

# St Vincent's Parish, Ashfield

A parish under the pastoral care of The Congregation of the Mission known as Vincentian priests and brothers.  
12 Bland Street, Ashfield 2131 [www.vinash.org.au](http://www.vinash.org.au) E-mail [vinstaff@vinash.org.au](mailto:vinstaff@vinash.org.au)  
Phone: 9798 2501; 9798 2503 (for urgent matters 0410 894 651) Fax: 9798 2504  
Parish Office Hours: 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday



## First Sunday of Advent Year C

November 29, 2015

Expectancy! We have entered that period of the church year, Advent, where we are asked to contemplate what we expect from the birth of a Saviour. This was a question I asked at Ashfield Boys High this week. What did they expect from God? Their responses were :to be kept safe, to be loved, to encounter no evil etc. Their expectancy may encounter disappointment. They want God to place them in a safety bubble, free of trouble, harm, hurt, pain and disappointment. It's actually denying life....because that's what life is. Does this style of expectancy of God then cause them to disbelieve and blame God when misfortune or the unexpected crosses their path. How could God allow this to happen to me? Rather than the God who joined us in the messiness of the human condition.

We can carry this back to Mary's big YES to God's plan and that unaccountable pregnancy. No there was no protective bubble there. She was carrying the Messiah, what were her expectations of God? She trusted. No doubt there was a little local gossip, and what about that initial chat with her parents.... and with Joseph! However all three have been made Saints because of their connection with this amazing trust of Mary. She understood without fear realising that God had a greater plan.

The gospel today, with its apocalyptic style, almost resembles our world at present times, with war, terror and climate change. Where is God? We need peace! Through this Advent we will gain peace through following the model of Mary. Trust in God, his expectations are not yours. "Stand with confidence before the Son of Man" as the gospel of Luke advises. Live this moment, not regretting the past moments or fearing future moments, trust in God and peace will be yours. *Marguerite Martin*

## Charitable Works Fund Appeal

Thank you to all those who have generously supported the CWF Appeal. The current outstanding balance is **\$207** 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.

## Ashfield St. Vincent De Paul Hamper Giving

The Conference is again giving hampers to those who need for Christmas. People can donate items of non perishable food and gifts towards the hampers by placing them under the Advent tree a the front of the church from Sunday 29th onwards.

## Ashfield St. Vincent De Paul Christmas Cards

The Conference will be selling Christmas cards at all Masses on this Sunday 29th November. Cost is \$5 per pack of 10 cards.

## 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.



**BAPTISMS**  
Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015  
LEON DOMENICO GRIECO

The annual Men's Group Christmas Parish BBQ will be held in the playground on Sunday December 13th after all masses.



## On Sale at the Back of the Church

- A limited number of the "Little Blue Book". Six minute Reflections for the days Advent and Christmas — \$5.00
- FRANKLY magazine is a high quality, 128 page book, covering various topics to celebrate the big and small ways each of us can live life better maybe and doing that, make the world a merciful, generous and peaceful place — \$3.00
- Catholic Weekly — \$2.00
- Columban Calendars — \$9.00

All parishioners are invited to a  
**THANK YOU PARTY**

at the parish office on  
**THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**  
at 7:00pm

PARISH STAFF: *Fr. Alan Gibson CM*  
*Carmen Yap*

*Marguerite Martin*

## Parish Plan Update — Draft Vision & Mission Statements

As Part of preparing a draft Parish Plan, the Parish Pastoral Council has prepared the following draft vision and mission statements. Comment is now sought from the broader Parish. The vision statement aims to capture the essence of the Parish, with the mission statement seeking to encapsulate what the Parish does and hopes to do.

Anyone with any comment or feedback is encouraged to contact Fr. Alan or the Parish office.

### Draft Vision Statement

*We, the parish community of St. Vincent's, with a genuine sense of belonging, strive to follow the example of Christ and spread the Vincentian spirit throughout the Ashfield district.*

### Draft Mission Statement

Our mission is to:

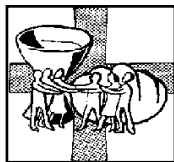
- *nurture and enrich Catholic values within the St. Vincent's faith community;*
- *encourage and promote a connected, inclusive and welcoming parish; and*
- *embolden and empower the faith community to respond to the needs of our parish and the wider community.*

### 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



## 'Come Holy Spirit'

**"Healing Mass", Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015**  
**St. Joseph Church, 126 Liverpool Road, Enfield.**  
**Rosary: 7pm, Reconciliation: 7-8pm, Prayer and Praise: 7:30pm, Mass: 8pm. The celebrant will be Fr. Yacub Barkat**  
**Enquiries: Rose 9642 2359/0412 115 961**  
**Email: rosetwymansydney@gmail.com.**

**The Order of Malta NSW Branch** invites all parishioners to Lourdes Day Mass 2015 to be celebrated at St. Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 10:15am. The principal celebrant will be Most Reverend Bishop Terry Brady.

A blessing of the sick will take place during the celebration of the Liturgy with water brought from the spring at the Shrine of Lourdes. Those receiving the Blessing will, also be provided with a bottle of Lourdes Water for their personal use.

### Communion is a communal meal

*We process to the table of the Eucharist to eat and drink. Just as a meal shared with others is not just about feeling myself by sharing companionship, so the Eucharistic meal makes us not only one with Christ but one with each other. You might have been taught to keep your eyes down when processing but it is more appropriate to be attentive to those around you and recognise that Eucharistic communion is not only a personal encounter but a communal one. The Christ of the Eucharist comes into our hearts and unites us all as one body. This is not the time for us to focus on the hosts left over or to focus on the tabernacle but to be conscious of the Christ within me and the Christ in each other. Immediately after we've all shared in communion is the time to think, not of my own needs, but those of our community and how Christ is challenging each of us to reach out to those in our church and our neighbourhood.*

*Sr. Carmel Pilcher RSJ*

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.

## First Sunday of Advent Year C

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

**FIRST READING:** I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David (Jeremiah 33:14-16)

**PSALM:** To you, O Lord, I lift my soul (Ps 24:4-5, 8-9, 14)

**SECOND READING:** When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness (1 Thessalonians 3:12-42)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** Your redemption is near at hand (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36)

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** The Lord bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.



**Next Sunday's Readings**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**Year C**  
**Baruch 5:1-9**  
**Ps 125**  
**Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11**  
**Luke 3:1-6**