

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-fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time Year C

September 11, 2016

I found a diamond.

My niece, who manages a little country pub in rural England, was getting married. The local jeweler visited her place at the pub for her to select the diamonds for her wedding band. He shook out little pink diamonds on to a black cloth and one diamond rolled off. After they had looked everywhere they abandoned the search..

When my niece told me this story, I thought I will search. So I swept and wiped the floor but to no avail, and then I saw possibility. Beside the window in this room there was a radiator. So with a torch, I looked. Between the radiator and the wall, I looked into a gap that contained years of dust, dirt and grime. There were dead leaves from flowers that had been on the window ledge, there were little scraps of paper and little pieces of tinsel from Christmas decorations of years gone by that glittered; and then, from out of this filth and mess there was a sparkle, a sparkle that was pure, clear, constant and untarnished. With a stick I poked the dirt through a ventilation grid, and finally was rewarded with the tiny diamond that kept its brilliance even through the mess. I was ecstatic. I had found the diamond! Well being in a country pub we did celebrate appropriately.

Today's readings are all about that joy of finding things that are precious, like a lost coin, a lost sheep and a wayward son. We know the finder went to extraordinary lengths and persevered to reclaim the lost and then to celebrate. This is the sparkle of the kingdom of God, the renewed and re-found relationship with God, reaching out through the mess that obscures, to bring us home.

Marguerite Martin

Vincentian Burse Day will take place at St. Vincent's Ashfield today Sunday 11th September at 2:00pm followed by an afternoon tea in the Parish Meeting Rooms. The Vincentian Burse supports the training of our seminarians in the Fiji Islands. Anyone wishing to donate to the Vincentian Burse can do so through the Parish Office or seeing Fr. Alan in person after any of the Sunday masses.

* Welcome to **Anne Jalando-on Louis**, the *
* Philippine Consul General who is visiting us in *
* her official capacity for 6pm Mass. We thank *
* God for the 70 years of 'official' relationship *
* between our two countries. *

Visit of Pastoral Students Both Kasimero Bule and Kennedy Keni'uhana will be introduced to the Parish at all of our masses this weekend.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting will take place in the Parish Meeting Rooms this Monday 12th September at 6.30pm.

Parish Men's Group will meet next Tuesday night (September 13th) at 7:30pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms. An informal gathering of discussion and prayer. All new and past participants would be most welcome

First Communion Parents Only Information Session will be held on Tuesday 13th September at 6:30pm or Thursday 15th September at 9:15am in the Parish Centre 12 Bland Street.

ST VINCENTS DAY IS ONE WEEK AWAY

The Parish is invited to attend St Vincent's Day Lunch in the hall on 18 September. This year, in the spirit of Vincent, we will be sharing with invited people from other local communities. It will be a Pot Luck luncheon and we would love you to bring a pot or plate of food to share. It could be as simple as a plate of fruit or a Salad or as complicated as your favourite casserole or cake. As we will have visitors we need to know numbers. If you intend coming we ask you to write your name, phone no and tick if you intend to bring food.

BUNNINGS BBQ Also we need parishioners to commit to our fund raising venture for the works of St Vincent de Paul, the Ashfield Bunnings BBQ on Sunday Oct 16. We have been gifted with this fund raising activity that demands just volunteers to serve. We ask you to volunteer for a minimum of one hour in a time slot of your choice on this day. We need to start serving at 8am and finish at 4.40 pm so its a very full day. Again there is a sheet at the back of the church.

PARISH STAFF: Fr. Alan Gibson CM
Carmen Yap

Marguerite Martin
Aparna John (Mon & Tues)

DAILY MASS BOOKS & BREAK OPEN THE WORD FOR 2017

We will be ordering the new Daily Mass Book 2017 & Break Open the Word 2017. Cost: \$21 each. To place an order kindly ring Parish Office at 9798 2501 and orders must be received by **Tuesday 27th September 2016.**

Receipts for donations to the Planned Giving, CWF and Project Compassion for the Financial Year 2015 – 2016 are now available at the back of the church.

Many thanks to all those who continue to support the Parish through the weekly planned giving envelope.

DATES FOR DIARY

18 th September	St. Vincent's Feast Day
20 th September	E Conference Year of Mercy
16 th October	Ashfield Bunning's Barbeque
13th & 20th November	First Holy Communion

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

Sunday 9.00 am Tuesdays and Wednesdays 4:00pm.

Friday 9:00am Communion Service.



Have you ever Wondered?... About God and the meaning of life? About the Catholic faith? About what your children learn in Religion classes? Then, you may be interested in finding answers to your questions and finding out about the Catholic faith. St Vincent's parish community invites you to an **enquiry evening** on either Thurs 22 September or Wednesday 28 September at 7pm at the St Vincent's Parish Centre (12 Bland St, Ashfield). If you:

- * Have never been baptised as a Christian
- * Have been baptised in another Christian faith and are now interested in the Catholic faith tradition
- * Were baptised in the Catholic tradition but not raised as a Catholic,
- * Are Catholic and would like to rejuvenate your faith, - then come along to this enquiry evening. For more information, contact Marguerite 97982501.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY: The Value and Dignity of Older People.

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on **25 September**. This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled: **'A Place at the Table: Social justice in an ageing society'**. The Statement celebrates the value and dignity of older people in Australian life. It challenges us to recognise their significant contribution to society and emphasises that this contribution should not be valued in mere economic terms. The Statement calls for justice for those who are most vulnerable and warns about a view of older people as burdensome or dispensable. For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website

www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or call **(02) 8306 3499**.

POSITION VACANT – Archdiocese of Sydney.

Applications are being considered for the position of **Diary Secretary to the Archbishop of Sydney**. This is a Maternity Leave **contract to October 2017**. For further information please visit www.catholicjobsonline.com.au or by contacting Anthony Spata at REACH Human Resources on **0402 210 055**.

Twenty-fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time Year C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

FIRST READING: The Lord relented and did not send the evil he had threatened (Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14)

PSALM: I rise and go to my father (Ps 50:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19)

SECOND READING: Christ came to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:12-17)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! God was Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: There will be joy in heaven over one sinner who does penance (Luke 15:1-32)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.



Next Sunday's Readings

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Amos 8:4-7

Psalm 112:1-2, 4-8

1 Timothy 2:1-8

Luke 16:1-13