

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



Fourth Sunday of Easter C

April 17, 2016

It was my second son who said it. I have four sons and some of them were known for their wilful ways when they started school! "So which Martin boy are you?" said the Year One teacher "I am the Good One!" Gerard said. Today we meet not just a shepherd but the Good Shepherd, the one that stands apart from the rest. Shepherds did not enjoy a marvellous reputation but remember King David had started his life as a shepherd boy so there was a history of God been identified with the disreputable and the outcast. It is the character of sheep that worry me. I'm sure there never has been a recorded incident of a sheep that rescued the master or affiliated themselves with good over evil. No sheep are sheep and are dumb and dumber. That is why they need reliable and responsible care.

Jesus tells us that we follow him, not because we are too dumb to know otherwise, or because we are anxious or fearful of our alternatives, but because we know his voice, we know him, he knows our name. We follow Jesus' lead for no other reason than throughout our life we have come to trust him and to rely on the intimacy of our relationship with him. In return he protects us and makes sure no one can steal us from his flock.

Trust is a hard thing for us in this present world...and why trust a disreputable shepherd? Because He and the Father are One. Maybe like Gerard we can proclaim 'I am a Good One' because we can positively trust in the love and protection of the Father through the care of the Shepherd...the Good Shepherd.

Marguerite Martin

Head Count I have been asked by the Sydney Archdiocese to conduct a head count of people attending all masses for 4 weeks from Sunday 1st May. I am currently looking for volunteers who may be willing to assist at the 10am mass during this time. Please contact the Parish or email me at alan@vinash.org.au if you are able to help.

Fr. Alan

ST VINCENT'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

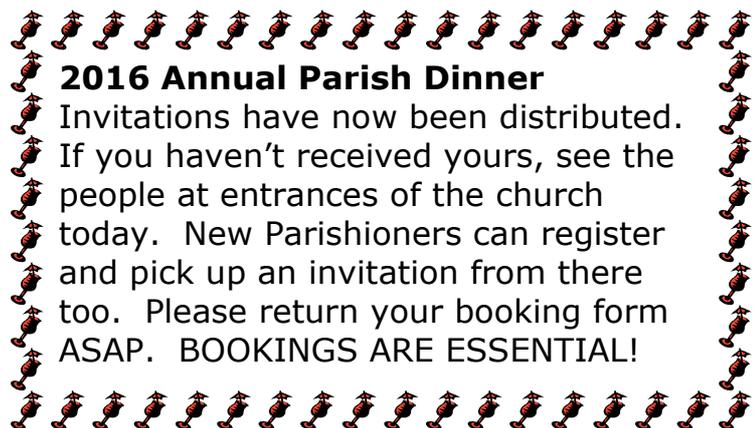
The playground of St Vincent's Primary School is going to be resurfaced during the next school holidays. This area extends from the Charlotte Street side of the school up to the middle gate in the parish/school grounds. Unfortunately it will not be available for parish parking or for pedestrian access between the dates of **11th April and the 26th April or until further notice**. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause. Parking will still be available in the parish/school grounds from the Bland Street entrance up to the middle fence. **Fr. Alan**

Fr. Alan Absence

Fr. Alan will be away on holidays from 13-22 April. Fr. Kevin Canty cm will celebrate the masses during his absence.

Baptisms It is with great joy that I wish to advise that Jared Masakadza and Damian Mudiwa Masakadza from the Zimbabwean Catholic Community will be baptised at the 6pm mass on Sunday 24th April.

Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Tuesday 26th April at 6.30pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms.



2016 Annual Parish Dinner

Invitations have now been distributed. If you haven't received yours, see the people at entrances of the church today. New Parishioners can register and pick up an invitation from there too. Please return your booking form ASAP. **BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL!**

DATES FOR DIARY

30th April Parish Dinner
15th May Confirmation
22nd May Parish Finance Committee to speak at all Masses
19th June 10am Mass — Ashfield Council & Bethlehem Ex Students
21st August 10am Mass Club Ashfield Annual Mass

Walk With Christ Postponed. Due to complications associated with the Light Rail works in the CBD, the decision has been taken to postpone the annual Eucharistic Procession, Walk With Christ, to a time close to the Feast of Christ the King (Sunday 20 November 2016). This will allow us to close the Year of Mercy with the Eucharistic Procession. His Grace also hopes that he might be able to accompany the procession in November. We are extremely grateful for the efforts of the personnel at Sydney's Transport Management Centre for the collaborative way in which they have engaged with us and we are hopeful of resolving a suitable route for November.

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.
May we walk gently and respectfully upon the land.

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

CONFIRMATION will be celebrated on May 15 at 2pm in this Parish by the Very Rev Gerry Gleeson VG. We have met with a small but delightful group of enquiring minds over the last two weeks and will resume our meetings after the holidays on 27 April.

Before and After School Care

Late last year I received an approach from Sydney Catholic Schools (formerly Catholic Education Office) to consider the possibility of establishing Before and After School Care in the Parish here at St Vincent's Ashfield. It is a concept that enjoys the support of the Archdiocese of Sydney. I then consulted the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Committee who gave their approval to investigate. I have since interviewed and have carried out comprehensive reference checks on two providers (Extend and Camp Australia). A final decision will be made at the Parish Pastoral Council meeting in May. If we were to go ahead it would commence at the beginning of 2017. There are two factors to consider. Firstly, it would mean that the parish would not have access to the hall or any parking on the parish grounds from 7am in the morning until 6pm at night during the week as the front gate would have to be closed. Secondly, it does represent a good source of income to the parish from our parish hall which at present is underutilized. I write as I seek your opinions before any final decision is made. Please feel free to see me personally or email me on alan@vinash.org.au.

Fr. Alan

Fourth Sunday of Easter C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

FIRST READING: We are now turning to the gentiles (Acts 13:14. 43-52)

PSALM: We are his people, the sheep of his flock (Ps 99:1-3,5)

SECOND READING: The lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water (Revelation 7:9, 14-17)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: I give my sheep eternal life (John 10:27-30)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.



Next Sunday's Readings

Fifth Sunday
of Easter C

Acts 14:21-27

Ps 144:8-13

Revelation 21:1-5

John 13:34