

# 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

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**March 15, 2015**

## Which Way Authority

I wonder why it is that I find it difficult to respect so many who claim to be authority figures. There is something very subtle about real authority. It's not elected or chosen by oneself. It seems to come from a deep place where personal reality and living one's truth is embraced. Adults respond to it. Children respond to it. Many teachers have it. Parents strive for it. Governments and religions impose it. But it's nothing to do with loud voices or threats of punishment. Individuals who have this aura of authority are both courageous and challenging.

Two thousand years ago the people of Capernaum recognised this in Jesus. He seemed to carry in his heart and on his shoulders the weight of people's dreams for a better, more just world. He spoke with an authority that tapped into people's need to connect with something they identified as TRUTH.

There is an old saying that if you stick out your neck far enough someone will cut off your head. In other words, if someone regularly and courageously stands up for, speaks out about or lives out their belief, whatever it is, they'll run into opposition. We call such people prophetic figures. These are sometimes admired, sometimes mocked and sometimes just dismissed.

Prophets don't foretell the future, they name the present properly...often in a way that exposes its faithlessness and injustice. There is a difference between a critic and a prophet. A critic stands outside and mocks; but a prophet remains clear eyed and conscientious inside a system they see as flawed .....and love it anyway. A true prophet is also a mystic. Prophecy is nourished by mysticism and flows out of it otherwise it is nothing more than good sense.

I believe that parents who live a faith filled life are prophetic figures. In the face of subtle opposition from society, or adult children who make fun of faith practices, or worse still, show a kind of amused tolerance towards matters of faith, many parents stand firm in their beliefs. It's their relationship with God that supports them through the disappointment and hurt that is often the lot of the prophet. Their faith is strong, and as Jesus showed over and over again, it is faith in God that brings HEALING and LIFE to the world.

*Judith Lynch tarellaspirituality.com*

## **Parish Pastoral Plan**

The next discussion group for the Parish Pastoral Plan will take place on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm** in the Parish Meeting Rooms.

## **Monday 16th March 2015**

Fr. Jim will be away this Monday a **Communion Service** will take place at 12 pm.

## **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm** in the Parish Meeting Rooms.

## **FR. ALAN'S ABSENCE**

Fr. Alan will be away for two weeks from Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March until Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015. Fr. Jim Maloney will celebrate the weekday Masses and the 8am and 10am on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March. A visiting Priest will celebrate the 6pm Masses on those two Sundays.

**Confirmation** Program first meeting will be on **18 March** in the Parish Office. If your child is in 6<sup>th</sup> class and over and wants to seal their initiation into the Church please fill out the registration form in the foyer and return to Marguerite at the Parish Office. Confirmation will take place on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May at 2:30pm

## **Reconciliation Service**

A Reconciliation Service in preparation for Easter will take place on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm**. The Sacrament of Reconciliation itself will be made available in this time.

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation and Anointing Mass at Cardinal Freeman Village**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation at Cardinal Freeman Village will take place on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 9am**. This will be followed by mass at 10:30am which will include the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.



## **EASTER LITURGIES**

The times of the Easter liturgies are as follows:

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April (Holy Thursday) at 7pm

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April (Good Friday ) at 10am

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April (Good Friday) at 3pm

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April (Holy Saturday) at 7pm

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 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

## **Vincentian Student House in the Solomon Islands**

Parishioners may remember that in March last year that there was an appeal to provide adequate accommodation and drinking water at our student house in the Solomon Islands. A report and photos showing how this money has been used is now on our notice board in the foyer. A further \$AUD4200.00 is required to complete the project. For those wishing to donate to this project a **leaving collection will be taken up on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April**. Alternatively other ways of making a donation can be done at any time by making out a cheque payable to the Vincentian Fathers and giving it into the parish office or can be made by going to the Vincentian website [www.vincentians.org.au](http://www.vincentians.org.au)

### **Parish Masses this week:**

Monday 12 noon Communion Service

Tuesday 7:00 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

**Fr Alan would like to thank** all the people who represented our Parish as part of the 'On the Block Open Day'. The open hospitality of our parish was clearly evident by the support that was given to the sausage sizzle offered to prospective new comers to 'the block' and the church guides who were ready and willing to show our church to visitors .

**Parish Men's Group** will meet next Tuesday night (March 17th) at 7:30pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms. An informal gathering of discussion and prayer. All new and past participants would be most welcome.

**Parish Website** There have been a number of new postings on our parish website over the past couple of weeks regarding groups in the Parish. The Cenacle of the Marian Movement of Priests, Music at 8am at St. Vincent's Ashfield, St. Vincent de Paul Conference and St. Vincent's Sunday Children's Liturgy have all now been added to the website. To view this information please go to website

[http://www.vinash.org.au/parish\\_group.html](http://www.vinash.org.au/parish_group.html)

**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.**

## **Fourth Sunday of Lent (readings from Year A)**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.

Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**FIRST READING:** In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David King of Israel (1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13)

**PSALM:** **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want** (Ps 22)

**SECOND READING:** Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you (Ephesians 5:8-14)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** **Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**GOSPEL:** The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored (John 9:1-41)

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.



### **Next Sunday's Readings**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent A**

**Ezekiel 37: 12-14**

**Ps 129**

**Romans 8:8-11**

**John 11:3-7. 17. 20-27, 33-45**