

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



Third Sunday of Lent

February 28, 2016

Last year, at this time a campaign was progressing called MERCY. It was begging the Indonesian government for the lives of two young Australians, Andrew Chan and Myan Sukumaran. These two had committed the hideous crime of drug dealing in a country that has declared to have a No Tolerance drug policy. These men had been imprisoned, and through that time, with love and encouragement from various peoples they had reformed, been changed and felt absolute remorse for their actions. Yet that society's Mercy was not forth coming.

This year again an appeal for Mercy, this time at home. A 14yr old, troubled child, part of a gang, sentenced to life, with a never to be released clause; for the horrific rape and murder of a beautiful 20 yr old, just on her way home from work. An absolutely shocking crime with a total disregard of a life.

Yet some 28 years later there is an appeal for Mercy! To all who know this condemned man now, they say he has been transformed; truly penitent and he deserves to contribute to society.

Certainly these cases challenge our whole mindset especially in regard to Mercy and God's Mercy. " If he thinks he is going to go to the same heaven as my sister....no way" the victims brother is to have said. This picks up on the idea of the layers of the extent of God's mercy available. "Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground" Would we like God to be vindictive and only choose favourites, who can bear good fruit?

The question of today's gospel is....how does God see us? Are we defined by our greatest sin? Can we allow the tenderness of Jesus the gardener to appeal for us; and then let him into the wounds of our non productivity and to nurture us with that tender mercy.

Marguerite Martin

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will be celebrated on May 15 at 2pm in this Parish by the Very Rev Gerry Gleeson VG. Young people (usually in Grade 6 and beyond) are invited to participate in the Parish Confirmation Sacramental program. Forms are available in the Foyer of the Church that can be returned to the Parish Office.

On Sale at the Back of the Church

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

Vincentians in Fiji Cyclone Appeal

I have received reports this week from our men in Fiji. They are all safe and well. The real damage from Cyclone Winston has been in our Vincentian Parish of Natovi. The school buildings have been damaged, the administration block and school toilets have been damaged, the Presbytery has been damaged and the grand old Church has been damaged. School Buildings will be replaced with Tents. Tents are being organised for our Natovi school. It is going to be a big project. Therefore we are holding an appeal in our parish this weekend. Anyone wishing to donate are invited to do so by placing their offering in the envelopes provided on the seats. These can be handed in at either the first or the second collection. Photos can now be seen in our foyer and on the Parish website. **Fr. Alan**

Eucharistic Ministers Training

We have a need for people in the parish to come forward and serve our parish community as Eucharistic Ministers for both the weekday and Sunday masses. There will be two training sessions available:

Monday 7th March 12:30pm—1:30pm and

Wednesday 9th March 7:00pm to 8:00pm.

Both sessions will take place in the Church. Those interested are asked to attend just one session. Please see Fr. Alan for further details.

Communal Rite of Reconciliation

The Communal Rite of Reconciliation in preparation for Easter will take place in the Parish Church on Thursday **10th March at 7:00pm.**

2016 Annual Parish Dinner will be held on Saturday Night April 30th in the De La Salle/ Bethlehem Hall. All Parishioners will be invited to attend.

The committee would like to be advised by any parishioner who may have changed address since last year, or you know of someone who has left the parish, could you please ring the Parish office and advise of the details. Thank you in advance!

On the Block Open Day



St. Vincent's Primary School, Bethlehem College and De La Salle College are having their Open Day on Tuesday 8th

March. St. Vincent's Primary School Open Day is from

2:00pm—3:30pm whilst both Bethlehem and

De La Salle Colleges is from 3:00pm to 7:00pm. In seeking to continue the connections between parish and the schools, the parish will have some involvement on this



day. The Church will open from 2:00pm to 7:00pm.

I am currently looking for parishioners who would be willing to look after the Church for one hour on that day during that time.

Fr. Alan

Parish Pastoral Council We are currently seeking parishioners to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council. All parishioners who are interested please see Fr. Alan.



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

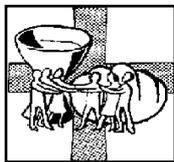
Sunday: 8am, 10:00am 6:00pm

Polish Mass 12 noon

Cardinal Freeman Village Chapel

Tuesday 4:00pm Sunday 9:00am

Friday 9:00am — Communion Service



The Jubilee Year of Mercy

This week we can meditate on the tenderness that Jesus demonstrates as he appeals on our behalf, as he digs around us, pulling the weeds, watering and fertilising us to be fruitful. We are not that waste of ground/space...because of Jesus' tender action.

He asks no less of us. So often we fail to see and name the loved person created by God,

but only see failures, wrong doings and crimes. We count them to be useless...a waste of space but to God.....Everybody matters, absolutely!

Pope Francis loves to 'Rock the boat.' and he asks us to join with him. Who needs our appeals for mercy? who needs our genuine tenderness to encourage growth? Who do we need to recognise from under the social scorn and stigma as deserving of God's Mercy with our tenderness ?

Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she bears witness to God's love. Be missionaries of God's tenderness.

Pope Francis.

The Pope has called for a one year moratorium on applying the death penalty. As part of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has said that his desire would be an abolition of this punishment. To lawmakers, he said: "I propose to those among them who are Catholic to make a courageous and exemplary gesture: that no sentence is executed this Holy Year of Mercy." CNN

INVITATION FROM THE SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH.

Saturday, 19 March 2016 is the Feast of St Joseph. On this day the Sisters of St Joseph celebrate 150 years since their foundation in Penola South Australia in 1866 as a result of the dream of Mary MacKillop and Fr Tenison Woods. The Sisters invite you to join with them in giving thanks to God for the countless blessings that have come to Australia and beyond as a result of the ministry of the Sisters in small country places and larger cities. Mass will be celebrated in a number of centres throughout NSW on this Feast of St Joseph. Priests and Religious, Associates, family, friends, ex-students and current students of the Sisters are invited to join the Sisters in the celebration of Mass. Mass will be celebrated at **St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney at 10.00 am**. For purposes of catering and printing please send your reply **before 04 March** to Sr Julie Simpson. **Phone**: 4677 1477 or 0418 674 452 and leave a message. **Email**: julie.simpson@sosj.org.au. **Post**: Sr Julie Simpson, PO Box 13, Picton NSW 2571.

Third Sunday of Lent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

FIRST READING: This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you (Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15)

PSALM: The Lord is kind and merciful (Ps 102:1-4, 6-8, 11)

SECOND READING: All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit (1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: Unless you repent you will all perish as they did (Luke 13:1-9)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.



Next Sunday's Readings

Fourth Sunday
of Lent

Joshua 5:9-12

Ps 33:2-7

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11-12