

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



Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A

March 26, 2017



There is none as blind as those who will not see! This comment is often bandied around by harassed parents who magically can find socks and school lunch boxes and other 'difficult to find things.' My mother, the wise one, gave me the advice not to run and find items for family members, just keep on giving instructions to where the item may be. Sometimes I do and sometimes I don't!

Surely Jesus, as the Son of God, could have restored the blind man's sight just by thinking about it, yet he covered his eyes with mud! The man accepted Jesus' touch. Jesus' touch would have been rough, as he rubbed thick, sandy, muddy paste on the man's eyes. Jesus then commanded him to go and wash. The blind man responded with openness to Jesus (what did he have to lose); and he participated in his own cure by following and trusting Jesus' words and washing in the pool. Did he know he would gain his sight?

I feel we all have blind moments. We want the torch shone on what we want and placed in our hands. Or do we need to hear and trust Jesus' words, experience a bit of the mud and spittle, let it scour around our eyes a little, then to go and wash in the waters to discover the developing vision of the blind man. For some this Easter, the waters will be the waters of baptism, but for the baptised it will be to immerse ourselves deeper in our community of 'water people' with Eucharist. The man's sight was firstly Jesus, then with faith came to be the shared vision of the Son of Man. *The man said 'Lord I believe', and worshipped him.'*

Marguerite Martin

Communal Rite of Reconciliation

The Communal Rite of Reconciliation in preparation for Easter will take place in the Parish Church on **Thursday 30th March at 7:00pm.**

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY

Are you buying slavery-free Easter chocolate?

It is estimated that 1.5 million children work in African cocoa farms. Much of the chocolate sold in Australia is produced using child slave labour. You can make a difference by buying and asking for **Fair Trade, UTZ or Rainforest** chocolates from your local supermarkets.

Sr. Margaret Ng rsj will be speaking at all the Masses on 26th March regarding human trafficking and child slavery in the chocolate industry. Utz certified Easter chocolate from Aldi be sold after all masses this weekend. There is a small mark up on the chocolate and the proceeds will go towards buying warm clothing for survivors of trafficking in Sydney who have no job or money and have very few possessions.

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.



Youth Camp

Jessica would like to thank all those who contributed so generously to the Youth Camp. Whereas initially it was proposed to bring four young people to the Camp, we can now take seven! Whoo Hoo!

Jessica will talk to the 8 am Mass next Sunday 2 April about this venture.

Repairs and Maintenance Anyone who sees something either in the Church or Church grounds that needs repair would you please contact the Parish Office on 97982501 (Monday to Friday 9am-3pm) or email vinstaff@vinash.org.au. You can mention it to me after mass and I will try to remember but chances are I will forget, hence the request to direct it towards the Parish Office. Many thanks for your consideration. **Fr. Alan**

PARKING IN CHURCH GROUNDS

As a result of recent difficulties a general request is being made to all who park in the Church grounds. Sometimes there other activities particularly during the week at night when the Parish Hall is also used. Please enter and exit slowly. Also please ensure that the car is parked in such a way that allows others to enter and exit the grounds safely. **Many thanks. Fr Alan**

Stations of the Cross at Rookwood Cemetery

Water Way Chapel on Monday 3rd April 2017 at 10:00am. Sinead will leave from St. Vincent's Church approximately at 9:00am if interested give her a call 0420 653 637.



In Vietnam, young Nguyet was isolated as a result of her severe disabilities, until a Caritas-Australia supported program offered her education, creative outlets and

community interaction.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2017 and give Children living with disabilities in Vietnam the opportunity for education and inclusion in their community.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or call 1800 024 413.

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.



SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS FOR APRIL

- 2nd April World Autism Awareness Day
- 4th April International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
- 6th April International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
- 7th April International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda World Health Day
- 8th April National Youth Week Begins
- 11th April Jewish Passover begins 1963: Pope John XXIII's encyclical Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth)
- 12th April International Day of Human Space Flight

2017 Annual Parish Dinner will be held on Saturday night, 6th 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!

DATES FOR DIARY

28th March & 6th April Parent & Candidate Information Night for CONFIRMATION

6th May Annual Parish Dinner

11th June Confirmation

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

FIRST READING: In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel (1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13)

PSALM: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want (Ps 22)

SECOND READING: Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you (Ephesians 5:8-14)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored (John 9:1-41)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.



Next Sunday's Readings

**Fifth Sunday
of Lent
Ezekiel 37:12-14
Psalm 129
Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45**