

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



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

January 29, 2017

We have had a lot of new leaders in our world lately. It is hard to remain passive amidst so much change....it's a new world that will arriving soon and we had got used to the way the old one worked. There is a nostalgia for some of the old leaders and a new hope or a new dread with others, depending where our allegiances lie.

For us who share a leader in Jesus, we know that for our leader "all people matter, absolutely." There is no person, no racial grouping, no religious grouping, no criminal who isn't worthy of his love and mercy. Jesus extends the hospitality of the kingdom with no exclusion, no barriers and no walls.

It is hard to imagine how revolutionary Jesus was and still is with these teachings. Jesus went up a hill and sat down to speak. He didn't stand to speak, he shares a collegiality with his listeners as he speaks with courage sharing the dream, the vision of the Kingdom. With the Beatitudes or the Be-attitudes, Jesus was resetting the agenda for the new kingdom and the new relationship with God...a God who will walk with us through our lives. The available God! The new order asks us to trust in God with a purity of heart that God knows is ours. No pretence, no masks...just an honest relationship with true dependence on God. If we have this freedom before God, we stand a good chance of being free with each other. We must all be poor in Spirit, not a style of depression or inadequacy, but a true humility about our need for God's merciful action in our lives. We are all called to hunger and thirst for justice and all called to be merciful.

The Beatitudes is God's new covenant containing what we are called to do and God's promise of how we will be rewarded for the right action. The greatest of these is to be truly called God's children, to be like God, for bringing his peace and justice to our world.

Marguerite Martin

Parish Collections Since the parish is no longer able to offer a tax deduction on the Planned Giving Envelopes money taken from the Sunday collections will go towards the following:

First Collection goes to the Vincentian Fathers and Brothers (this is unchanged from previous practices).

Second Collection (both loose money and envelopes) will go towards the parish.

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 this 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.

St Vincent's Opening School Mass

Mass will be celebrated to celebrate the beginning of another school year for St Vincent's Primary School on Thursday 2nd February at 9.15am.

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.

Parish Finance Committee Meeting

The Parish Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday 8th February at 7pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms.

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.

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)

Once again, I wish to thank all those who have supported me in my illness, through prayer, and in so many other ways.

Just before Christmas, after further tests, I received good news from one of my specialists. Also, my oncologist and other members of my medical team are very pleased with my progress following the cancer surgeries in late 2015 and early 2016. Naturally my condition is being constantly monitored but I am hopeful for the future. I have fully retired from ministry as I am not completely confident as to my 'condition' on any given day. However, I continue to live in peace, grateful to God, to all the medicos and wonderful people who have supported me.

Fr Michael

Dru Yoga classes resume on 13/2/17 in the Church Hall on Mondays - 6:30pm- 8:00pm. Suitable for all ages. Contact Ann Adams on 0419 427 486.



Kung Hei Fat Choi!!!

To all our Parishioners who are celebrating Chinese lunar New 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
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.



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 Tuesday 31st January. 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

Ashfield Charismatic Prayer Group

The Ashfield Charismatic Prayer Group will have its first meeting for 2017 on Monday 6 February at 7:30pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

A warm welcome invitation is extended to all Parishioners from St. Vincent's to join us.

For Enquiries, please ring 0402 718 949.

Aquinas Academy in the City at 141 Harrington Street near St. Patrick's — offer range of informal adult education programs. An outline of the upcoming Courses is available at the back of the Church. For further info 02 9247 4651 or www.aquinas-academy.com click on Courses.

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.

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.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

FIRST READING: In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people (Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13)

PSALM: Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! (Ps 145:7-10)

SECOND READING: God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning (1 Corinthians 1:26-31)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Rejoice and be glad; Your reward will be great in heaven. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Happy are the poor in spirit (Matthew 5:1-12)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Let your face shine on your servant. Save in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.



Next Sunday's Readings

**Fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time A**
Isaiah 58:7-10
Psalm 111:4-9
1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Matthew 5:13-16