

# 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



## Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time B

September 6, 2015

Some years ago, one of my children was very seriously ill and I was up through the night. To help pass the time, I pulled out a book from a bookcase that had been given to me and I had never read. It was about miracles, a subject that I have always had some reservations about. The author expounded that if we live in faith then we will be granted miracles. He illustrated the book with the most spectacular healings and transformations, miracles that occur as a result of faith. I then subjected God to the most horrific blasting, "Where was MY miracle?" Couldn't he see what I needed to be healed, and how much more faith did he want? In the cool, calm morning light, I threw the book out. God loves me and my son with all our imperfections. Miracles are not stars that God hands out to his favourites. God did hear my plea and with the good doctors and medicine that crisis passed and my son was restored to good health. A modern day miracle! Jesus restored hearing and speech to a man, who was brought to him. This story isn't so much about the healing but the gift of life, that had been so restricted and oppressive, being restored. For God, restriction and oppression simply isn't good enough. The world of Jesus' time was full of restriction and oppression, political, social and religious *Ephphatha Be opened*. Be opened to the love of God.

What is it that I need to have lifted from my life that confines and constricts me from truly hearing what God wants from me?

*Marguerite Martin*

On behalf of Carmen, Marguerite and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all fathers, grandfathers, uncles and all those who play a fatherly role in the lives of their children a very Happy Father's Day. Thank you for the gift of your vocation in being a father. May God continue to bless you in the years ahead. **Fr. Alan**



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

St. Vincent's Day Celebration will be held on Sunday 20th September. You are invited to join us for some morning tea/lunch in the hall after the 10am Mass. Meet new friends and catch up with the old ones.

### Is there anyone you could invite?

We are holding two inquiry sessions for those who are interested in the Catholic Faith. Maybe you have never been baptised, or were baptised Catholic but never brought up in the faith or baptised into another Christian tradition. Maybe you have a catholic partner and/or catholic children and would like to make that step.

You would be most welcome to our inquiry nights in the Parish Offices (12 Bland St) on either Wednesday 9 September or Thursday 17 September at 7pm.

**Parish Men's Group** will meet next Tuesday night (September 8<sup>th</sup>) at 7:30pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms. An informal gathering of discussion and prayer. All new and past participants would be most welcome.



### **Miraculous Medal Novena Mass** **Saturday 12th September**

**9:00am Mass** Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers will be recited within the Mass.

### **Pastoral Students Parish Visitation**

Benjamin Paka, a student from the Solomon Islands who was introduced to the Parish a couple of weeks ago, has expressed interest in doing some visitation around the parish during his stay which will conclude on November 10th. If you would like to receive a visit from him would you please put your name down on the list which is in the foyer of the Church or alternatively contact Fr. Alan on 97982501 or email alan@vinash.org.au.

### **Expressions of Interest for Parish Pastoral**

**Council** December will mark the end of the terms of a number of current members of the Parish Pastoral Council. The Council is seeking expressions of interest from parishioners who wish to contribute to the leadership and pastoral guidance of the parish. If you are interested, or know someone who may be interested in joining the Council, please advise Father Alan or contact the Parish office.

*"My church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is."*

## **FIRST COMMUNION Nov 8 or Nov 15**

If your child is in Yr 3 or over and has celebrated First Reconciliation they are eligible to be part of the First Holy Communion preparation. The Parent only meeting will be on the 15 or 16 September that outlines the program, meeting date options and First Communion dates. Please take a registration Form and return ASAP to Marguerite@vinash.org.au or the parish offices.

Those who are interested to buy a copy of "**BREAK OPEN THE WORD 2016**", a book of Sunday readings with explanation. Please give your name to the Parish Office 9798 2501 not later than **September 15**. Price will be \$21.

### **DAILY MASS BOOKS FOR 2016**

We will be ordering the new Daily Mass Book 2016. The Daily Mass Book contains all the texts for Sunday and weekday Mass. Cost: \$21. To place an order kindly ring Parish Office at 9798 2501 and orders must be received by **Tuesday 15th September 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.

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

Monday 12 noon  
Tuesday 7:00am  
Wednesday 12 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**

Tuesday 4:00pm Sunday 9:00am

Friday 9:00am — Communion Service



## **Request for help from Cardinal Freeman Village**

The Catholic residents of Cardinal Freeman Village are asking if anyone in the Parish would be willing to come and drive their mini-bus to transport some of the less-mobile people to 9am Mass each Sunday. Only an ordinary driver's license is required. If you are able to help please contact Fr. Alan at the Parish Office on 97982501 or email alan@vinash.org.au

## **Vincentian Burse Day on Sunday September 13th**

The presentation of donations received through the Parents and Friends of the Vincentian Fathers and Brothers in Australia and Fiji, known as "The Burse" will take place at St Anthony's Marsfield on Sunday 13th September commencing at 2.30pm. The afternoon will commence with Prayer and Benediction in the Church followed by afternoon tea. The Burse was formed some years ago to assist with costs of educating students studying for both the priesthood and brotherhood. We currently have 16 students in training from Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Australia. New subscribers are being sought and all that is required is an annual donation. No one is asked to give beyond their means and any amount is gratefully accepted. Please see Fr. Alan or contact the Parish Office should you wish to make a donation and/or would like to attend this day but require transportation.

Slowly the plans for the **Blessed Sacrament Chapel** are being put into place. This smaller space is ideal for small community worship i.e early morning mass, adoration etc. The kneelers on the prie-dieu are to be recovered and a small table/altar for Mass and some comfortable chairs sourced. A thought had been to make a wall hanging/painting depicting "Resurrection" that would hang behind the tabernacle. It would be very special if this design, in what ever medium, came from our own community. You are invited to view the space and contact the parish office with your ideas.

## **Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time B**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

**FIRST READING:** Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak (Isaiah 35:4-7)

**PSALM:** Praise the Lord, my soul! (Ps 145:7-10)

**SECOND READING:** Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom (James 2:1-5)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia, alleluia! Your words, Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak (Mark 7:31-37)

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.



**Next Sunday's Readings**  
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time B

Isaiah 50:5-9

Ps 114: 1-6, 8-9

James 2:14-18

Mark 8:27-35