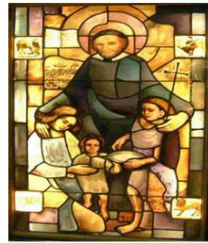


St Vincent's Parish, Ashfield

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 Advent Year A

December 18, 2016

Stress and tension is one of the symptoms of Christmas...Peace, Joy, Goodwill is screamed at us as we race around feeling none of it...but we know this is not new. The time before the first Christmas had its share of stress and tension too. Consider the characters that Matthew presents to us today, Mary, Joseph, the Angel and the unborn Emmanuel.

Isn't it ironic that the whole Christmas tension starts with the greatest of all humankind, the 'gentle, chaste and spotless maid' and the cloud of adultery.

Joseph, *the man of honour* was the totally gutted betrothed. His plan for future generations, planned with Mary, was in tatters.

What did she tell him? How did the conversation go? Joseph's tensions: to love or to leave, loyalty or betrayal, his stresses: humiliation, embarrassment and disappointment.

Joan Chittister writes, "Only unwilling change catapults us into what we did not plan to do. Only unwilling change really matters to the molding of the soul, to the stretching of the self beyond the self. Unwilled change is what seeks and reshapes me."

Joseph had real change thrust upon him. The plan was to leave quietly, but then he is visited by the angel. The angel gave Joseph clarity in vision. Joseph made that leap of faith, leaving behind his plan and fully entered into God's plan. We all want to own our lives, to feel in control but sudden change, real change intervenes. Death, accidents, illness, unemployment, even earthquakes happen. At times like this, like Joseph, we want to run back to what we know, what we can control. We all need to meet angels. Joseph's angel was unnamed, our angels can also come in unnamed forms. The angel will ask you to accept and grasp life, to grow and mostly to decisively trust in the God who is named Emmanuel.. the God who is with us.

Marguerite Martin

Advent This Sunday December 18th Kimberley Doyle from the Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Office will speak to us at the 8am and 10am masses on the recent Australian Catholic Bishop's Statement entitled "A place At The Table" which deals with care of the elderly. A date will be set for early next year for Kimberley to return and speak at the 6pm mass.

Tax Deductibility on Planned Giving Envelope

Due to recent NSW State Government legislative changes that take effect from 1 January 2017 it will not be possible to provide tax deductibility on planned giving donations made after 31 December 2016. A tax deductible receipt will however be provided for any contributions made for the period 1 July to 31 December 2016.

The Parish Priest will be writing to each parishioner who is currently contributing to the Parish Planned Giving to provide them with further information.

**Monday, 26th December 2016
Mass for Boxing Day
will be at 9:00am instead of 12noon**

THANK YOU to all who bought the delicious cup cakes and made generous donations in support of our Youth Group. We made over \$250.

St V Youth Group team

Parish Office will closed from Monday 26th December 2016 to Friday 13th January 2017. Office will reopen on Monday 16th January 2017.

There will be no bulletins during those weeks.

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
<u>Reconciliation:</u> Saturday 8:10am to 8:40am	
Morning Prayer: Saturday 8:40am	
Saturday	NO 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.

Information for parents regarding Year 7 enrolments in Sydney Catholic Systemic Secondary School

From 2017, all Sydney Catholic Secondary Systemic schools will be enrolling students for Year 7 two years before their intended start date.

This means that, for students in Year 5 in 2017, enrolment applications, interviews and offers of places will be conducted at Sydney Catholic Secondary schools over the course of 2017.

The earlier enrolment timing will give parents greater assurance of securing a place for their child so that they can follow a continuous Catholic education pathway from Kindergarten to year 12.

For more information, please contact the Principal at your child's Sydney Catholic school.

CATHOLICARE: SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF SYDNEY FOR 75 YEARS.

CatholicCare services assist people to live and thrive at every age. We provide disability services, counselling and support for children, young people and families and deliver ageing services in the home. We can assist you to navigate the new world of the NDIS and My Aged Care. To find out more call **13 18 19**, email connect@catholiccare.org or visit www.catholiccare.org.

ST PETER CHANEL & ST JOSEPH, BERALA -

Position Vacant. The parish is looking to fill the position of Pastoral Co-ordinator. This part time position (24 hours/week with flexible schedule), requires superior communication skills, demonstrated administrative and collaboration skills to co-ordinate and manage the pastoral activities of the parish, a demonstrated commitment to the ethos and values of the Catholic Church and sound skills with the use of Microsoft software. For further information please visit www.catholicjobsonline.com.au or **Fr Thomas Kurunthanam** on pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au. Applications close on **Thursday, 22 December 2016.**

Frankly magazine \$3 & Columban
Calendars on sale \$9. Can be purchased
after any mass.

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING: The virgin will conceive (Isaiah 7:10-14)

PSALM: Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory (Ps 23:1-6)

SECOND READING: Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God (Romans 1:1-7)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David (Matthew 1:18-24)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.



Next Sunday's Readings

The Nativity of the Lord
Isaiah 62: 1-5
Psalm 88:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25
Matthew 1:1-25