

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 Advent Year A

December 11, 2016

It was John the Baptist in prison who sent the message, "Are you the one?" John, who in the element of the wilderness was so sure, was now incarcerated and losing hope. John needed that reassurance. Jesus' response was to tell of the arrival of the kingdom in terms of restoration of life to the poor and the disabled and happiness to people who were faithful to him. It was for this John had lived and preached. It is a very human quality to feel doubts in times of hardship and John in jail must have been looking deeply into his life and his life decision to follow the call of God. Was this the outcome....or was he trying to share once again with his own followers that this man Jesus indeed was the one, just listen to him. Either way Jesus' message to John was to reassure and bring the Good News of hope. Hope is the most vital quality of life, and we need each other to keep hope buoyant and vibrant especially when the situation would appear hopeless. We become hopeless when through circumstances we lose control. How good is it to be reassured by another who brings hope. Jesus was the voice of hope for John and his followers. Who do we turn to in times when circumstances leave us doubting....certainly prayer and someone else who will share that prayer and hope with us, so that a new way forward is encountered.

Nelson Mandela, the master of Hope in a hopeless situation said this:

"We are born to manifest the Glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in all of us. And when we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same."

Marguerite Martin

De La Salle End Of Year Mass will take place in the Church this Tuesday 13th December at 11:30am. Parishioners are most welcome to attend.

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. This **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.

SUPER SUNDAY PARISH MEN'S GROUP (FREE) CHRISTMAS BBQ After all masses **TODAY**, 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.*

St. Vincent's Youth Group! Today, 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 @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.

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)

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)

Readers The 2017 book Break Open the Word is now available for sale for \$20.00 each. It contains all the Sunday Readings for the next 12 months from the First Sunday of Advent this year.

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.

Parish 2020 was launched last Sunday . Brochures giving further information about Parish 2020 is in the Church foyer.

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. Any other gifts should be left unwrapped so they can be given to the appropriate recipients.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

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

Work in Parish Primary School The gates to the parish grounds will be locked on Saturday 17th December as trucks will need to have uninhibited access to the Primary School to complete their work on one of the buildings there. Sorry for any inconvenience. This will not affect the usual car parking arrangements on Sunday December 18th.

Fr. Alan

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

Please do not leave any used items on the pamphlet racks, outside the doors of the church or in the door of the Parish office. Thank you.

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.

Third Sunday of Advent Year A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING: God himself will come and save us (Isaiah 35:16. 10)

PSALM: Lord, come and save us (Ps 145:6-10)

SECOND READING: You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord’s coming will be soon (James 5:7-10)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring the Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else (Matthew 11:2-11)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come; and he will save us.



Next Sunday’s Readings Fourth Sunday of Advent

- Isaiah 7:10-14
- Psalms 23:1-6
- Romans 1:1-7
- Matthew 1:18-24