to devalue what was lived.

Life is such a valued gift and the loss of life is the ultimate tragedy. Death has always been humanity's greatest fear. Yet we of faith know where God lives. He is there in the chaos and questions. We know that Jesus was weeping with the family, reaching out to the confused and promising hope to the devastated, as he was with his friends, Martha and Mary.

This Lazarus gospel is the story of a family in the chaos and grief that only death, especially the death of a young, loved family member can bring. The grieving process brought tears, recriminations and valued sympathy from friends who came quick and one valued friend who didn't.

Martha and Mary are angry with Jesus. He certainly hadn't lived up to their expectations. *If you had been here my brother would not have died?*

They recognised that Jesus could bring life, extraordinary new life. It was through Martha's great statement, *I believe you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into the world.*

Jesus entered into the tomb of Lazarus, entered into his putridity and brought him back to his former life. This restoration of Lazarus' life was a demonstration of what was yet to come. Lazarus would die again. With his next death would be the full promise of the new life of the resurrection. Jesus promises new life with him. *I am the Resurrection and the Life. Do you believe this?*

Marguerite Martin

The Parish **MEN'S GROUP** will meet this coming **Tuesday 8th April at 7:30pm in the Parish House**, any new participants would be most welcome.

This meeting will consist of a short period of light reflection and then discussion on various topics.

Parish Pastoral Council will meet on **Monday 14th April at 6:30pm** in the Parish meeting rooms.

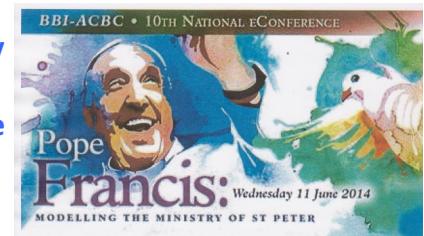
Parish Dinner The Parish Dinner held on Saturday 29th March was a wonderful community celebration. A big thank you goes to the Dinner Committee for all their hard work in making the night as enjoyable as what it was. Also, thanks to all who assisted on the night. Thanks must also go to De La Salle & Bethlehem Colleges for the use of the hall, Ashfield Club for their donation to the night, caterers and Joy & Charles for the flowers.

Stations of the Cross A plaque/plaques acknowledging those who have paid to sponsor a station of the Cross will be placed in the Church in the next few weeks.

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



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

PARISH STAFF: Fr. Alan Gibson CM
Carmen Yap

Marguerite Martin



2014

Wednesday April 9

Penitential Service 7:00pm

Thursday April 17

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00pm

Good Friday April 18

Stations of the Cross 10:00am
(Church & Ashfield Park)

Polish - Stations of the Cross 12 noon

Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3:00pm

Saturday April 19

Reconciliation 8:00am—9:30am

RCIA Prayer & Preparation for Easter Vigil 10:00am

Polish - Easter Food Blessing 12 noon

EASTER VIGIL MASS 6:00pm

Sunday April 20

Easter Sunday Masses 8:00am, 10:00am and 6:00pm

Polish - Easter Sunday Mass 12 noon

**St Vincent de Paul
"Brekky Van"**

After much 'hagging' we have been offered another "Brekky Van" morning. Thank you to everyone who so generously helped last time by providing food, drinks, pies and toiletries for our friends who have so much less than we do. The morning was amazing and those who came along to serve in the Spirit of St Vincent, our Patron, gained the greatest gift that Christmas 2013 could offer.

Sunday

5th May 2014

This is the day we have been offered. We need to provide the food and approximately 20 to 26 people to set-up, prepare and serve breakfast and then clear everything back to St Vincent de Paul's offices.

The morning begins early but I guarantee it will be a joyful experience during the Easter Season.

The items we will require are:

Sausages, Bacon, Eggs, Bread, Long-life Milk, Juice Poppers/Cartons, Biscuits, Toothpaste, Tooth Brushes, Soap, Hand Sanitiser, Tissues, Shampoo, Conditioner etc. (travel sizes are great)

If you would like to be part of this outreach please contact Sinead Kent on 0420653637

Or leave a message at the Parish and it will be passed on to me.

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



Your support for **Project Compassion** helps **Caritas Australia** work towards the creation of a world that God desires to be just and compassionate.

Far from home for dialysis treatment, Aboriginal woman Lorraine is reconnecting with her culture and community through an income-generating bush balm program. This gives her sense of purpose, comfort and wellbeing.

Please donate to Project Compassion today. Your support ensures that together we are walking alongside Indigenous Peoples in Australia and around the world.



Fifth Sunday of Lent

ENTRANCE PROCESSION: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

FIRST READING: I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live (Ezekiel 37:12-14)

PSALM: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption (Ps 129)

SECOND READING: If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies (Romans 8:8-11)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: I am the resurrection and the life (John 11:25, 26)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.



Next Sunday's Readings

Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-7

Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24

Philippians 2:6-11

Matthew 26:14-27