

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



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

January 22, 2017

It is hard for us to imagine just what it was like before the electric light. We are so used to flicking a switchand extending the working day! As city people, especially people who are close to the great workings of the West Connex, we know they can dig up the road at night with a great light.....but go into the real countryside however and experience the real darkness of night, where one is attracted to a light, like a hopeful moth, for security, company, warmth and protection. Horror movie makers know this when they always have their victims walking into darkness; for the chaos, panic and fright factors.

We present a light, a candle, to the newly baptised. 'Receive the light of Christ'. This candle's light originates in the flame of one of our more powerful symbols of the Church. The Pascal candle, the flame of the resurrected Christ, that lights up the church at the Easter Vigil. The comparison is meant to be seen....from darkness, without Christ into light with Christ.

The gospel today echoes the prophesy of Isaiah. *The people who lived in darkness have seen a great light.*

In a time where we are used to manipulating the elements of light and darkness, it is easy to underestimate the power of living in the light of Christ, until we meet darkness in the many forms it takes in life. Then we can be drawn into the comfort, hope and security that only the great light of a Saviour can bring.

Marguerite Martin

RCIA has recommenced after a Christmas break. We meet every Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Parish House 12 Bland St. If you would like to know more ring Marguerite 97982501.

Sunday 29th January Dr. Kimberly Doyle from the Archdiocese's Justice and Peace Office will return to the parish to speak at the 6pm mass on Sunday 29th January. Kim will speak on the work of the Justice and Peace Office and also on "A place At The Table" which is the Australian Catholic Bishop's statement on Care of the Elderly. A meeting will take place after the mass for those interested in social justice issues.

Baptisms Baptisms normally take place on the first Saturday of each month at 11am. As it has been our parish practice for several years not to have baptisms during the Season of Lent an extra time for baptisms before Lent has been set for Saturday 25th February at 11am. If you would like your child to be baptized on either Saturday 4th February or Saturday 25th February at 11am please contact the Parish Office.

Tax Deductibility on Planned Giving Hopefully by now everyone in the Planned Giving Programme has received a letter from me regarding this matter. Just a reminder that from 1st January 2017 the Parish is no longer able to offer a tax deduction on the Planned Giving Envelopes. Please see notice on the notice board for further information as to the reasons why. If there are still concerns please either see me after a Sunday mass, telephone me on 97982501 or email me on alan@vinash.org.au

Fr. Alan

Before and After School Care Just a reminder that Before and After School Care will commence in the Parish hall from Monday to Friday from the beginning of the school year this year. This means there will be no parking in the Parish/ School grounds from 7am-6pm Monday to Fridays during the school term. However it will also mean that the Parish will receive another source of income as a result of this venture.

Fr. Alan

Liturgy Meeting A Liturgy meeting to plan for the Lenten and Easter Season will take place on Thursday 2nd February from 7pm-8.30pm in the Parish Office. All who are interested in planning for this special time in the Church's year are invited to attend.

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)

Thank you!!!

As this is the first bulletin of 2017, we would like to acknowledge and thank all those who made our Advent and Christmas celebrations special. Thankyou Michael Clay and Mary McNally who created the mystical colour changing Christmas tree, dangled the Stars and lights, and created our stunning crib complete with spiders and cockroaches to add to the reality of just what a stable is like! At the Family mass, the girls and boys from Joan Carmody's dance school brought great beauty with their liturgical movement. Thank you Joan for your preparation of the young ones. St Vincent's music ministry is renowned for their generosity and faithfulness. We thank all the various groups that gave so generously through Christmas eve and Christmas days so all masses were accompanied with music and singing. We also thank all those readers and special ministers of the Eucharist who volunteered for the special Christmas roster.

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

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.



AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL. St Mary's Cathedral will open its doors to celebrate Australia Day 2017 with: **A special Mass** to pray for God's blessings on all Australian people at 9.00am; **Organ Recitals and Bell Ringing** in the ambient surrounds of the Cathedral. **Organ Recitals** at 11.30am, 1.00pm, 2.00pm and 3.00pm. **Bell Ringing** at 9.50am and 12.00pm; **Guided History Tours** of the Cathedral or **Cathedral Crypt:** Tour conducted at 10.00am, 10.30am, 11.00am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm and 2.30pm. Everyone Welcome. **All Tours and Recitals Free.**

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.

Upcoming talk-series being held in The Grail in North Sydney

1.) Reflecting on the Spiritual Journey: on six Tuesday mornings during the year, we will be reflecting on readings from: "The Grace in Dying: How we are transformed spiritually as we die" – a book recommended by Ron Rolheiser. First morning will be Tue 28 February, 10 am – 12.

2.) Ecological Conversion – Falling in Love with the Earth: Three sessions exploring the words of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si*, as well as eco-theologians such as Thomas Berry. We will try to understand what is being asked of us as Catholics, and how we might respond. First session is Saturday 25 February, 10 am – 2 pm. More information available on www.grailaustralia.org.au

Readers The 2017 book Break Open the Word is now available for sale for \$20.00 each. It contains all the Sunday Readings for this year.

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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

FIRST READING: In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light
(Isaiah 8:23-9:3)

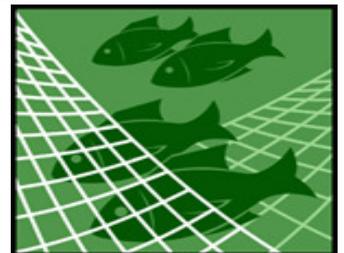
PSALM: The Lord is my light and my salvation (Ps 26:1, 4, 13-14)

SECOND READING: I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you (1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who are sick. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled (Matthew 4:12-23)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.



Next Sunday's Readings

Fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time A
Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13
Psalm 145:7-10
1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Matthew 5:1-12