

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

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2014

It has been a conflicting week where the sacredness and preciousness of young life has been harshly hammered home. We want to blame and to point fingers at a religion or a nationality or at a refugee policy or at a court system or a mental health system but the blaming doesn't rid us of the shock that this could happen here, liberty taken in the heart of Sydney in the ordinariness of life and the death of two people, unknown to us last weekend but now known fully as three dimensional figures filled out with the love of the people who knew them. The stories emerging are of two good people who cared deeply for friends and family who deserved the greatest gift of all....Life.

Later this week the diabolical news from Pakistan could only be likened to Massacre of the Holy Innocents. Even in a country that has become more complacent to harsh and violent acts this senseless cruelty has brought that country and us to our knees. All these young lives have been angels, their existence has brought the meaning of life to the people who have loved and cherished them. It is out of this darkness that little sparks of beauty are being born, life is being embraced and valued. Flowers on the footpath, # Ride with me. Our Christmas gift is New Life. The angel said to Mary, "Do not be afraid!"

Marguerite Martin

Parish Pastoral Plan Update

As part of forming the parish pastoral plan, the Parish Councils will be holding a series of informal discussions over the next couple of months on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges for the parish.

The Parish needs your input so that it can focus on priorities and key challenges over the next 5 years.

In the next few weeks a list of parish talks will be placed on the noticeboard in the church entrance. These will be hosted by members of the Parish Pastoral Council with different dates and venues being offered.

For any further information, call Stephen Fenn on 0423 027 657.

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)

Monday 22nd December 7:00pm

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

Christmas Roster for Readers & Eucharistic Ministers Volunteers are still needed for both of these ministries at all of our Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. If you are able to help please contact the Parish Office.

THANK YOU to the Men's Group on behalf of the parish a big thank you to the Men's Group who put on the BBQ after every mass last Sunday. Your efforts last weekend were very much appreciated by all. *Fr. Alan*

There will be NO 12noon Mass on Wednesday 24th December

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

Marguerite Martin

Tabernacle in Blessed Sacrament Chapel

I wish to make a request. It is great to see parishioners using the Blessed Sacrament Chapel to pray when opportunities present themselves. Anyone wishing to pray there is most welcome but is asked to please do so without lifting the curtain on the tabernacle.

Fr. Alan

The Parish Men's Group wishes to thank the parishioners that helped make the Christmas Sausage Sizzle a big success last weekend. A big thank you to our secret Santa (aka Maria Lee) who arranged the donation of the sausages and also thank you to Fr. Alan who has supported the Men's Group throughout the year.

The Men's group meets on the second Tuesday of each month February thru to December.

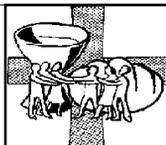


Parish Masses this week:

Monday 12 noon
Tuesday 7 am
Wednesday No Mass
Thursday Christmas day Masses
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



St. Vincent de Paul Ashfield Conference wishes to thank everyone for your support during the year through the poor boxes, appeals and donations. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

BREKKI VAN & NIGHT PATROL

Any parishioners wishing to take part in Night Patrol or Brekki Van, is invited to attend official training on January 15th @Lewisham. Email me for details.

We have been given a slot for Brekki Van on Saturday January 31st, you are most welcome to form part of the team that goes out.

We will begin collecting long-life milk, juice, poppers, cake bars, biscuits and toiletries, a tub will be placed in the narthex of the church. Closer to the day we will accept any donations of bacon, eggs, bread and fruit. Many thanks in advance, for the generosity of your time and your gifts of food to those who have it tougher than ourselves.

You may contact me via email on sinead.kent@syd.catholic.edu.au for any details or queries you may have.

*Wishing you and your families
A Happy and Holy Christmas!!!*

Sinead

I Lead 15 will give you the skills essential in leading other people to higher levels of achievement in their spiritual, personal and professional lives.

Date: 4th—7th January 2015

Venue: Mt. Carmel Retreat Centre
247 St. Andrews Road Varroville NSW

Cost: \$159 includes 4 nights accommodation, food and all activities/training

Registration & Information: ilead.thecatholicguy.com
or ph 1300 734 880

Fourth Sunday in Advent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING: The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16)

PSALM: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29)

SECOND READING: The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed (Romans 16: 25-27)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: You will conceive and bear a son (Luke 1:26-38)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.



Next Sunday's Readings

Holy Family

Genesis 15;1-6, 21:1-3

Ps 104:1-6,8-9

Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Luke 2:22-40