

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



Second Sunday of Advent Year C

December 6, 2015

I have ordered my turkey! We have started to receive cards from friends and relations but instead of that feeling of peace I am experiencing panic! I have yet to buy my cards let alone write and send them. Presents to get...stress in the Mall, queues at the checkouts, no parking. It must be Christmas, the season of goodwill and peace! What has gone wrong? The rituals of sharing and giving that surround the celebration of the birth of Jesus have moved away so far away from the original intention that they have become self serving and destructive. What should be the most beautiful feast has become so hard and so tiring, like climbing a mountain or travelling on a winding road. This is old advice. It comes from John the Baptist. *Prepare a way for the Lord. Make his path straight.* To make the path straight we must remove the complicated bends and the obstacles....what are the obstacles that prevent me from celebrating with the joy that comes from the greatest gift of love and hope that has been given? It means putting on a different mindset, rather than a Santa hat and really celebrating the reason. The reason, God became Man. From this position of equality and humanity God became Saviour.

The best gift of Christmas is the gift of whole self to another, like the gift of Jesus who came to be with us. Let's clear the path so he can be born in our hearts again and we can marvel at God's salvation.

Marguerite Martin

Wednesday 16th December 7:00pm
Communal Penitential Service
in preparation for Christmas.
Sacramental Reconciliation will be available.

All parishioners are invited to a
THANK YOU PARTY

at the parish office on
THURSDAY 10th DECEMBER
at 7:00pm

St. Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal
Envelope collection will take place today at all masses. Please find envelopes on the seats to donate on this appeal.

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 at the front of the church from Sunday 29th onwards.

WELCOME (we are excited!)

Over the last months, you may have noticed in the bulletin, we have been having a period of Inquiry for those who are interested in becoming Catholic. In that time eight people have been attending our meetings either on Monday morning @10am or Wednesday evening @ 7pm. Today five of those people, Lawrence, Jessica, Della, Grace and Elina are welcomed and endorsed by our community in their searching. How enriching for the St Vincent's Community!

P.S the other three are to be welcomed next weekend at St Joseph's Enfield!!!!

Bethlehem End of Year Mass will take place in the Church on Tuesday 8th December at 12pm (midday). Parishioners are most welcome to attend.

St Vincent's End of Year Mass will take place in the Church on Wednesday 9th December at 9.15am. Parishioners are most welcome to attend.

Fr Michael Walsh cm

Fr Michael continues to express his appreciation of the prayers and support given to him at this time of his illness

He is at present recovering from his recent cancer surgery and 25 day stay in hospital. He is resting in preparation for the next operation set for early January, to be followed by chemotherapy.
In gratitude.

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



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

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 or go to the Sydney Alliance website www.sydneyalliance.org.au for further details.



There will be no Novena for Miraculous Medal on the 2nd Saturday of December 2015 and January 2016. Novena will recommence on February 2016.

On Sale at the Back of the Church

- 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

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



CHRISTMAS MASSES 2015

Thursday, 24th December

6:00pm Christmas Eve – Children's Mass
 8:00pm Christmas Eve
 10:00pm Polish Mass
 12:00am Midnight Mass

Friday, 25th December

8:00am Christmas Day
 10:00am Christmas Day
 12:00pm Polish Mass



There will be NO evening Mass in

English or Polish on Friday night

Please note there will be 9:00am Mass on Christmas Day at Cardinal Freeman Village (137 Victoria Street Ashfield)

Communion from the sacrifice

We bring gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, gifts that represent the loving sacrifice of our lives that will be made holy by God's Spirit and become the visible sign of Christ's sacrifice. The church expects us to eat and drink from the table of sacrifice we have just commemorated. So why, as the bread of our sacrifice is broken, do ministers continue to go directly to the tabernacle to retrieve hosts from another Mass? Why don't we all share in the sacrifice in the way the priest is required to do? The sacrament is reserved only for the sick and dying and adoration and the RARE OCCASION when there are not enough hosts consecrated for the Mass.

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.

Second Sunday of Advent Year C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

FIRST READING: Jerusalem—God will show you splendour (Baruch 5:1-9)

PSALM: The Lord had done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Ps 125)

SECOND READING: Show yourself sinless and without blame in the day of Christ (Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: All people shall see the salvation of God (Luke 3:1-6)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.



Next Sunday's Readings
 Third Sunday of Advent
 Year C

Zephaniah 3:14-18
 Ps: Isaiah 12:2-6
 Philippians 4:4-7
 Luke 3:10-18