

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



Second Sunday of Advent Year A

December 4, 2016

What is the worst situation that a human being can face? It is to live without hope. It is with this that many cruel regimes attempt to subdue populations...to take hope away is to take away life.

Through the weeks of Advent, it is the readings from Isaiah that capture for us the hope that is Jesus. Isaiah shares his divine insights into what really resonates in the hearts of all God's people. It is the peaceful kingdom of God, where *swords are beaten into ploughs*, an environment of cultivation rather than extermination, where *the wolf lives with the lamb* and there is *no hurt, no harm..... for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord*.

Isaiah, the prophet, spoke of the Peaceful kingdom, as have prophets of recent time like Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa and now Pope Francis who share their vision and peaceful yet revolutionary action for the world.

John the Baptist's message was a call to change, starting with ourselves. It has always been very easy to look at our problems and correct them by blaming, pointing the finger at others and attempting to change others behaviours. In this how are we travelling? Are we in fact the *Brood of Vipers* who can admit to doing no wrong but actually don't *produce the appropriate fruit* to build up the kingdom.

John the Baptist implies that apathy and complacency work against God's intentions, and instead of bearing fruit cause rot. Is it my complacency not to rock the status quos that allows bullets to be fired and the poor to exist? It is in to this that we must allow the hope of Jesus, to come into our being to ignite and fuel our actions. It is into the dark, messy stable part of our being that Jesus will be born. *Marquerite Martin*

Thank You Party All parishioners are invited to a Thank You Party at the Parish Office on Thursday 8th December at 7pm.

SUPER SUNDAY PARISH MEN'S GROUP (FREE) CHRISTMAS BBQ

After all masses next Sunday December 11, in the playground or hall depending on the weather. ALL parishioners are invited, no excuses will be excepted for non appearances. *Note also that if you normally park in the playground there will be more people around than normal, so please be aware of this.*



BAPTISMS

Saturday, 3rd December 2016

CHRISTIAN PROIETTO
BLAKE CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON

'PARISH 2020' LAUNCH THIS WEEKEND

Today Parishes, Chaplaincies and communities across the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney will be presented with a Pastoral Letter and DVD from Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, announcing the launch of a new pastoral project for the Archdiocese called 'Parish 2020'. The launch of this project marks the commencement of an exciting new chapter as we plan for the future of the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Advent In this season of Advent as a parish we will be reflecting on the readings as to how they affect our lives socially as well as individually. As a result we will have the opportunity to reflect upon a number of current social issues. On Sunday December 11th Stephen Fenn, a parishioner who is a member of our local St Vincent de Paul Conference, will speak to us on Affordable Housing at all masses. On Sunday December 18th Kimberley Doyle from the Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Office will speak to us at all masses on the recent Australian Catholic Bishop's Statement entitled "A Place At the Table" which deals with care of the elderly.

Sydney Alliance City Wide Leaders Meeting

will take place on Monday night 5th December at 7pm at St Stephen's Uniting Church, 197 Macquarie Street, Sydney. It will be dealing with a number of issues Penalty Rates for Weekends and Public Holiday, Just urban transitions(a new project to tackle climate change, housing and transport and a welcoming city for people seeking refuge and asylum. I will be attending. Please contact me if you would like to attend as well.

Fr. Alan

WELCOME

Welcome Karen and Archer who have joined us through the RCIA. Officially now they are in the catechumenate.

They ask for your prayers as they discover the hope that is our God.

We, the Parish community of St. Vincent's, with a genuine sense of belonging, strive to follow the example of Christ and spread the Vincentian spirit throughout the Ashfield district.

PARISH STAFF: Fr. Alan Gibson CM
Carmen Yap

Marguerite Martin
Aparna John (Mon & Tues)

Mass on Thursday 8th December will take place at **9.15am** instead of the usual time of 9am. It will be St Vincent's Primary School End of Year Mass. As it is also the parish mass for this day parishioners are encouraged to attend.

CHRISTMAS 2016



Saturday, 24th December

- 6:00pm Christmas Eve – Children's Mass
- 8:00pm Christmas Eve
- 10:00pm Polish Mass
- 12:00am Midnight Mass
- Carols from 11:30pm

Sunday, 25th December

- 8:00am Christmas Day
- 10:00am Christmas Day
- 12:00pm Polish Mass

There will be **NO** evening Mass in

English or Polish on Sunday night

Please note there will be **9:00am Mass on Christmas Day at Cardinal Freeman Village (137 Victoria Street Ashfield)**

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.

Vinnies Christmas Hampers Request for Food Donations

The local Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will again be delivering Christmas hampers to individuals and families in need throughout the Ashfield area.

Donations of tinned and other non-perishable food can be left under the Advent tree from next week. Any other gifts should be left unwrapped so they can be given to the appropriate recipients.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

Vinnies' Christmas Appeal

The local Conference of SVDP will again be holding their annual Christmas appeal at all Sunday masses this weekend. Donations will help individuals and families in need. The ongoing generosity of the Parish is appreciated.

Please note that Christmas cards will not be sold this year.

St Vincent's Youth Group! On the 11th of December, STV Youth Group will be fundraising for the Youth Group by selling cupcakes after the 10am Mass. Cupcakes will be \$2 each! If you wish to help please contact Jessica on 0435 003 350.

Reconciliation A Reconciliation Service including the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place in the Church on **Thursday 15th December at 7pm.**

This represents a wonderful opportunity to celebrate God's love and mercy as a parish family.

Columban Calendars on sale \$9. Can be purchased after any mass. Catholic Weekly is **not** free...it costs \$2.

Second Sunday of Advent Year A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

FIRST READING: He judges the poor with justice (Isaiah 11:1-10)

PSALM: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever (Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17)

SECOND READING: Christ, the hope of all people (Romans 15:4-9)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand (Matthew 3:1-12)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.



Next Sunday's Readings Third Sunday of Advent

- Isaiah 35:1-6, 10
- Psalm 145:6-10
- James 5:7-10
- Matthew 11:2-11