

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

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2014

I have that last minute panic personality! Maybe I am hooked on the adrenalin rush of panic to keep on doing it! When I bemoan about this terrible character trait I have a wonderful dear friend who says "I think it marvellous how you keep your options open!" Today's reading is about avoiding this style of complacency and leaving what is important to the last minute...to stay awake and be prepared to receive the most marvellous gift of all. *Marguerite Martin*

As Advent begins, is there something in your life that is ending? How might you look for the presence of Christ who comes to you in that place? Can we help one another to discover the difference between 'the life we live and the life we choose'. We can choose to make of our lives a journey in which every person we meet and every circumstance in which we find ourselves are a revelation of God's presence in our midst. God is both the road we travel and the destination of the pilgrimage on which we have embarked. Advent is a reminder to us to be alert along the way and to be open to seeing the unmistakable signs of God present in the people we meet and the events that happen to us. It's a reminder to us to live with the expectation that all in life is God's gift. The work God began in the ministry of Jesus, then, continues in our midst. We are faithful disciples not when we focus on the future and obsess about the end of the world but when we commit our lives, here and now, to the great work of God, repairing this world, shaping a new creation of beauty, grace, justice, and joy, leaning into the reign of God.

Claude Mostowick MSC

Come and See

Inquiry Sessions about our Faith will be every Sunday after 10am Mass in the Parish Office.

These are sessions for people who are interested in becoming Catholic.

Maybe you know someone who is interested and needs you to accompany them....Invite them! **All welcome**

Dates for the Diary:

- **St. Vincent De Paul Society, Ashfield Conference** will be selling Christmas Cards at all Masses this Sunday 30th November 2014. Cost: \$3 for a pack of 10 cards.
- **St. Vincent De Paul Society Christmas Appeal** will take place next Sunday 7th December at all Masses and at the 9:00am Mass at Cardinal Freeman Village Chapel. Envelopes will be on the seats for people to donate on this Appeal.
- **Christmas Hamper** Anyone wishing to donate items of non perishable food and gifts may do so by leaving these items in any of the baskets below the Advent tree from today until Sunday December 14.

Adoration and Benediction will take place in the Church from 6pm—7pm on Thursday 4th December.

Thank You Party

All parishioners are invited to a "Thank You Party" at the parish office on Wednesday, 10th December at 7:00pm.

The Parish Men's Group will hold a FREE BBQ Sausage Sizzle after all Masses on Sunday December 14 in the playground. Please spare 10 minutes or so to meet and greet fellow parishioners.

An Evening of Carols

The 6:00pm Choir invites you to join us in song and getting in the spirit of Christmas

FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER
at 7:30pm

"REDEEM" Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections 2014 now available at \$4.00, and COLUMBAN CALENDARS 2015 also available at \$10 from the Church Wardens or from the Parish Office.

PARISH STAFF: *Fr. Alan Gibson CM*
Carmen Yap

Marguerite Martin

Year of Consecrated Life:

In 2013, Pope Francis declared that a Year of Consecrated Life (YCL) be celebrated throughout the world. YCL will begin on the First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2014. It will close on the World Day of Consecrated Life, February 2, 2016

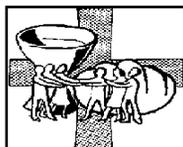
2014 Advent Calendar and APP now

available The Archdiocese of Sydney social network Xt3.com has released its 2014 Advent Calendar. The online calendar, also available as a free App for iPhone, iPad and Android devices, features daily reflections and multimedia resources to help you make the most of the season of Advent. View the Calendar online at www.xt3.com/advent or search "xt3 Advent" in the Google Play or App Store.

Fr. Jacques Philippe in Sydney author and spiritual director, Fr. Philippe's writings have become modern spiritual classics. His books include: *Searching for and Maintaining Peace, In the School of the Holy Spirit, Thirsting for God, Called to Life, Time for God, and the Way of Trust and Love*. Several events will be held in December, including the "Called to Life" retreat for young people exploring their life's purpose (**Dec 5-7**), Retreat Day for Women (**Dec 10**), Youth Adoration and Catechesis (**Dec 9**) and a Public talk on 'Prayer and Work' (**Dec 11**). For more info, visit www.vocationcentre.org.au/jp, search on **Facebook** "Fr Jacques Philippe in Sydney" or call 02 9307 8422.

Parish Masses this week:

Monday 12 noon
Tuesday 7 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 4:00pm Sunday 9:00am

All are invited

"Two evenings — two themes", an Advent program to prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas.

Wednesdays, December 3 and 10, 7:30—9:00pm. The themes are *Abundance and Joy*, both drawn from Pope Francis' exhortation to the whole church, *Evangelii Gaudium* (the Joy of the Gospel).

Refreshments at the end of each sessions.

Donation to cover cost appreciated.

Location: Grail Centre, 22 McHatton Street, North Sydney

Telephone no.: 9955 3053

Email grailsydney@ozemail.com.au

St. Mary's Cathedral Presents

LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS 2014

The unique and spectacular Lights of Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral will this year be launched on Tuesday 9 December and run through to and including Christmas Day night. Each night there will be music entertainment before the projections begin at 8.30pm and go to midnight. Hosted by the Archdiocese of Sydney the presenting partner this year is PAYCE and the theme is service – giving what we can to our family, friends and the community. Bring your family and friends to Cathedral Square for a free stunning display of laser lights and the true meaning of Christmas.

Australian Guild of St. Stephen Our next altar servers camp will be in Brisbane. The Cathedral in Brisbane is named St. Stephen. Therefore, our travel to Brisbane will be a St. Stephen's Pilgrimage, beginning in Sydney, on Sunday 4th January 2015 and returning on Saturday 10th January 2015. Brochures giving further information are now in the church foyer.

First Sunday in Advent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING: Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down (Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8)

PSALM: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved (Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19)

SECOND READING: The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord (1 Corinthians 1:3-9)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come (Mark 13:33-37)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.



Next Sunday's Readings

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Ps 84:9-14

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8