

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



Christmas

December 25, 2016

CHRISTMAS

Masses during the 6pm, 8:00pm, Midnight Mass, 8:00am and 10am (Christmas Day)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.

FIRST READING: A son is given to us (Isaiah 9:1-7)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord (Ps 95:1-3. 11-13)

SECOND READING: God's grace has been revealed to all people (Titus 2.11-14)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Good news and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Today a Saviour has been born for you (Luke 2.1-14)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.



"On behalf of Carmen, Marguerite, Aparna and myself I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas. I consider it a privilege to continue serving this parish community. Very much hoping that the Birth of our Saviour proves to be a joyful time for you all."

Fr. Alan

Happy Christmas...The waiting has finished and the day has arrived of great giving, feasting and festivity. This is the feast of hospitality and generosity, echoing the generosity of God in giving us Jesus to be one of us...Emmanuel... God made Man. So often when we want to know someone, we become intrigued and interested with their past, their stories and where they came from.

My son's wife, when she first came to our home, couldn't get enough of those old school pictures of my son, especially the ones with the front teeth missing or the new big teeth. "Isn't he beautiful", she would say much to our amusement as she tried to absorb his past into her own. Today we are given the same opportunity to deeply involve ourselves in a baby who became the bench mark of time, the greatest event in history, but who demands an individual response to his invitation of relationship. It is for this reason of *personal* connection and relationship that Luke and Matthew wrote for us the stories, the infancy narratives, to satisfy and deepen our relationship with Jesus who historically gave his life in love for us, and who continues to give his undying love for us.



This beloved story of Jesus birth, isn't wrapped with a golden bow but rather tied up with all the frailties, imperfections yet surprises of humanity. From the young unmarried mum with the troubled partner; to the Bethlehem homeless experience resulting in squatting in a stable; the visitation by the poorest and most marginalised; to the escape from the murderous hands of Herod to become refugee. All aspects of this story can resonate but mostly how 'out of control' life can be when we are delivering Jesus into the world!

Marguerite Martin

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)

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

Parish Office will be 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.



Over the year we have been collecting and sending on to two organisations, used stamps. The Sisters of St Joseph and the Vincentian Fathers. Last week I heard from the Sisters of St Joseph that they had made A\$ 62,000 this year (not just from St Vincent's) to forward to their Peruvian Mission. It is well worth cutting the stamps from all envelopes, remembering to leave a generous margin, and dropping them to us, to assist worthy causes! .

Thanks from Cana Communities You may remember we held an appeal for Cana Communities during the month of December. They wrote to me to convey their gratitude to the parish for our ongoing support and wish to extend their Christmas wishes. **Fr. Alan**

Parish Masses this week:

Monday 9:00am (26/12/16 only)

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 9:00am Tuesdays and Wednesdays

4:00pm. Friday 9:00am Communion Service



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.
"The Planned Giving Envelope System will continue in the parish for those parishioners, who despite the loss of the tax deduction, still desire to contribute in this way. Therefore from 1st January 2017 the first collection will go towards the priests of the parish as it has always done. The second collection (both envelopes and loose money) will go towards the parish. **Fr. Alan**

Advent Thanks to Dr. Kimberley Doyle who spoke at the 8am and 10am masses last Sunday regarding the work of the Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Office and about the Australian Catholic Bishop's Statement "A Place At the Table" dealing with care of the elderly. She will return to speak at the 6pm mass on Sunday 29th January. After the mass she will meet with parishioners who are interested in pursuing social justice issues in the Parish Meeting Rooms.

Confirmation 2017

In 2017 Confirmation will be celebrated with Bishop Terry Brady on Sunday 11th June 2017 at 2pm. The dates have been allocated by the Archbishop.

Frankly magazine \$3 & Columban Calendars on sale \$9. Can be purchased after any mass. Catholic Weekly is **not free...it costs \$2.**

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

FIRST READING: They will call down my name on the children of Israel and I will bless them (Number 6:22-27)

PSALM: May God bless us in his mercy (Ps 66:2-3, 5, 6, 8)

SECOND READING: When the appointed time came, God sent his son, born of a woman (Galatians 4:4-7)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the crib...When the eighth day came they gave him the name of Jesus (Luke 2:16-21)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.



Next Sunday's Readings
The Epiphany of the Lord
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13
Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
Mathew 2:1-12