

# 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



## Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time B

November 8, 2015

If you want something done, ask a busy person. We have all heard this saying especially in this time when we are all particularly time poor. Money, wealth, time and busyness are all relative. Today the stories are about the widows. In a time of no social security the word widow could easily be aligned with the word poverty. In the first reading we meet the widow who didn't have enough flour to make bread, however she dutifully fulfils the Jewish law of hospitality by feeding Elijah a small scone. She gave her all in hospitality and her generosity was rewarded by having a bottomless flour jar, in a time of drought and famine. Through feeding Elijah, the stranger, she meets a life-giving God, because it is through Elijah's prayer, her son is restored to life. Our gospel also contains a story of the Widow who gives her two coins to support the temple funds. She, like the previous widow, is fulfilling a duty; she gave in generosity but for whom or for what. What was the life that her meagre gift was to support? Jesus is scathing as he describes the pomp and ceremony that surround the temple. Was this truly a place of homage to God or a structure to support power and prestige? So as much as the widow's mite is to be commended for its generosity, it is also a statement about the hypocrisy of the temple structure that received such a gift, and the lack of responsibility that it has to the people supporting them. It certainly wasn't revealing a life giving and hopeful God. Who are our poor? Are we a structure that cares beyond caring for ourselves? Maybe we haven't the time or the money to help anyone but ourselves!

*Marguerite Martin*

### Thinking of becoming a Catholic?

Then you would be made most welcome to an inquiry session in the Parish House. This week on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November @10am** and **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November evening at 7pm**. Bring a friend. For further information call Marguerite 9798 2501.

**Funeral Mass** for Irene Kucharski will take place on **Tuesday 10th November** here in the Church at 11am.

This past week we have seen or been witches or ghosts in celebrations of Halloween, or dressed up with ridiculous hats or fascinators to celebrate a horse race. These satisfy the needs we have to pause, celebrate and connect with celebrations of life with the wider secular community with a reason to laugh in a very escapist way. Today and next Sunday in this place, we too are going to celebrate the most Catholic of Celebrations, the First Communion of 28 of our children. It again causes us to connect and celebrate but in a meaningful way as we reconnect with the greatest gift of all. There wouldn't be too many of us that can't recall that day of First Communion, whether it be the photo, the dress or the party. The magnitude of the gift of Holy Communion can barely be understood by these young ones, so it will be only through our practice, our reverence and our encouragement that they will be brought into that mystical connection with God and each other in Holy Communion. For us they will be more intimately connected as we will share not just our common baptism, but our sharing in the life of Jesus. Congratulations Alexander, Zachariah, Jordan, Jahleil, Jalijah, Nicole, Dianne, Tiffany, Jeremy, Amelia, Laukau and Daniel on your First Communion Day.

### Benjamin Paka

Benjamin will return to the Solomon Islands this Tuesday 10th November after completing a three month pastoral placement here at St. Vincent's Ashfield. We thank Benjamin for his time with us in the parish and our prayers go with him as he returns to complete his final year of seminary studies next year.

Following the success of "Sisters in Glitter" the 6pm Choir in collaboration with the Zimbabwean Australian Catholic Community choir presents:-

An evening of joy and surprise as we celebrate our many voices and the heart that connects us all!

**When:** Saturday, November 14th, 2015 (7pm- 9pm)

**Where:** St Vincent's Church, Ashfield

**Entry:** By donation \$10

**For tickets contact:** Keith - 0421 460 761 [thoiss@hotmail.com](mailto:thoiss@hotmail.com) or Carmen - 9798 2501 [carmen@vinash.org.au](mailto:carmen@vinash.org.au)

**PS:** All donations received will be used for the enhancement of the music ministry



## Catechists/Scripture Teachers

Part of the Parish responsibility is to support Catholic parents to bring their children up in faith and community. We do that in varied ways. One of the ways is to visit the children in the local Public schools during Scripture time. Many beautiful friendships have been forged this way. Would you like to join our very happy band of Catechists/Scripture teachers who visit Ashfield Public School and Ashfield Boys High in 2016? We particularly need High School catechists as well relief catechists.

It really is a rewarding ministry. Ashfield Boys is once a fortnight on Thursday midday for forty minutes and Ashfield Public every Wednesday at 2:10pm for half an hour.

Please pray and consider whether you are called to do this Special Ministry.

## PART-TIME PARISH SECRETARY (SHARED)

**REQUIRED.** Applications are invited for the position of a Part-Time Parish Secretary at St Anthony's Parish Marsfield. The position will be fourteen hours per week (Tuesday/Thursday/ Friday). The successful applicant will be a person who upholds the ethos of the Catholic Church and has an intermediate working knowledge of Microsoft Office – Word, Publisher, Excel and Outlook. For further details, please contact the Parish Office on **9888 5222**. Please email your application and resume to: [office@saintanthonys.org.au](mailto:office@saintanthonys.org.au). Applications close on **Wednesday, 16 November 2015**.

### 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

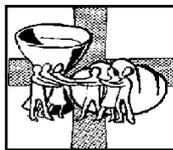
**Sunday:** 8am, 10:00am 6:00pm

**Polish Mass** 12 noon

### Cardinal Freeman Village Chapel

Tuesday 4:00pm Sunday 9:00am

Friday 9:00am — Communion Service



**Parish Men's Group** will meet next Tuesday night (November 10th) 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 November 14th 9:00am Mass**

Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers will be recited within the Mass.

## Charitable Works Fund Appeal

Thank you to all those who have generously supported the CWF Appeal. The current outstanding balance is **\$1,853.95** so if you still want to make a donation, please place your donation in the special envelopes available on the seats or at the back of the church and place it either on the collection plate or drop it in the Parish office.

## Sydney Alliance Training

The next 2 day training session for the Sydney Alliance will take place on 9-10 December at Settlement Services International Ashfield (2/158 Liverpool Road, Ashfield NSW 2131). This training represents a wonderful opportunity to acquire some skills in the area of community organization. Please contact Fr. Alan Gibson on [alan@vinash.org.au](mailto:alan@vinash.org.au) or go to the Sydney Alliance website [www.sydneyalliance.org.au](http://www.sydneyalliance.org.au) for further details.

## The Eucharistic Prayer

*Did you know that the Eucharistic Prayer is an ancient prayer of praise? It is our vocation as Christians not only to pray but to live this prayer. For too long it has been seen as the priest's prayer, but it belongs to all of us. The priest praises God in our name. So how do we make the prayer our own? This Sunday attend to the words. As one body we stand together for this prayer as the ancient Christians did for more than 1000 years. Try to place yourself physically beside the priest and listen to the words as if for the first time. Unless we consciously pray this prayer together with the presider we won't recognise our baptismal call to praise God constantly during the week.*

*Sr. Carmel Pilcher RSJ*

## Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time B

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

**FIRST READING:** The widow made a little scone from her flour meal and brought it to Elijah (1 Kings 17:10-16)

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

**SECOND READING:** Christ offered himself only once to take the faults of many on himself (Hebrews 9:24-28)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL:** This poor widow has put more in than all who contributed (Mark 12:38-44)

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.



### Next Sunday's Readings

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time B

Daniel 12:1-3

Ps 15:5, 8-11

Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

Mark 13:24-32