

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



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

February 19, 2017

The first part of today's gospel passage is perhaps one of the most misunderstood of Jesus' teachings. The notion of turning the other cheek usually brings up notions of non-violence, submission, or even sometimes a victim mentality. It seems an odd teaching to tell someone who is being hit to simply stand there and present the other cheek to also be hit. It's odd because we generally fail to understand the cultural context that is the setting for this teaching.

In the first century, a master would discipline a slave or servant by striking them with the back of his hand. Assuming the master is right handed, a back-handed strike would be delivered to the right cheek of the person he faced. If the servant were to then present his left cheek to the master, it becomes impossible for the master to strike with the back of his hand and forces him into using an open-hand slap or a closed-fist punch to the left cheek. Not much of an improvement, you might think. However, servants were disciplined with the back of the hand and only equals fought in such a way that would deliver blows to the left side.

What Jesus is saying to those who are oppressed is to offer no resistance but at the same time stand up for yourself and make your oppressor recognise you and treat you as an equal, not an inferior. It is extremely dangerous advice! Its aim is to shame the oppressor.

The other two examples, surrendering your cloak when sued for your tunic and walking two miles when required to walk one are also examples of seeking to shame the one who would use their power and strength against you. That's not being a submissive wimp; that's staring the bully in the eye!

Jesus tells us that it's easy to love those who love us – anyone can do that. The test of Christian love is to love those who seem unlovable or even seek to make themselves appear unlovable. It's easy to stop saying hello to the person who never returns your greeting. It's easy to avoid the person whose disability makes you uncomfortable. It's easy to hate the person who's nasty to you. But Jesus says that it's these people who we must love. If we are only polite, pleasant and hospitable to our friends then we are failing to follow the footsteps of Jesus.

Gregory Sunter

Parish Pastoral Council

We are currently looking for someone willing to serve on our Parish Pastoral Council. We usually meet on the third Monday of each month for 60-90 minutes. Please see Fr. Alan if you are interested.

Catechist Sunday As yet we have had no response to the appeal to join us in our rewarding mission. We do need catechists particularly in Year 2; to work in tandem with our catechist in Yr 3/4 and also 5/6. We also need to cover illness! This ministry is entirely appropriate for Uni students or indeed anyone who has Wednesday between 2.10pm and 2.40pm free at Ashfield primary School or every second Thursday at Ashfield Boys high. Please don't hesitate, give Marguerite 97982501 a call for further details.

On the Block Open Day The Parish will join all three schools for this day which will take place on **Tuesday March 7th**. St Vincent's Primary School Open Day will take place from 2pm-4pm whilst the Open Days for Bethlehem's and De La Salle will both take place from 3pm - 7pm. The Church will be open from 2pm to 7pm on that day.

Fr. Alan

RCIA We meet every Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Parish House 12 Bland St. If you would like to know more ring Marguerite 9798 2501.

Social Justice Workshop As a result of the visit of [Dr Kimberley Doyle](#) at all of our masses over the past few weeks a Social Justice Workshop will be held in the Parish Meeting Rooms on **Saturday 11th March** from 10am-12pm. This will be followed by a light lunch. Please see Fr. Alan for details.

Last year's Palms wanted! March 1 is Ash Wednesday. Prior to that, at St Vincent's Primary School, we will burn the palms distributed or left over from Palm Sunday last year to make the Ash. If you have a palm from last year you are invited to drop it back to the church so it can be burnt in this ancient ritual. Thank you.

Parish 2020 Last year on the Second Sunday of Advent, Parish 2020 was launched in the Archdiocese of Sydney. This will be spoken to again at next Sunday's Masses.

PARISH STAFF: *Fr. Alan Gibson CM*
Carmen Yap

Marguerite Martin
Aparna John (Mon & Tues)

Ways of receiving Communion Last week some notices were left in the Church giving incorrect information about how to receive communion. I wish to reaffirm that the choice to receive communion in the hand or on the tongue are equally valid choices. Whatever choice is made it is important to make it as easy as possible for the minister of communion to distribute the Body of Christ to you. **Fr. Alan**

Ashfield Charismatic Prayer Group will start its first Fellowship Night for 2017 on Monday 27 February at 7:00pm at the Parish Meeting Rooms.

A warm welcome invitation is extended to all Parishioners from St. Vincent's to join us for a cuppa and a chat.

We look forward to see you there!

POSITION VACANT:

PART-TIME SECRETARY-ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S ASHBURY PARISH

The ideal candidate should have relevant experience in a similar role or in a role encompassing the key areas of competency for this position.

For job description/information, please contact the Parish Office on 9798 3924 (Tuesday 9am-2pm or Thursday 9am-1pm).

Applications close on **Friday 24th February** and should be emailed to the Parish Priest:

pp@sfxashbury.org.au

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.



Casual Work A parishioner new to the parish is looking for part-time casual work. Please see Fr. Alan if you can help.

The Archdiocesan Rite Of Election will take place at St Mary's Cathedral Sydney on the **First Sunday of Lent, 05 March 2017** from 2pm -3:30pm. All welcome! For further details please contact Marguerite at 9798 2501.

Centre For Christian Spirituality -

The Gospel Of Matthew. This program offers a reflective insight into the Gospel with a view to living its message in our daily lives. It will focus particularly on how the Church had traditionally approached the reading of the Scriptures.

DATES: Tuesday Nights – **28 Feb, 07, 21 & 28 March & 04 April.** **TIME:** 7:00pm. **COURSE**

COST: \$10 per night. **Presenter:** Bishop David Walker DD, Emeritus Bishop of Broken Bay. **To register ring or email:** Sally 9398 2211 or sally@thecentre.com.au. Flyer attached for more information.

POSITION VACANT. Office Services Manager, The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney is seeking applications for the role of Office Services Manager. Further details about this position is available at www.catholicjobsonline.com.au. **Applications close Friday, 03 March 2017.**

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.

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.

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

FIRST READING: You must love your neighbour as yourself (Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18)

PSALM: The Lord is kind and merciful (Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13)

SECOND READING: All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God (1 Corinthians 3:16-26)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Love your enemies (Matthew 5:38-48)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.



Next Sunday's Readings

Eight Sunday
 in Ordinary Time A
 Isaiah 49:14-15
 Psalm 61:2-3, 6-9
 1 Corinthians 4:1-5
 Matthew 6:24-34