

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

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2014

It would seem most families have the odd family member and today we meet the eccentric of Jesus family. I wonder if Elizabeth was alive to see what her son had become! Would she still exalt the Lord or would she be wringing her hands begging him to come back to a more secure lifestyle where she could look after him or at least comb the burrs out of his beard! There are few characters in the bible that actually get their appearances described but here in Mark we get that little snapshot of John. He is described as the eccentric but for a reason. This is the garb of the early great prophets who preached for God. However John's preaching was different. His mission was to point to Jesus and his immanence! John's Advent message is Be prepared. This preparation with John was different. The historian of that time Josephus reported that John urged those who listened to take on justice, humility and neighbourly love. It was from this charitable virtue they came to John's baptism as the ritual of forgiveness and renewal of purpose, with John preaching preparedness for the one with the more powerful baptism. Vincent also preached that... be prepared to meet Christ in the poor.

Marguerite Martin

Monday 22nd December 7:00pm

Communal Penitential Service in preparation for Christmas. Sacramental Reconciliation will be available

Conversations about Catholics

You may be married to a Catholic and have catholic children and need to ask **those** questions about what you find strange! We are meeting in the St Vincent's Hall @ 9am or the Parish Office @ 6.30pm next Tuesday. Honestly No Pressure!

Come and See Are you interested in what we believe?

You are most welcome to join us at the Parish House (12 Bland St) after the 10 am Mass most Sundays. If you have never been baptised or come from another faith tradition or want to revitalise your faith you are most welcome. Ring Marguerite 97982501 or 0414566961.

Visitation Request A member of the parish community has requested visitation in the home. The preference would be if two people could come forward. Please see Fr. Alan for further details.

St. Vincent De Paul Society Christmas

Appeal will take place today. Please find envelopes on the seats 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 until Sunday December 14.

Parish Pastoral Council

The next meeting will take place on Monday 8th December at 7pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms.

The Parish **MEN'S GROUP** will meet this coming **Tuesday 9th December at 7:30pm in the Parish House**, any new participants would be most welcome.

Bethlehem College will be celebrating their end of the year Mass with the parish on Wednesday 10th December at the 12pm (midday) Mass. It is anticipated that the Mass on this day will be for a duration of 45 to 50 minutes. Rows of seats will be reserved for parishioners.

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

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.

Looking to get more out of your summer? Why not come along to the annual iWitness Conference!

As the year draws to close, hundreds of young Catholics come to together for a weekend of fun, relaxation and enrichment – all while soaking up by the sun by the beautiful Collaroy beach! There's talks, perpetual adoration, a range of outdoor activities and a hundreds of joyful, exuberant young adults. Be inspired. Be challenged. Go to www.lifetothefull.com.au for more details and to register! Dec 11th – 14th!



CHRISTMAS 2014

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Wednesday, 24th December

6:00pm	Christmas Eve – Children's Mass
8:00pm	Christmas Eve
10:00pm	Polish Mass
12:00am	Midnight Mass

Thursday, 25th December

8:00am	Christmas Day
10:00am	Christmas Day
12:00pm	Polish Mass

There will be NO evening Mass in English or Polish on Thursday night
Please note there will be 9:00am Mass on Christmas Day at Cardinal Freeman Village (137 Victoria Street Ashfield)

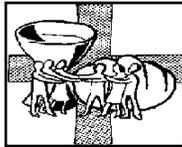
St. Mary's Cathedral Presents

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.

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

Second Sunday in Advent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

FIRST READING: Prepare the way for the Lord (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11)

PSALM: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Ps 84:9-14)

SECOND READING: We wait for new heavens and a new earth (2 Peter 3:8-14)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths; all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Make straight the paths of the Lord (Mark 1:1-8)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.



Next Sunday's Readings

Third Sunday of
Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Luke 1:46-50, 53-54

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28