

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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time B

February 15, 2015

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand. We pay our respects to them and for their care of the land.
May we walk gently and respectfully upon the land.

We have become very good at naming and classifying people. It lets everyone get a clear picture of that person through that label. You know the ones we use all the time....drug addict/ alcoholic/ illegal immigrant/dole bludger/granny driver. All these terms conjure up images and perceptions that reduce a person to one aspect, possibly their worst sin. God knows we are greater than that.

In Jesus' time the classification of Leper was the worst. The leper was the great untouchable and a person dead to society.

It is into this aspect of humanity that Jesus came with God's message that everyone matters, absolutely. What did Jesus see when the Leper pleaded to be cleaned? Jesus saw the whole man, not just the disease. He saw the leper's heart and soul. He felt his misery and also foresaw his LIFE potential. Jesus felt full compassion, entering into the man's whole condition, not just the disease and the label. And then Jesus did what no-one would do...Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him....how powerful was that touch...for us all. It will be the gesture for Christianity! We know of Fr Damien of Molokai who reached out to Lepers, we know of Mother Teresa reaching out to the dying in Calcutta, today we witness a Pope who is willing to reach out and touch in a gesture of healing and inclusion, that is reassuring us that in God's kingdom, Everyone matters, absolutely.

As we prepare for Lent this coming week, let us consider some of the "no go Parts" of ourselves. Those leprous aspects of our person and personality that are hidden but they hurt and need healing. Let us with full confidence plead with the knowledge that Jesus will stretch out his hand and touch us and heal us with the words 'Of course I want to" be part of you!
Marguerite Martin

Lenten Discussion Groups will be starting in the First Week of Lent! Fr Alan will be leading a small group on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in the Meeting Rooms starting 19 February. If you would like to join this group or be in another group please indicate on the sheets on the notice boards at the back of the church or ring the Parish Office so enough resources can be obtained.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

will meet in the Parish Office on Monday 16th February at 7pm.



ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

18th FEBRUARY 2015

There will be 2 Masses in the parish for Ash Wednesday, 12 noon (midday) and 6:30 pm

CATECHISTS FOR SCHOOL FOR 2015

Both catechists and assistant catechists are still required for both our state primary and high schools. Training and ongoing support will be provided. This is a great need at present in our parish for parishioners to come forward and volunteer in this way. It also represents a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people. For those who are available during the day on either a Wednesday (Primary School) or a Thursday (High School during the school terms, please consider this very important ministry. Please either see Fr. Alan, Marguerite or contact the parish office if you would like to help in this way.

Fr. Alan

★ ★
Welcome Carol Vestjens and Lonell Wicks into St Vincent's Community. Carol and Lonell are preparing for full communion at Easter.



PARISH PASTORAL PLAN Two groups in the parish have met to further discuss the Parish Pastoral Plan. Further dates and times for future discussion groups will be advertised in the parish bulletin over the next few weeks. Parishioners interested in joining a discussion group are asked to put their name down on the list located in the Church foyer.

EASTER LITURGIES The Liturgy Committee met last Wednesday evening.

The times of the Easter liturgies are as follows:

Tuesday 24th March at 7pm

Thursday 2nd April (Holy Thursday) at 7pm

Friday 3rd April (Good Friday) at 10am

Friday 3rd April (Good Friday) at 3pm

Saturday 4th April (Holy Saturday) at 7pm

Sunday 5th April (Sunday) 8am, 10am, 6pm

Communal Rite of Reconciliation

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Stations of the Cross (Church and Park)

The Passion of the Lord

Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday

Kung Hei Fat Choi!!!

St Bakhita Centre for Sudanese Refugees,

2 Hornsey Rd, Flemington (Homebush West) is again in need of volunteers. Hours are 9.30 – 12.45

Tuesday to Friday; or 5.30pm – 8:00pm (approx.) on Thursday evening. Volunteers usually volunteer for one session only. We are urgently in need of:

1. English Teachers for English as a second language
2. Sewing Teacher Thursday morning
3. Child Minders for each morning
4. Early Education Teachers or Pre-School Trained Volunteers Thursday and Friday mornings
5. Anyone who can assist with Basic Computer Skills
6. Support for courses in Business and Community Service/Driving Theory/Citizenship

If you can assist, please contact Sr Maria Sullivan on 0408 615 671 or mariasull@bigpond.com

Parish Masses this week:

Monday 12 noon

Tuesday 7 am

Wednesday 12 noon & 6:30pm

Thursday 9 am

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

Morning Prayer: Saturday 8:40am

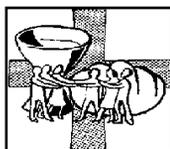
Saturday 9:00am Rosary after Mass

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

Polish Mass 12 noon

Cardinal Freeman Village Chapel

Tuesday 4:00pm Sunday 9:00am



A note for your diary... Parish Dinner will be held on Saturday night May 2nd in the De La Salle & Bethlehem College Hall. More details to come.

Parish Men's Group met last Tuesday night the group felt that it should be more than just putting on two parish barbecues a year a decision was made to explore the situation of domestic violence within our community and its effect on people. Over the next few months the group will be inviting speakers on the subject which all parishioners will be invited to attend.

St. Benedict Monastery Christian Meditation

2015 You are invited to the four Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Days for 2015 at St. Benedict Monastery, 121 Arcadia Road, Arcadia. Tel. no. 9653 1159. Sundays: 17 May, 16 August and 15 November. Arrival 10am for 10:30am. Presentations, Introduction to Christian Meditation, two periods of meditation, Eucharistic Celebration and information exchange. Conclusion: around 3pm. Books and CDs are available for sale, BYO picnic lunch, tea and coffee provided. Self-catering overnight accommodation may be available in the monastery guest house. Contact Bro Terry at 0438 282 318. Enquiries: Ann Bergman anniebergman@hotmail.com or 9498 1625/Ann Lomas at lomas@bigpond.com or 9456 4775.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time B

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name,

FIRST READING: As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp (Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46)

PSALM: I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with joy of salvation (Ps 31:1-2, 5, 11)

SECOND READING: Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people Alleluia!

GOSPEL: The leprosy has left him and he was cured (Mark 1:40-45)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.



Next Sunday's Readings

First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-15

Ps 24:4-9

1 Peter 3: 18-22

Mark 1:12-15