

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

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time B

January 18, 2015

This week's readings are about the Call, hearing and responding. Firstly little Samuel is called so persistently by the Lord, nagged really, but needed blind, old and wise Eli to give meaning to the call, an interpretation. Without Eli maybe God's voice would not have been heard and Samuel would not have grown to be the powerful figure in the Old Testament. The call in John's gospel has the same elements, someone to interpret and someone called. John the Baptist is the interpreter who had been prepared for this role for all time. He recognises and knows Jesus as the Lamb of God, the Saviour, the long awaited Messiah and announces that fact to the two who would listen. But how could one tell? Jesus challenged them with the tantalising question what was their longing? and they replied wanting to know where he lived. It was when they entered that space with Jesus that they answered the call. What is a call? It was a word that we used to describe Vocations to Religious life and priesthood, which left the rest of us of the hook but did it? A call is to become a more authentic being, at one with God, compassionate to others, contributing to the good of all. In this way the kingdom of God can exist. Andrew and Peter met Jesus, spent time with Jesus, possibly ate with him and shared that vision. It was a call that was to take them from the fishing nets of Lake Galilee and into the world of seeing all as people that matter, absolutely; and into the world of politics both church and state.

So for us as Christians and in the light of recent world events where people have translated calls to authenticity in a brutal and barbarous manner, we can also see that this is not God's way. Our gentle God is a God of love. Our God is also a God of action, direct action to the poor, the needy, the stolen and the grieving.

St Vincent de Paul who went and met Jesus and was changed in his call spoke

"From all eternity God has his thoughts and designs on you...." 13 Feb 1646

We are all instrumental in bringing Jesus to life, maybe as an interpreter or maybe as a receiver of the call.

Marguerite Martin

Parish Pastoral Plan To engage the parish in the next stage of the Parish Pastoral Plan, members of the Parish Pastoral Council will be hosting small group discussions over the next two weeks. Two of these have been scheduled to date. The first is on Monday 19th January at 7:00pm and the second is on Wednesday 21st January at 12:30pm. Parishioners wishing to attend those talks are asked to put their name down on the list in the church foyer.

Liturgy Group Meetings A liturgy meeting to prepare the Season of Lent and commence planning for the rest of the year, will take place on **Wednesday 28th January at 7:00pm** in the Parish Meeting Rooms. All Parishioners either currently involved in or are interested in Liturgy are invited to attend. Any parishioner or parish groups wishing to make either announcements or presentations are especially requested to attend this meeting.

Catechist Sunday will take place on Sunday 1st February. New volunteers are needed to take on this important ministry to our children in our State schools. Any one considering taking on this ministry are asked to contact either Marguerite or Fr. Alan at the Parish Office.

Finance Committee Meeting will take place on Sunday 4th February at 7pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms.

FREE SPIRITUAL GYM MEMBERSHIP!!

Maybe your New Year Resolution was to deepen your faith. So often we want to firm the flabbiness on the outside when the flabbiness inside is what counts!

Need some help? Our RCIA group meet most Sundays after the 10am Mass in the Parish House 12 Bland St (Over the road), for some it could lead to baptism, for others a deepening of faith that we can celebrate this Easter or beyond. All are welcome! Turn up or call Marguerite 0414566961

ST VINCENT DE PAUL BREKKIE VAN

We are taking out the SVde P Brekkie Van on Saturday January 31st.

Can you assist with donations of long-life milk, juice, cake bars, biscuits and toiletries? These will be collected in the basket in the foyer of the church. Closer to the date we will ask for donations of bacon, eggs, bread and fruit.

Thank you in advance and confident of your generosity. Sinéad (sinead.kent@syd.catholic.edu.au)

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

Training Workshop for Readers at Mass The next session will be held at St. Jerome's Parish Punchbowl on two consecutive Saturdays 7 & 14 February 2015. Time 9:30am—12pm. **Registration is essential:** forms and further details are available on the Liturgy Office website www.liturgy.sydneycatholic.org.

Synod Family Survey Just a reminder the 2015 Synod family survey is open to all parishioners. This second survey comprises 30 questions for the consideration and response of the faithful. This can be done electronically at www.sydneycatholic.org/survey/2015 or by hard copy to the Life, Marriage and Family Centre, Level 11, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney 2000. All **responses to be received by COB 2 February 2015** so that they can be consolidated and sent to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference before they are sent on to the Synod Secretariat in Rome.

Parish Masses this week:

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

Reconciliation: Saturday 8:10am to 8:40am

Morning Prayer: Saturday 8:40am

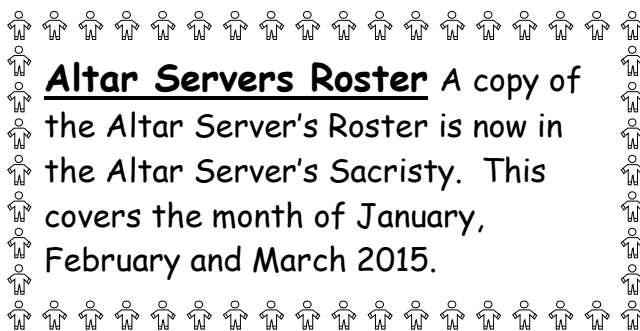
Saturday 9:00am Rosary after Mass

Sunday: 8am, 10:00am 6:00pm

Polish Mass 12 noon

Cardinal Freeman Village Chapel

Tuesday 4:00pm Sunday 9:00am



Altar Servers Roster A copy of the Altar Server's Roster is now in the Altar Server's Sacristy. This covers the month of January, February and March 2015.

Volunteers Needed to Work with Students from Refugee Background

Mercy Connect Sydney - a project of Mercy Works - is seeking volunteers to mentor students from a refugee background in primary and secondary schools, predominantly located in the South, south Western and Western areas of Sydney. Volunteers commit to working with the students for at least half a day per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is an advantage. Retired teachers are encouraged to apply. Training will be provided in February 2015. Please contact Julie at Mercy Connect Sydney 9564 1911, mcsp@mercy.org.au, www.mercyworks.org.au

Evangelii Gaudium

"Sometimes it is a matter of hearing the cry of entire peoples, the poorest people of the earth...we must never forget that the planet belongs to all mankind and is meant for all mankind; the mere fact that some people are born in places with fewer resources or less development does not justify the fact that they are living with less dignity...We need to grow in a solidarity which 'would allow all peoples to become artisans of their own destiny', since every person is called to self-fulfilment."

Par 190 from *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis, Nov. 24, 2013

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time B

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

FIRST READING: Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening (1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19)

PSALM: Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will (Ps 39:2, 4, 7-10)

SECOND READING: Your bodies are members of the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: They saw where Jesus lived and they stayed with him (John 1:35-42)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: You have prepared a table before me, and how Precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.



Next Sunday's Readings
Third Sunday in Ordinary
Time B

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Ps 24:4-9

1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20