

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



Twenty-second Sunday In Ordinary Time Year C

August 28, 2016

Looking at today's Gospel and hearing our Lord's command, 'Invite the poor, the crippled, to the feast', how do we respond as global citizens who are Catholic Christians?

Where are the majority of the poor, the crippled, the blind, the lame?

In the refuge camps, the subsistence villages, the squalor of the mega-cities of the third world: Africa, Asia, the Pacific.

When we set the table whom do we invite? Our Lord urge us: '...when you give a lunch/dinner, do we ask your brothers, relations and neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy...'

Of course it is good to have an immigration policy favouring skilled and entrepreneurial people. They bring business, professional or trade skills and perhaps some capital.

But, it is obvious that such a policy is pursued out of self-interest—we get a pay-off in economic activity and social stability. They more than 'repay our courtesy'.

But, the gospel demands that we go beyond that. 'No, when you have a party [and in comparative global terms, isn't Australia having a wonderful party!] invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

So, the Gospel demands a generous refugee and humanitarian settlement programme here, not to help investment in skills and capital here, but to help those who are suffering some humanitarian catastrophe, without the necessities of life and even in peril of their lives.

And this should be supplemented by a generous overseas aid programme at government and voluntary levels—to extend the table overseas.

Today's gospel presents us with the facts. There is a feast. There are the poor, the maimed, the disabled. Justice demands, God's justice demands, a redistribution of resources, an invitation to the table of prosperity. It is obviously good for the recipients.

And it is also good for us! *Fr. Michael Tate*



Catholic Mission Paul Kennedy from Catholic Mission will be speaking at all our masses today. Please make him feel welcome. Envelopes are in the seats. Anyone wishing to make a donation to Catholic Mission can do so by placing these envelopes on either the first or second collection.

Circle of Silence today is Refugee & Migrant Sunday, and St. Vincent's is hosting a Circle of Silence in support of migrants and refugees who are silenced and not listened to. The idea of the Circle of silence was started by the Franciscans in France in 2007. It will take place in the church on Sunday night (28 Aug) from 7:15 to 8:00pm. The Circle will begin with a series of recorded songs that have been written by people seeking asylum and refuge in Australia. This will be followed by a period of silence where those participating will stand in solidarity, in silence, with our brothers and sisters around the world. All are welcome. For more information call Jenny 0408 482 780.

FATHERS DAY MASS

Students from De La Salle and Bethlehem Colleges and their fathers will attend a special Fathers Day Mass in the Parish on Thursday 1st September at 9am. The duration of the mass will be 45-50 minutes on this day.



BAPTISMS

Saturday, 3rd September 2016

ELI ISAAH WICKS

Altar Servers Training Training is being offered to any child who has made their First Holy Communion and who would like to become an altar server. Training will take place on Wednesday 31st August and Wednesday 7th September in the Church from 3.30pm-4.30pm. Those interested are encouraged to attend both sessions. *Fr. Alan*

Cardinal Freeman Village

Fr. Alan will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the residents of Cardinal Freeman Village on Thursday 1st September from 3-4pm. This will be followed by the Celebration of Eucharist at 4:00pm which will include the Anointing of the Sick.

PARISH STAFF: *Fr. Alan Gibson CM*
Carmen Yap

Marguerite Martin
Aparna John (Mon & Tues)

