

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



First Sunday of Lent Year A

March 5, 2017



Jesus was offered three shortcuts for his ministry. Firstly, exceptional powers to satisfy his own needs (bread out of stones). Secondly, when he needed to take risks, angels to keep him safe. Thirdly, when he wanted to change the world, absolute political power.

These were the Temptations of Christ, but also for us. If you or I are tempted to sin, we will find the marks of this threefold pattern. We want the whole world to change to satisfy us, or we want to take stupid risks and come out unscathed, or we want to exercise total power over others.

How can we try to follow Jesus without the shortcuts of the fantasy world which the Devil may offer? Note that Jesus resisted each temptation with: 'It is written'. The forty days of Lent are a perfect opportunity to read what 'is written' in the Gospels about the episodes and pattern of the life of Jesus Christ.

We could pause for a moment to find what is written and to imitate what we find. That is how the Devil is defeated. Fr Michael Tate

Rite of Election

This Sunday we celebrate the Rite of Election at the Cathedral with our catechumens. At the 10am Mass we will witness them formally signing a book their intention to receive the Sacraments of Initiation this coming Easter. We will carry this book to the Cathedral along with the many from other Sydney parishes, to be witnessed by the Bishop.

Social Justice News for March

3 March World Day of Prayer
25 March International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

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

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.

Caritas Australia A speaker from Caritas Australia will come out to speak to the parish at all masses on **Sunday 12 March 2017** (Second Sunday of Lent) about Projection Compassion.

Lenten Letter from Archbishop Anthony Fisher

Copies of the Archbishop's Lenten letter are on the noticeboard and in the foyer for parishioners to take away.

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.

PARISH CENSUS

Over the Christmas/New Year period all parishioners on our Parish Census were written to. Thank you to all parishioners who responded. It has enabled us to update our parish records. It was particularly helpful to find out about parishioners who had moved away. We now have a form which can now be downloaded from our parish website www.vinash.org.au. Therefore if you are new to the parish it please fill out this form and return it to the Parish Office or by email vinstaff@vinash.org.au

PARISH STAFF: Fr. Alan Gibson CM
Carmen Yap

Marguerite Martin
Aparna John (Mon & Tues)

If you would like to join a **Lenten group** about **HOPE.....Monday 6th March** in the Blessed Sacrament 7:30am Prayer and Worship 8:10—9:00am Lenten discussion group. Please contact Theresa @ 0410 248 069. **Tuesday 7th March** in the Parish House at 7:00pm. Please contact Rosanna @0413 133 188.

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.

Project Compassion.... Like many of her neighbours in her rural village in the Philippines, Dinia struggled to feed and educate her children, and the struggle worsened after her husband's untimely death. But, with the help of a program supported by **Caritas Australia**, she now has the skills to earn a better income for her children and help her neighbours in her vulnerable community. Please donate to **Project Compassion 2017** and help people in rural areas of the Philippines develop their strengths and build better futures for their families and their neighbours.

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.



PARISH 2020

Parish 2020 was spoken about at all our masses last weekend. All parishioners are encouraged to give their input into the process. This can be done either online or a form is in the foyer for those without internet. Also they can be completed individually or in parish groups. Please answer only those questions you feel you can. For those who choose to fill in the survey online please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2V7XL9X>. For those who are filling out forms collected from the foyer these must be handed in to the Parish Office by Friday 24th March at the latest. For those who would like to participate in a Question and Answer session in regards to this two sessions have been made available for Thursday 16th March, one in the morning from 10am-11am and the other in the evening from 6pm-7pm. The main thing is that we do respond.

Do you play an instrument?

Ashfield Concert Band was formed as part of the 'On the Block' Band Programme and offers opportunities for adult players as well as students looking for further challenge.

We rehearse on Thursday nights above St Vincent's Parish Hall from 7:30 – 9:30pm during school terms.

Contact Tom: 0404 041 110

secretary@ashfieldcommunityband.com

<http://www.facebook.com/AshfieldCommunityBand>



First Sunday of Lent Year A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

FIRST READING: Creation of our first parents, and sin (Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7)

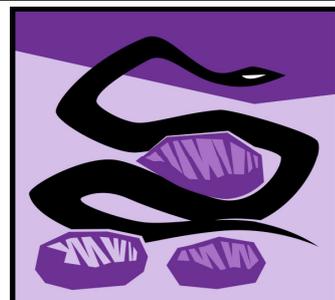
PSALM: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned (Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17)

SECOND READING: Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more (Romans 5:12-19)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
 No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL: Jesus fasted for forty days and nights (Matthew 4:1-11)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.



Next Sunday's Readings

Second Sunday of Lent
 Genesis 12:1-4
 Psalm 32:4-5, 18-20, 22
 2 Timothy 1:8-10
 Matthew 17:5