

# 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

**Christmas**

**December 25, 2014**

## Christmas

### Midnight Mass

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.

**FIRST READING:** A son is given to us (Isaiah 9:1-7)

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord (Ps 95:1-3. 11-13)

**SECOND READING:** God's grace has been revealed to all people (Titus 2.11-14)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia, alleluia! Good news and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

**GOSPEL:** Today a Saviour has been born for you (Luke 2.1-14)

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** The word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

### Masses during the 6pm (children's), 8pm (Christmas Eve), 8am, 10am, (Christmas Day)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us.; and he will be called wondrous God, Prince of peace, Father of future ages: and his reigns will be without end.

**FIRST READING:** Your Saviour is born (Isaiah 62:11-12)

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.

**SECOND READING:** His own compassion saved us (Titus 3:4-7)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia, alleluia! Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger (Luke 2:15-20)

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Rejoice, O Daughter Sion; lift up praise, Daughter Jerusalem: Behold, your King will come, the Holy One and Saviour of the world.



★ The Parish Staff, Fr. Alan Gibson CM,  
★ Marguerite Martin  
★ and Carmen Yap,  
★ wish all members of our community  
★ of St Vincent's  
★ the fullness of the God's blessings for  
★ this Christmas Season.  
★ On behalf of the Parish we thank  
★ all those who by their generous gifts  
★ of time and resources have contributed  
★ so much to our parish over the past year.



**Fr. Alan's Absence** Fr. Alan will be away from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January until Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January. We welcome Fr. Jim Maloney CM who will celebrate the weekday and Sunday masses (8am and 10am) and will be available for any urgent matters during that time.

How to be a Witness to Christ.

Francis of Assisi experienced a real conversion. I think it was a conversion to this kindness. Shortly afterwards, he was praying in the little church of San Damiano in Assisi. He heard Jesus speak to him. Jesus said: 'Go, Francis, rebuild my church – it is in ruins'. Francis did. He rebuilt it when he put kindness into it. That little church was a symbol of the situation of the church itself at that time.

That was in 1205. Two years later, Pope Innocent 3<sup>rd</sup>, had a dream. In it he saw the cathedral of the Lateran in Rome, the mother church of all Christianity. The pope, in his dream, saw it falling down, but being held up and carried on the shoulders of an insignificant little beggar. It was Francis. Francis did it by kindness. Francis was a kind person.

Dante wrote the Divine Comedy. In it he told of the birth of Francis of Assisi. He wrote: 'A sun has dawned on the world'. He would rebuild the whole church. He would make it kind.

One way he chose to do that, was to move out from the internal problems that were central to the church to the human problems on the periphery of the church, that were central to human beings everywhere. There were people on the periphery of the church then, and Francis brought them kindness. There are people now who are on the periphery of the church, and on the periphery of just about everything in the world, too. One of the peripheries of our time is the enormous number of homeless people, displaced people, illegal immigrants, refugees, people without documentation.... They are everywhere. They belong somewhere else. There is no somewhere else. That is why they understand kindness. They need it. They don't get much of it.

Francis of Assisi, for the feast of Christmas, built and displayed a crib. It was a living crib, composed of living persons and live animals. But the principal ones in that crib were not the ox and the ass, not the shepherds and the sheep, not the magi kings and their gifts, but a young couple who could not get a room in the local inn.

Joseph had come to the town of his ancestors, but he came as someone who possessed nothing there, he came as a foreigner, he came as a stranger. With no food. He did not ask for food. He came as a hungry man. He was hungry for kindness. He asked for kindness. Not for himself, but for his hungry, and very young, wife, and for her hungry, and just born, baby.

The name of this town was Bethlehem. In Hebrew that word means 'house of bread'. At this Christmas time, around the world, there are millions of people suffering and dying from hunger. They have no bread, or rice. Hunger is one of the chief weapons of mass destruction in our times. Now there are only two absolutes: God, and hunger. Each of them needs kindness. Our kindness.

On this Christmas night, we might go a step beyond the charm of the angels around the crib, and pray for the whole world, for our planet Earth, pray that it become a Bethlehem, a house of bread, a house of bread under whose roof every human being can find food, and a place of repose, and kindness.

This Christmas when you are given Eucharistic communion, the bread of Life, you receive the kindness of God.

*Fr Kevin O' Shea*

#### Parish Masses this week:

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

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

New Year's Day 9:00am Sunday 9:00am



Parish Office will be closed from Thursday 25th December to Wednesday 14th January. Office will reopen on Thursday 15th January 2015. There will be no bulletins during those weeks.

### Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

**ENTRANCE PROCESSION:** The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

**FIRST READING:** Your Son shall be your heir (Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3)

**PSALM:** The Lord remembers his covenant for ever (Ps 104:1-6, 8-9)

**SECOND READING:** The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac (Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom (Luke 2:22-40)

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.



Next Sunday's Readings  
The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13  
Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6  
Matthew 2:1-12