

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



The Ascension of the Lord

May 28, 2017

We have two accounts of Jesus ascension into heaven. If the followers of Jesus wanted a phenomenon that related to super powers here it was! Jesus not just disappearing, but rising into the heavens in way that has captured religious art for all time. The apostles knew Jesus, they had eaten, slept and walked with him. They had shared conversations that were never written down. They had the complete Jesus experience that was going to make them demonstratively different for all time... but the separation from Jesus was to bring anxiety. In both accounts that we hear today the apostles show that. In the Acts of the Apostles account, the apostles are like children asking 'Are we there yet?' as they wait for the fine details of when and how the kingdom is to arrive. In the gospel of Matthew they fall on their feet before him. But both accounts end with messages of the hope of the continuation of Jesus mission that is so reassuring and hopeful for us today. "I am with you always, yes even to the end of time" But how could that be? The Ascension of Jesus is Jesus' liberation from all the restrictions of humanity. It does not represent his removal from the earth. During his earthly ministry he could only be in one place at a time. But now united with God, he is present wherever God is present, and that is everywhere.

St Augustine famously said that God is closer to us than we are to ourselves.

"Late have I loved, O beauty so ancient and so new. For behold you were within me and I was outside: I sought you outside... You were with me and I was not with you."
Marguerite Martin

Parish Telephone System At present we are having difficulties with the telephone system in the Parish Office. We are able to take calls if we are in the office at the time the call is made but not able to receive messages if we are absent. Sorry for the inconvenience. Please send us an email if you have attempted to ring the parish office and we have not responded. My emergency number 0410 894 651 is listed on the parish newsletter.

Fr. Alan

Next Sunday, Pentecost at 10am we will have a Family Mass to celebrate the Birthday of the Church. If you would like your children, grandchildren involved in this Mass please contact Sinead 0420 653 637 or Marguerite 0414 566 961. Please join us in cutting the cake and having a cuppa after mass in the hall.

Tax Deductibility on Planned Giving Programme

From Last December the parish was advised that from 1 January 2017 there would be no more tax deductions available on Planned Giving Envelopes. This was due to the changes in the State's taxation laws. Since then the Archdiocese of Sydney has been trying to work out if there is another way of being able to offer some kind of tax deduction. Two and a half weeks ago Fr. Alan received some good news in regards to this. We are now able to offer parishioners a tax deduction of 25%. The way this is done is that the Parish gives 25% of its Planned Giving to the Charitable Works Fund Trust Account. Then later on in the year a 100% rebate is given back to the parish. This means that parishes will not lose any income from their planned giving programs. Our Parish Finance Committee will speak to this at our masses today.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place on Monday 29th May at 6.30pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms.

Vinnies Winter Appeal

As the nights gets cooler and the days shorter, it's time to think about those less fortunate facing another winter without adequate clothing or shelter. The Ashfield conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be holding its annual Winter Appeal on Sunday 4th June. Envelopes will be left on pews and all donations will be gratefully received. For further information or to donate on line, please go to <https://winterappeal.vinnies.org.au>.

BAPTISMS
Saturday, 3rd June 2017
EMMANUEL JAMES SAZON



This coming week is **National Reconciliation Week**. The theme for this year is 'Let's take the next steps.' We reflect on two significant anniversaries - 50 years since 1967 referendum and 25 years since the historic Mabo decision. As we commemorate these significant milestones we pray that **All** Australians will be part of the next big steps in our nation's reconciliation journey.

Christianity across the Ages

A Journey of Faith and a Journey through the Evolution of Western Music.
 Powerpoint Presentation of slides combined with related story-telling by Marie Therese Levey rsj PhD, FASMC(Musicology)
 Regional Centre. 5Alexandra Ave, Croydon June 2 9am-12pm
 Entry by voluntary donation.
 Bookings essential Email marie.levey@sosj.org.au

Parish Masses this week:

Monday	12 noon
Tuesday	7:00am
Wednesday	12 noon
Thursday	9:00am
<u>Reconciliation:</u> 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.



Readers' and Special Ministers' rosters for the WINTER quarter in the foyer of the church. People on email check for your rosters and if you don't have them, please contact Carmen.

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, www.acyf.org.au.

Parish Life For People Living With Disability – storytellers wanted! Have you or someone you care about ever lived, or are currently living, with a disability of any kind? The Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Office is doing a research project exploring people's experiences of living with disability in our parishes. It will explore the stories of people with disability, their families, carers, friends, pastors and fellow parishioners. We are looking for people who want to share their stories so that we can listen deeply to how our people are travelling in their journeys and how our parish communities are walking alongside them. Participation simply involves telling your story and having it recorded and used for research publications anonymously. This is a wonderful opportunity to help us reflect on our strengths and weaknesses and learn how we can grow together into more hopeful, connected and love-filled communities. For more information or to participate please call or email Dr Kimberley Doyle. **02 9307 8461**;
kimberley.doyle@sydneycatholic

DATES FOR DIARY

4th June SVDP Winter Appeal
11th June Confirmation

The Ascension of the Lord

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

FIRST READING: Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven (Acts 1:1-11)

PSALM: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord (Ps 46:2-3, 6-9)

SECOND READING: He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven (Ephesians 1:17-23)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me (Matthew 28:16-20)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.



Next Sunday's Readings
Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11
 Psalm 103:1, 24, 23-9-31, 34
 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13
 John 20:19-23