

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 Easter

May 11, 2014

Fences and Gates. A bit of a contentious issue for us here at St Vincent's. Occupational Health and Safety have decreed that it paramount for the safety of the children in the school that we have extra fences and extra gates. It is with sadness that we feel a little on the outside, a physical barrier has been created between school and the church. The gospel today is about a sheepfold, a pen where the sheep could be safe at night. It also was a fence with an unusual gate. What were the threats to the sheep? The predatory wolf, brigands and thieves, that "steal and kill and destroy."

The sheepfold also protected the odd sheep that may wander away from the flock. So the sheepfold was, in today's terms, an OHS device for the sheep. It was the gate that differs. It was not a gate that opens and shuts with locks and padlocks. The gate was the shepherd! In today's language we could call it an intelligent gate, a loving gate. The shepherd lay down at the gate, he listened to his sheep and it was his voice that comforted them. He also could spring to attention and assess any situation that presented. One could say his job was vital, especially for the sheep as they were guaranteed green pasture and fresh water, in fact the good life.

One can go no further to see this image of God than at Cardinal Freeman chapel in Ashfield, the Shepherd Gatekeeper who lovingly relates and protects.

I am not a sheep. This sounds like a quote out of Orwell's *Animal Farm*, but I am called to be a Gatekeeper to the kingdom. How can I take the qualities of the Gatekeeper on? Do my actions open the gate freely or do they bar the gate to keep people out? Gates are made to be opened and shut. When Jesus says that he is the gate, he opens to admit all and only closes to protect them.

Marguerite Martin

A Mother

When you are a child she walks before you, to set an example.

When you are a teenager she walks behind you, to be there should you need her.

When you are an adult she walks beside you, so that as two friends you can enjoy life together.



Happy Mothers Day to all the mothers!



Parish Planned Giving Campaign

This Sunday 11th May is Commitment Sunday. Commitment Cards have been placed in the seats giving you the people of the parish the opportunity to give your pledge to the parish over the next 12 months. Please fill out the Commitment Card whether you are joining the Parish Planned Giving Program for the first time or wish to renew your commitment. On Sunday 8th June when the new envelopes are ready for collection a thank you gathering in the form of a sausage sizzle will take place after all the masses. Just a reminder that the 10 year maintenance development plan is now available for viewing on the website. Thank you again for supporting St. Vincent's Parish, Ashfield.

Fr. Alan

This Sunday is the 51st World Day of Prayer for Vocations on this annual worldwide event, the Church invites you to pray especially for those God is calling to the priesthood and religious life.

Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Monday 12th May at 6:30pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms.

The Parish **MEN'S GROUP** will meet this coming **Tuesday 13th May 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.

Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Pastoral Appeal

The appeal was held successfully by our parish last weekend. On behalf of the church community we wish to express our heartfelt thanks for your consideration and support. Through your financial contributions, you allow the Catholic Church to extend its assistance, comfort and care to our brothers and sisters most in need. Your help, however small, is always received with gratitude.

Fr. Alan absent Fr. Alan will be away from 15 -26 May, giving a retreat to the Vincentian students in Fiji. Fr. Jim Maloney will look after the weekday Masses and Masses on Sunday at 8:00am and 10:00am. Fr. Phil Robson CM will celebrate Mass at 6:00pm on Sunday May 18. One of the Columban Fathers will celebrate the 6:00pm Mass on Sunday May 25th.

DATES FOR DIARY

8th June Sunday Confirmation at 2:30pm
 19th — 21st August First Reconciliation
 16th — 23rd November First Communion at all Masses

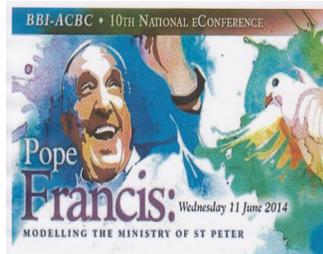
Christian Meditation

On Thursday mornings at 8:40am, before Mass, you are invited to come to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for Christian Meditation. Our school parents and children have been taking part in this wonderful prayer experience and we would now like to extend the invitation to our Parish community to come and pray together. I hope you can join us.

Sinead
 Family Educator

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 RSJ



Brekky Van

I would like to thank all the Parishioners of St. Vincent's for their enormous generosity of time, energy, prayers and donations. Our BREKKY Van was so successful last Sunday. Our friends at Prince Alfred Park were all served with the food you donated, with the companionship of those who came along, cooked, served and chatted. We all had a lot of fun meeting new people from within this most amazing community that oozes the charism of our patron, St. Vincent. Many thanks to everyone.

Sinead

St. Vincent de Paul Ashfield Conference

The Ashfield Conference of St. Vincent de Paul continues to help those less fortunate in our community.

During the first four months of this year, the conference has visited 39 individuals and families. We have been able to provide assistance through helping pay gas and electricity bills, putting food on tables, and providing furniture, white goods and clothing to those in need.

St. Vincent De Paul Ashfield Conference would like to thank those who continue to support its work through donations and contributions to the Poor box.

The Ashfield Conference meets at the Parish office on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. If you would like to join and put your faith into action, please call Stephen Fenn on 0423 027 657.

Parish Masses this week:

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



Reconciliation: Saturday 8:10am to 8:40am
 Morning Prayer: Saturday 8:40am
 Saturday 9:00am

Sunday: 8am, 10:00am 6:00pm
 Polish Mass 12 noon

Cardinal Freeman Village Chapel

Tuesday 9:00am Sunday 9:00am

Fourth Sunday of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

FIRST READING: God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ (Acts 2::14, 36-41)

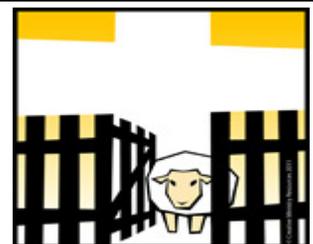
PSALM: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want (Ps 22:1-6)

SECOND READING: You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls (1 Peter 2:20-25)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: I am the gate of the sheepfold (John 10:1-10)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.



Next Sunday's Readings
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7
 Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
 1 Peter 2:4-9
 John 14:1-2