

# 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 Easter B

April 26, 2015

Always when I read these parts of the gospels I resent my sheep status. The sheep has no great intelligence, very little cunning, and a sheep is cultivated for the benefit of humanity. One could say it is a service animal, certainly not one that people long to keep affectionately or domestically.

Attached to care for these ordinary animals is the shepherd. The shepherds of old were not the beautifully white flowing garbed, sensitive, kindly looking men that pictures of the Good Shepherd would have us believe but people suited to the job of minding dumb animals and making sure they eat, drink and are not eaten by predators. In the job profile there would not have been to many qualifications or skills needed, in fact Shepherds were not overly reliable type of characters.

Yet from this, we have been given the most powerful Christian image. This is a Jesus we can get into the extremely ordinary events of life. A shepherd who walks over craggy, rocky terrain, looking to give his sheep green pastures; and ever vigilant, safe grazing. Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd... and I lay down my life for my sheep." Jesus makes the distinction. He is the shepherd that breaks the mould, he cares for the sheep. He knows each of his sheep intimately so they cease to become just one of the flock but a sheep known and cared for by him, to the extent he will give his life for each sheep.

Maybe my sheep status isn't so bad!

*Marguerite Martin*

**Congratulations to the Candidates for Confirmation** who today have formally enrolled in the Confirmation program. We welcome you.

**Ashfield Charismatic Prayer Group** will start its first Fellowship Night for 2015 this coming Monday 27 April from 7.00pm to 8.00pm at the Parish Meeting Rooms.

A warm welcome invitation is extended to all Parishioners from St. Vincent's to join us for a cuppa and a chat. We look forward to see you there!

**Today, on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, is the 52<sup>nd</sup> World Day of Prayer for Vocations.** In addition to praying for your own vocation, the world-wide Church invites you to pray for those you might know whom God may be calling to a priestly or religious vocation and would benefit from your prayers.

### **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 6:30pm** in the Parish Meeting Rooms.

### **1st Charitable Works Funds Appeal**

will take place at all Masses on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Envelopes will be placed in the seats for anyone wishing to donate and these can be placed on either the first or the second collection. Thank you for your continue support of this important work.

**Workshop for Lectors (Readers)** A training session will be held in the Church on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May from 7pm-8:30pm. Both current and those wishing to become lectors (readers) at either the weekday or Sunday masses are invited to attend.

### **Workshop for Ministers of the Eucharist**

A training session will be held in the Church on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May from 7pm to 8:30pm. Both current and those wishing to become Ministers of the Eucharist (giving out communion) at either the weekday or Sunday masses are invited to attend.

## **Annual Parish Dinner Next Saturday May 2, 7pm.**

***Come along and have an enjoyable night with fellow parishioners.***

A limited number of acceptances can still be taken.

A representative from the Dinner Committee will be at the back of the church after all masses to answer any questions people may have.

## ANZAC Day

The First World War I, have heard described as the Uncles war, because these young men who died where the brothers of those who remained to bear the next generation.

The horror of this war that we celebrate within our secular society as 'the sacrament of Australia' is the memorial day for so many who went to war and were killed. It is important that we do not forget them and the character that they presented to the world of the Australian, that was so different from the other Allied soldiers. It is this image of the "Good bloke" that we like to celebrate on this day, with the likes of Simpson and his donkey, who heroically rescued many on Gallipoli, ironically without violence.

That these wars are remembered is important especially for those who went, fought and came home, but not remembered for the glory but for the horror that war is.

The famous poet Wilfred Owen's poems written in the fields of France speak of the *Futility*

Move him into the sun--  
Gently its touch awoke him once,  
At home, whispering of fields unsown,  
Always it woke him, even in France,  
Until this morning and this snow.  
The kind old sun will know.

In a letter, May 1917, to his mother he wrote about his reflections on his experiences

*I am more and more a Christian. . . Suffer dishonour and disgrace, but never resort to arms. Be bullied, be outraged, be killed: but do not kill."*

For followers of Jesus ANZAC Day should be a call for us to remember and invite us to do things differently – to work to build a culture of peace.

### Parish Masses this week:

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

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

Morning Prayer: Saturday 8:40am

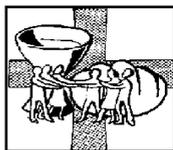
Saturday 9:00am Rosary after Mass

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

Polish Mass 12 noon

**Cardinal Freeman Village Chapel**

Tuesday 4:00pm Sunday 9:00am



## Ashfield Vinnies Conference Quarterly Report

Over the first quarter of 2015, the Ashfield Conference would again like to thank the ongoing support and generosity of the parish. Your donations continue to help put food on the tables of the people in need, keep people off the streets, and help them meet other essential cost of living expenses.

The Ashfield conference is one of the oldest in the State, having been established in 1894. Members meet at the Parish office on the first Tuesday of each month. If you are looking for a great way of putting your faith into action, please contact Stephen Fenn on 0423 027 657.

### Children's Liturgy Appeal

*If you are interested in being part of the Children's Liturgy Ministry which takes place during 10am Sunday Mass, please contact Sinead Kent 0420 643 637 or the Parish Office with your details and I will contact you. A few weeks ago I took details from some new volunteers, I mislaid my note and I know I missed one person from that list! If you said you want to be involved and have not had any communication from me. Please give me a ring or leave your details to the Parish.*

*Many thanks, Sinead.*

**Thank you** After the horrendous weather of this last week, we join with the rest of the community to thank those particularly of our parish, who voluntarily work for those community organisations like the SES. We are proud of the help that you have brought and continue to bring to those who suffered in the adverse conditions.

**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.**

## Fourth Sunday of Easter B

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

**FIRST READING:** This is the only name by which we can be saved (Acts 4:8-12)

**PSALM:** **The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone**  
(Ps 117:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29)

**SECOND READING:** We shall see God as he is (1 John 3:1-2)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia, alleluia! **I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL:** The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep (John 10:11-18)

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.



### Next Sunday's Readings Fifth Sunday of Easter B

Acts 9:26-31  
Ps 21:26-28, 30-32  
1 John 3:18-24  
John 15:1-8