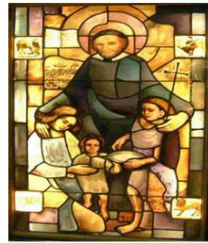


St Vincent's Parish, Ashfield

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 E-mail 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



Third Sunday of Advent Year C

December 13, 2015

This gospel asks a very important question; 'What are we to do to attain this spiritual joy?' Each year, during the season of Advent, the church sets off on a journey. We begin to prepare our hearts and our minds for the coming of the Christ-child, so that this time he will have a proper place to be born. And we think we know the way to Bethlehem. We can find it on the map. It's not that far from Jerusalem, by today's standards; should not be a problem. But the problem is that so much has changed since our last visit. A whole year has passed, a year that brought many changes in our lives, some of them good, some of them not so good, some of them heartbreaking. The geographic map of life has changed, and even old familiar places don't seem the same any more. So maybe we could use a little help in finding our way back to Bethlehem this year. That is, if you still want to go. If we were to ask any of the writers of the gospels how to get to Bethlehem, I think we might be surprised by their answer. 'So you want to go to Bethlehem, do you? Tell you what to do: go on out to the desert, outside of the relatively safe confines of Jerusalem. Keep going till you get to the Jordan River. You'll know it when you see it. It's the only river around these parts. You'll find a man there — strange looking old coot — standing knee-deep in the water, just baptizing folks left and right, as fast as he can. That'll be John the Baptist. You ask him how to get to Bethlehem. If you want to get to Bethlehem, you have to start there at the Jordan with John. He's the only one who can help you get there.' John will teach you a new way to look at your life.



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.

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Monday 14th December at 6.30pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms.

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

THE ARCHBISHOP ANTHONY FISHER OP SYRIAN REFUGEE APPEAL The Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP Syrian Refugee Appeal is the official appeal of the Archdiocese of Sydney. It's an opportunity for all Catholics to respond generously to the needs of Syrian refugees fleeing persecution. If you can offer support, large or small, please call the appeal hotline on **1800 690 302** or visit catholiccare.org/Syria. Alternatively there are a few appeal envelopes in the foyer. Parishioners can make a donation this way and place it in one of the collections on a Sunday or hand it in to the parish office.

Holy Family Sunday — Pilgrimage of Families to Door of Mercy (27 Dec, 2015) For the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has invited the faithful to obtain a plenary indulgence (for themselves or for the soul of a deceased person) by making a brief pilgrimage to the **Door of Mercy** in their diocese. Families in the Archdiocese of Sydney are invited to enter the Door of Mercy at St. Mary's Cathedral prior to the **10:30am Solemn Mass on Holy Family Sunday, 27 December**. To fulfil the conditions for obtaining the indulgence, each family member must be in a state of grace, receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist within several days, recite the Profession of Faith (Apostles' or Nicene Creed) and say a prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. Inquiries: lifemarriagefamily@sydneycatholic.org. or 9390 8400.

The annual Men's Group...
FREE Parish Christmas BBQ will be held in the playground today after all masses.



PARISH STAFF: Fr. Alan Gibson CM
Carmen Yap

Marguerite Martin

Vinnies Brekki Van Donations

I am so delighted to tell you that we have been given three Brekki Van slots, this is a little bit of a miracle as they are really hard to secure, so thank you for your prayers!

Our dates are:
December 26th
January 9th
January 30th

If you would like to donate please drop items to the back of the church at Mass times or the Parish Office between 9am and 3pm. If you would rather, I can collect from your home if that is easier for you. Please contact me on 0420653637 or the through the Parish office.

Thank you Sinead Kent

This is a dream list - all donations greatly received small or large.

BASIC: 10kg Bacon, 120 Sausages, 120 Eggs,
20 loaves of bread, 12 litres of Milk
120 juice poppers

EXTRAS: Bananas, Cereal Bars/Muesli Bars, Biscuits,
Fruit Snack Pots, Muffins/Mini Cakes

LUXURY EXTRAS: Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Soap, Hand sanitizer, Ladies products, Shaving foam, Sun cream, Socks.

You are invited to a morning of quiet reflection at the Grail Centre, 22 McHatton Street, North Sydney, on Tuesday 17th December from 10am to 12 noon. We will reflecting on the meaning of harmony, wholeness & balance in the context of Benedictine Spirituality. There will be time for silent meditation and the opportunity to share thoughts in a group. We ask for a small donation to cover cost. For more information please contact Grail centre 9955 3053 or ruthcrowe@ozemail.com.au or Trisha Gemmel pgemmell@tpg.com.au

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



Third Sunday of Advent Year C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING: With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you (Zephaniah 3:14-18)

PSALM: Cry out with joy and gladness; for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Ps Isaiah 12:2-6)

SECOND READING: The Lord is near (Philippians 4:4-7)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: What, then, must we do? (Luke 3:10-18)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

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)

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 Office will be closed from Friday 25th December to Friday 15th January.

Office will reopen on Monday 18th January 2016.

There will be no bulletins during those weeks.

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.



Next Sunday's Readings
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Year C

Micah 5:1-4

Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:38