

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



First Sunday of Lent

February 14, 2016

This week we hear in the gospel of Jesus' 40 days and nights in the desert.

"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit...was led by the Spirit in the wilderness."

Jesus chose to be led by the Spirit of God's love into the wilderness, away from life distractions, to be able to communicate with God. We don't know what Jesus' prayers were or what God spoke to Jesus, but we do know the effects. When Jesus travelled out of the wilderness, he went to Galilee and there was "a report" about him as he energetically set about his ministry. His words and actions had set people talking!

In the wilderness, fully human Jesus, was tempted. In the popular media, the devil is always portrayed as a good time, outgoing, humorous and attractive person. The person he is ensnaring is always colourless, unimaginative and dull. The devil came and offered to Jesus the equivalent of Hollywood stardom with wealth, power and God like status. Luke's story lends itself to Hollywood special effects as Jesus is shown vast kingdoms and brought to the parapets of temples. But the devil had it wrong! He could tempt but he could not force Jesus to change his resolve.

The wilderness experience of Jesus clarified God's vision of the kingdom and it was anything but colourless and dull, but life lived with vitality, energy and meaning.



So what can we take home from this gospel?

- By virtue of our baptism we too have the Holy Spirit leading us.
- Put time aside in the quiet of your imagination to share God's vision.
- Free will always gives us choice. 'The devil didn't make you do it'.
- **Trust in God and he will provide.**

Marguerite Martin

Australian Catholics Summer 2016 magazine now available...get your free copy.

On Sale at the Back of the Church

- FRANKLY magazine — \$3.00
- Catholic Weekly — \$2.00

Parish Pastoral Council meeting will take place on Monday 15th February at 6.30pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms.

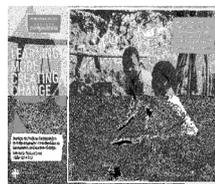
Parish Finance Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 17th February at 7pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms.

Lenten Groups A few Lenten groups are meeting in the Parish. One group is meeting in the Parish Office on Tuesday mornings at 10am. Another group is meeting in a private home on Friday nights at 7pm. They both invite others to join them. Please see Fr. Alan for details.

RCIA 10am Mass

Today we witness the catechumens and candidate who desire to be baptised and received into the catholic community, signing their name in the Book of the Elect. This is echoing the brave stance made by the early converts to Christianity, who risked their lives with their signature by indicating their intention.

These signatures are then brought to the Bishop, our leader, for his approval and signature, at the Rite of Election in the cathedral. We congratulate **Elina Gravzdule** (candidate) **Luke Gromek, Grace Tetziuff, Jessica Tong, Lawrence Luo, Della Xiaoxuan** and from Enfield Parish but supported by us, **Cassandra Macauley and Adrian Law**. (all catechumens)



Please take home a box and/or a set of Lenten donation envelopes & support Caritas Australia as we celebrate 50 years of Project Compassion.

You will be helping to empower the world's poorest people with vital learning and renewed hope.

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion
1800 024 413

Little Spark's Playgroup resumes this Thursday 18 Feb in the Hall between 9-11am. Details on the Notice Board. All welcome.

LEARN TO DANCE.... We teach a range of Jazz, Tap, Ballet, Hip Hop & Modern Dance to suit all ages from 3 years to adults & all levels of dance.

NEW: Adult Ballroom Class Tuesday 7:00pm

BEGINNERS MOST WELCOME!

Term Commencing: Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th February 2016

Time: Classes Tues + Wednesday from 3.45pm

Where: Club Ashfield Auditorium

2nd Floor Charlotte Street, Ashfield

& St. Vincent's Parish Hall: Bland St., Ashfield

JOAN CARMODY School of Dancing

Principal Joan Carmody

Member F.A.T.D Sydney

I.S.T.D. London

For more information call Joan Carmody @ 0419 619 177 joancarmodydance@yahoo.com.au

Youth Ministry Equipping School / 24 - 28

February, Canberra. Are you aged between 18-40 and searching for an adventure in 2016? If so, then join us for the Youth Ministry Equipping School. This 4-day live in school calls young people from across Australia and overseas to be equipped for youth ministry and evangelisation. Short term missions available to PNG, Fiji, Nth QLD & Bali! Be renewed in your own faith, equipped for mission/ youth ministry and formed in the Catholic faith – you won't regret it – it's an adventure! Email Sr Therese for more info therese.mgl@gmail.com

Parish Masses this week:

Monday 12 noon

Tuesday 7:00am

Wednesday 12 noon

Thursday 9:00am

Reconciliation: Saturday 8:10am to 8:40am

Morning Prayer: Saturday 8:40am

Saturday 9:00am Rosary after Mass

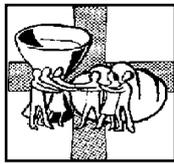
Sunday: 8am, 10:00am 6:00pm

Polish Mass 12 noon

Cardinal Freeman Village Chapel

Tuesday 4:00pm Sunday 9:00am

Friday 9:00am – Communion Service



The Jubilee Year of Mercy

Last week Jesus set out in Peter's boat. With Christ aboard, at the helm, they travelled into the unknown waters, into the deep, and the rewards were fantastic!

The Church is referred to as the barque or ship of Christ carrying all God's people across the seas 'of disbelief, worldliness and

persecution until it reaches safe harbour.'

We are all in the same 'boat' when we come to talk of our need for God's mercy and we can be quite complacent in our assured attitude towards the guaranteed forgiveness of God. Yet we pray "Forgive us our trespasses (faults, omissions and sins) as we forgive those who trespass against us." There is **that** demand, to extend God's mercy to all God's people So who is it that we do not extend God's mercy to, whether corporately or individually? An old boat conjures up many images for today.

Pope Francis chose to say Mass on the timbers of a wrecked refugee boat on the island of Lampedusa, the Italian refugee island. It was an act of solidarity with the Eucharist and that involves us all embracing God's Mercy. We are that embodiment of Christ's Mercy.

DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR MEN, 11-13

MARCH. A retreat for young men open to explore if God is calling them to the Priesthood. The weekend will include talks, time for personal prayer, sacraments, spiritual guidance, a movie, time with seminarians and discussions. This retreat is designed to help men discern their vocations. **Where:** Seminary of the Good Shepherd, 50-58 Abbotsford Rd, Homebush. **Cost:** \$100, **registration is essential.** Enquiries/registration: <http://www.vocationcentre.org.au/>.

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 Lent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

FIRST READING: The confession of faith of the elect (Deuteronomy 26:4-10)

PSALM: Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble (Ps 90:1-2, 10-15)

SECOND READING: The confession of faith of the believers in Christ (Romans 10:8-13)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king endless glory!

GOSPEL: Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted (Luke 4:1-13)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.



Next Sunday's Readings

Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Ps 26:1,7-9, 13-14

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 9:28-36