

St Vincent's Parish, Ashfield



A parish under the pastoral care of The Congregation of the Mission known as Vincentian priests and brothers.

12 Bland Street, Ashfield 2131 www.vinash.org.au E-mail vinstaff@vinash.org.au

Phone: 9798 2501; 9798 2503 (for urgent matters 0410 894 651) Fax: 9798 2504

Parish Office Hours: 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A September 14, 2014

The crux of the Christian message is contained in the notion of forgiveness. This week was the anniversary of that terrible assault on New York. At that time the US president impulsively sought revenge most brutal and asked for God to be on his side. It is the same message we receive from the radical Islamic terrorists that are decimating Syria and Iraq. This image of the righteous warrior God is so contrary to Jesus' teaching in today's gospel. What is this forgiveness that we are asked to enact not just perfectly 7 times but 77 times? Does it betray natural justice? Was this in fact Peter's question? It may be easy to forgive the offender when they take some sort of responsibility for the offence and they ask for forgiveness but what of that type of assault that is so beyond comprehension, when the rejoicing and evil perpetrators may have gone on further.

So many of us have experienced 'twin tower disasters' in our personal lives; the partner who suddenly leaves, the false accusation that wrecks a career or a reputation, leaving crumbling ruins behind. It was the old way of retribution that Jesus came to address. No longer an eye for an eye. Christian justice is very much bound in Christian love. We are not bound to like but to love in a constructive and healing way. I have read that St Augustine gave another image of Forgiveness as a Mother with two daughters called Justice and Compassion. It is capturing that sense of love within the forgiveness that is so much greater than the sense of hurt. Like the parents of the children killed in the MH17 disaster who wrote, "No hate in the world is as strong as the love we have for our children...our granddad...each other. This is a revelation that gives us some comfort."

Alexander Pope wrote that 'to err is human and to forgive is divine' and yet it is to this divine forgiveness model that we are called. As we have experienced, in humbleness, forgiveness, so we too have to forgive. We can call on divine assistance to be with us in this struggle. *Marguerite Martin*

Sydney Alliance Table Talks As a follow up to the Sydney Alliance Gathering that took place at the Sydney Town Hall on Wednesday 26th March, Fr. Alan is hosting a 4th table talk in the Parish Meeting Rooms on Sunday 14th September 2014 immediately after the 10am mass. The limit for the meeting will be one hour maximum. Morning tea will be provided. This is an opportunity to continue the conversation on housing, transport and employment opportunities to both young and indigenous people as a lead up to the State Elections next year. Please contact Fr. Alan should you wish to attend.

Ashfield St. Vincent De Paul Conference meeting Tuesday 16th September in the Parish meeting rooms at 7:15pm. New members are welcome

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting will take place on Monday 22nd September at 7:00pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms.

Parish Pastoral Council

The St. Vincent's Parish Pastoral Council is discussing initiating a Pastoral Planning Process which we hope would engage our diverse Ashfield community. The planning process will be developed to connect with all of our parishioners and the many groups and organizations that make up the rich tapestry of parish life of St. Vincent's. We will also reach out to connect with the groups and families in the wider community of Ashfield. The Pastoral Council is committed to guiding the planning process, and we will do our best to communicate and connect with you often about the progress of the planning process and the likely development of a St. Vincent's Pastoral Plan.

To begin our PPC conversation, we reflected on a couple of questions at our meeting this week. We would love to hear your thoughts in response to same questions:

If St. Vincent's Parish is to commence a process to develop a Parish Pastoral Plan, what would you like to see happen? How would you like to be involved? What community or parish groups do you suggest we could engage in conversation with about the ministries and mission of St. Vincent's Parish?

We hope each person will add their voice to this initiative—the richness of our community is in our diversity. We encourage your thoughts on email or by phone. You can connect with Fr. Alan or any member of the Pastoral Council, also we have established an email account stvincentspastoralplan@gmail.com to help communication throughout the process. Thanks and peace to all.

The Burse... the presentation of donations received through the Parents and Friends of the Vincentian Fathers and Brothers in Australia and Fiji, known as "The Burse" will take place at St. Anthony's Marsfield on Sunday 14th September commencing at 2:30pm. The Burse was formed some years ago to help educate men who wished to become Vincentian Priests and Brothers and who could not afford their own education.

New subscribers are now being sought and all that is required is an annual donation. No one is asked to give beyond their means and any amount will be gratefully received.

First Communion 2014 will be celebrated in St. Vincent's Parish on the 16 & 23 November. Registration forms are available at the back of the church.



Let them eat Cake.

Alerting all Masterchefs to the St Vincent's Celebration (21st September) Cake-Off Competition! Over the years we have had many extravagant cakes entered. This year there will be two categories awarded: Best Deco-

We celebrate **Social Justice Sunday on September 28**. This year's Social Justice Statement is titled: 'A Crown for Australia: Striving for the best in our sporting nation'. For further details about the Social Justice Statement, call (02) 8306 3499 or visit the Australian Catholic Justice Council website www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

REFUGE (a play about asylum seekers and refugees)

Australia's Refugee Policy has long been a great worry for many people. We present our play REFUGE to raise awareness, to voice concerns, to unite in solidarity with refugees & asylum seekers and to refuel campaigns for justice & refugee rights. REFUGE will premier at St. Luke's hall in Enmore, October 2-5, for four nights only. The play is interactive: the audience participates and bears witness, rather than observing passively. Six audience members can even put their hand up for a small part: a gatekeeper, a demonstrator, and anonymous detainee, etc. An invitation is extended to stay after the show for informal discussion. *Those who want a small part, please book by phone or email, and turn up half an hour before starting time to be briefed. No acting experience required.*

Booking & inquiries: 9665 6489 or kineticenergy@iprimus.com.au

Parish Masses this week:

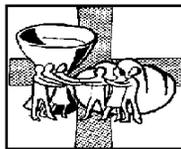
Monday 12 noon
Tuesday 7am
Wednesday 12 noon
Thursday 9am

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 4:00pm Sunday 9:00am



What did St Vincent say about our motivation?

To be consumed for God, to have no goods or power except for the purpose of expanding them for God. That is what our Saviour did himself, he who was consumed for love of his Father (Documents, vol 13, p179)

Can I accept Vincent's invitation to undertake this mission? How can I make God known to my co-workers through words and acts of charity?



Raffle Donations If you would like to donate a prize for the St Vincent's Day Raffle it would be greatly appreciated and can be left at the Parish Office.



Come & Join the Celebrations
in honour of our Parish Patron ★

★ **St Vincent de Paul** ★

Sunday 21st September 10am Mass

Celebration of Cultures in the Parish Hall

★ Sausage Sizzle ★ ★ ★
★ Snow cones ★ ★ ★
★ Cake Competition ★ ★ ★
★ Jumping Castle ★ ★ ★
★ Fairy Floss ★ ★ ★
★ Music..Dancing ★ ★ ★
★ Raffle ★ ★ ★
★ St. Vincent Art Colouring Competition ★ ★ ★

FOOD from all over the World

We'll look forward to seeing you there!!!

St Vincent's Feastday

RAFFLE:

Tickets are available
After Mass this weekend
50c each or 3 for \$1



Exaltation of the Holy Cross

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

FIRST READING: When those that were afflicted looked upon it, they were healed (Numbers 21:4-9)

PSALM: Do not forget the works of the Lord! (Ps 77:1-2, 34-38)

SECOND READING: He humbled himself, therefore God has exalted him (Philippians 2:6-11)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your cross you have redeemed the world. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: The Son of Man must be lifted up (John 3:13-17)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.



Next Sunday's Readings

St. Vincent de Paul

Isaiah 52:7-10

Ps 39 (40): 10-11a, 11b-12, 17-18a

1 Corinthians 1:26-31;

2:1-2

Matthew 5:1-12a