

# 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



**Second Sunday of Easter**

**April 23, 2017**

How did they tell Thomas? The gospel very dryly reports that the disciples saying "We have seen the Lord." But surely the spoken word would have been very different. There would have been no calmness in those five words. For the disciples entombed by fear in the closed up room, Jesus came, stood and showed in three dimensional flesh, blood and breath, just what resurrection means. Just the depth of the dawning of that realisation would have been overwhelming. For all resurrection brings transformation of life, and their old friend, companion and mentor, Jesus, had died to his former life and was standing among them breathing the new life of Resurrection over them. They had witnessed the last breath Jesus expired on the Cross. Now he was breathing this new life over them, sharing with them, the breath of the Spirit of God. Never had God been so fully on display to the disciples. The power and authority of God the Father, the gift of Jesus in his wounds and resurrection, and the Holy Spirit of peace, joy and transforming Life.

Surely they would have screamed the news to Thomas. WE HAVE SEEN THE LORD, and all that meant. Surely, the witnessing disciples would have undergone that Pentecostal transformation, the Spirit that brought them from fear to joy would have been apparent. They would have had that energy and that clarity of knowledge and wisdom as they reflected on the experience of Jesus. What did Thomas think when he refused to believe them? Was it fear of persecution that prevented his belief? Or was it that he no longer had the energy to believe? It is Thomas, who embodies us. It is Thomas who utters in sheer faith My Lord and My God. It is Thomas who comes from disbelief to the spirited faith that witnessed to half the known world!

*Marguerite Martin*

**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!!!

**Acceptances must be received by today Sunday 23rd April.** Please see a Dinner Committee member at the back of the church after Mass if you wish to attend. Thank you!

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

**ANZAC DAY**  
**TUESDAY APRIL 25<sup>th</sup>**  
is a public holiday,  
**Mass will be**  
**celebrated at 9:00am**  
(There will be **NO 7:00am Mass**)



Fr. Alan is currently on holidays and will return on April 26. We thank Fr. Kevin Canty CM who is celebrating Masses in Fr. Alan's absence.

## **Social Justice Group**

Social Justice Group will meet in the Parish Meeting Rooms on Saturday 29th April from 10am to 12pm.

## **Parish Pastoral Council**

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Monday 1st May at 6.30pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms.

## **Parish Finance Committee**

The parish Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday 3rd May at 7pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms.

*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.*

*Marguerite Martin*  
*Aparna John (Mon & Tues)*

**Sandstone Cross** Parishioners may have noticed the sandstone cross outside on the side of the Church near the Presbytery. It was once on top of our Church but had to be taken down for safety reasons as it was unstable. I recently obtained a quote to have it replaced. The cost is \$15,000.00. Please let me know if you feel the cost is worth it. Also open to other suggestions as to placing the cross in an alternative location.

**After School Care** I wish to advise of a change of After School Care Operator. Extend (Australia) Pty Ltd concluded operations with the parish last Friday 7th April. Weldon Children's Services will commence providing After School Care in the parish in Term Two. They are currently in the process of applying for a licence to use our premises and hopefully will be able to commence on the first day of Term Two which is Monday 24th April.

**Mothers Day Mass on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 9am**

Bethlehem and De La Salle will be celebrating mass in honour of Mothers Day at the 9am mass in the Church on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May. The mass on this day will be of a longer duration of 45-50 minutes.

**Parish Masses this week:**

- Monday 12 noon
- Tuesday 9:00am ANZAC Day
- 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  
First Friday of the month 9:00am Communion Service.

**TAKE ACTION — SYDNEY ALLIANCE ASSEMBLY**  
You are invited to an inspiring, powerful action for concrete change on affordable housing & public transport. This action takes place on the evening of **May 4th at 6:30pm to 8:00pm at Eastwood Uniting Church, 14-16 Lakeside Road, Eastwood 2122.** The NSW Planning & Housing Minister, Anthony Roberts MP has the power to make affordable housing a reality in NSW. Alliance leaders confirmed that he will attend on May 4th.  
**Will you attend May 4th to physically demonstrate your support for affordable housing and better public transport? Please see Fr. Alan for details and if you would like to attend but require transport.**

**World Apostolate Fatima** Please join us in celebrating this significant event the 100 Year Anniversary of the Apparitions in Fatima. Taking place on Saturday May 13th at St. Mary's Cathedral, commencing at 11:30am with Rosary and Prayers. Mass will follow at 12L10pm. We are blessed to have his Excellency Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, as Principal Celebrant and our Spiritual Director Fr. Peter Joseph will concelebrate.

**Australian Catholic Youth Festival**

This three day festival will be held in Sydney 7-9 December 2017. The event will attract 15,000 young people and is for those aged Year 9 to 30 years. It's a Catholic Festival a bit like World Youth Day! We look forward to the whole Parish Community being involved. For more information, please go to [www.acyf.org.au](http://www.acyf.org.au).



**Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia!**

Thank you for supporting us this year as we demonstrate how love for our neighbours can transform lives. You are helping to empower our most vulnerable neighbours worldwide to build a better future for their families and communities.

**Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2017 Lenten appeal.**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

**FIRST READING:** The faithful lived together and owned everything in common (Acts 2:42-47)

**PSALM:** Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting (Ps 117:2-4,13-15, 22-24)

**SECOND READING:** He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3-9)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them (John 20:19-31)

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.



**Next Sunday's Readings**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**

- Acts 2:14, 22-33
- Psalm 15:1-2, 5, 7-11
- 1 Peter 1:17-21
- Luke 24:13-35