

# 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



**Third Sunday of Lent Year A**

**March 19, 2017**

**EXPECT**

It never ceases to amaze me just WHO Jesus calls to proclaim him. It is always the most unlikely. The Samaritan woman falls into this category. For a start she is woman, she has a dubious background and to make matters worse she is a Samaritan. Their meeting at the well was Jesus' entrée into Samaritan society. Samaritans worshipped not at the temple in Jerusalem but up a mountain, Mt Gerazim. This was an important divisive distinction between the Jews and the Samaritans...where God was. The woman is amazed that Jesus not just talks to her but asks her to give him a drink. Their conversation runs on two levels. She is concerned about the daily grind, buckets and fetching water, carrying water and sating thirst in the midday sun. Jesus on the other hand is confronting all the other issues and needs in her life. He reveals to her that he has knowledge of her situation and then offers her "the living water" another chance at life, this time not with the God of the mountain, or the God of the temple but with the everyday God, the indwelling God revealed in him.. Jesus the Messiah. He creates in her a new sacred space. She left her buckets and jugs at the well, symbols of her former life of insatiable thirst, to go and proclaim, with amazement, Jesus. I love the element of doubt that is still there in this transformed woman when she calls people to Come and see and the unbelievable, astonished reassurance she needs "He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" Even confronted face to face with the truth, doubt can be there. Jesus came and stayed with the people of the Samaritan town anxious to see and hear him. In the end they also could proclaim with confidence "He is the Saviour!"

The questions that stay with me are:

- ✦ Do I see and hear Jesus proclaimed from unexpected people and places or do I only want to meet him in My church?
- ✦ Do I so fully trust in 'the living water' that I can leave my life back at the well?
- ✦ Do I realise I am a sacred site?
- ✦ Do I let my community reassure my faith and doubts?

## **Parish Pastoral Council**

The next Parish Pastoral Council Meeting will take place on **Monday 20th March at 6:30pm** in the Parish Meeting Rooms.

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 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.

## **CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation registration is happening NOW. Please register your child who is in Yr 6 and above with the registration form available in the foyer. ASAP. First meeting is on 28 March.



Over the next two weekends we are expecting **Human Trafficking and Slavery** speakers to address us about the prevalence of this problem not only in the world but here in Australia. They are proposing to also sell 'fair trade' chocolate Easter Eggs to help assist them in their ministry. There is an article by Sr Margaret Ng rsj on the notice board to inform you of her work.

We live on a borrowed time...  
that is why we call it LENT

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

Marguerite Martin  
Aparna John (Mon & Tues)

## **Social Justice News for March**

25 March *International Day of Remembrance  
of the Victims of Slavery and the  
Transatlantic Slave Trade*



Like many First Australians, Uncle Richard was torn from his family and culture as a child. Forced to grow up in the State-run Kinchela Boys Home (KBH), he suffered violence and pain that haunted his adult years. Now, through Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation, a Caritas Australia partner, he is reconnecting with former KBH boys in a program that restores their wellbeing and helps their families. Please donate to **Project Compassion 2017** and help members of the Stolen Generations support each other on the journey to wellbeing.

*The Gregorian Schola of Sydney* has served the people and the parishes of Sydney for close on thirty years in offering the opportunity to all of singing/praying/learning Gregorian Chant. (Vatican II: Gregorian Chant is "specially suited to the liturgy and... should be given pride of place"). Currently our schola is very much in need of more singers, both young and not so young. We invite you to consider joining and supporting this service. There is opportunity for both solo and group participation. Young people may like to put membership on their CVs. We are grateful to the Parish Priest of St Bede's, Pyrmont, that the schola, when in session, can rehearse in this historic church each week. **This is a plea and an invitation.** If you are interested in joining *The Gregorian Schola of Sydney* ring 8741 2341 or email [gregorian.schola@gmail.com](mailto:gregorian.schola@gmail.com). See also website [www.gchants.org.au](http://www.gchants.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.



**2017 Annual Parish Dinner** will be held on Saturday night, 6<sup>th</sup> May in the De La Salle/ Bethlehem Hall. All Parishioners are invited to attend. Start looking for something purple, mauve or green to wear!!!

Personal invitations are now available for collection in the foyer of the Church. *If your name or address is wrong* on the invitation, please write the correct information on the adjustment sheet in the foyer. *If you are new to the Parish or did not receive a personal invitation last year*, please write your details on the adjustment sheet. **Please take your invitation even if you cannot attend the dinner.** Thank you!

### **Petition to Parliament on Affordable Housing**

Thank you to all parishioners who signed the petition on affordable housing just before Christmas. Around 250 signatures were gathered from the parish.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society now has much more than the 10,000 signatures required to have the matter debated in NSW Parliament. An update will be sent once the day of the parliamentary debate is known.

Stephen Fenn, President, Ashfield Conference, Vinnies

### **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](http://www.vinash.org.au). Therefore if you are new to the parish please fill out this form and return it to the Parish Office or by email [vinstaff@vinash.org.au](mailto:vinstaff@vinash.org.au)

## **Third Sunday of Lent Year A**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

**FIRST READING:** Give us water to drink (Exodus 17:3-7)

**PSALM:** **If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts** (Ps 94:1-2, 6-9)

**SECOND READING:** The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us (Roman 5:1-2, 5-8)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** **Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**GOSPEL:** The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life (John 4:5-42)

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.



### **Next Sunday's Readings**

Fourth Sunday  
of Lent  
1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13  
Psalm 22  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41