

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



Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 11, 2018

Nicodemus is a character that features in John's gospel. He is a man of intellect and also position; and it is to him that Jesus speaks the words that have echoed and resounded around the world and resonated in the hearts of humanity. John 3:16

For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believed in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

This is God's love message to each of us...a message spoken to a man who came by night to hear and to discern what it was that made Jesus and his message so different. This was a message of God's overwhelming love and concern for each person delivered by the ultimate messenger, the gift of life, Jesus.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

It is in these words that Jesus discloses his purpose. He is the Saviour. For Nicodemus, this simple, uncomplicated admission of God's purpose and his forgiving love was so contrary to what he understood God to be, a God of condemnation.

It can cause us to rethink who we think God is.... And who Jesus says he is for us.

Today I can draw a parallel with Nicodemus and the people who are preparing for the sacraments of initiation at Easter and through the Easter period. They certainly and religiously do come at night to listen and discern God's word. Today, again they will stand with us, in the light of truth within the Body of Christ, and ask for you to pray with them as they discern God's words and purpose and scrutinise their hearts in preparation for their new life in him.

Marguerite Martin

CONFIRMATION 2018 Bishop Terry Brady will confirm in this Parish on Sunday 20 May 2018 @ 2.30. If your child is in Yr 6 or above and you would like them to complete their initiation into the Catholic Church there are forms at the back of the church to be filled in and returned to the Parish Office.

Parish Mens Group will meet next Tuesday 13th March at 7:30pm at Club Ashfield Level 2. It entails a hour or so of discussion on various topics of church and life matters. New member are always welcome.

For the last few months we have been appealing for catechists. We are so grateful to the catechists of this Parish who have come forward to present the face of our Parish but also the face of our God to children who may otherwise not have that opportunity. The catechist or Special Religious Education teacher also provides opportunity for holistic education to children so they can develop a spirituality and a practice (that is nominated by their parents) that co-exists with their school curriculum and also the world around them. It is our parish belief that all OUR children in ALL the local schools should all be treated equally and given this opportunity.

So...we are desperate. Catechists also should have the right to move or retire and that is what we face at present. I appeal to all the Uni students, especially those doing education, who now have their schedules or those retired school teachers whose skills are honed: we return to Ashfield Boys High in a fortnight and we are short one teacher! This means one of OUR number will have a double class. Surely we have someone willing and able to assist in this vital ministry!! What it entails is 40mins every second week at midday. And you also get school holidays.....!!!!!! Please contact Marguerite

Confessions, Anointing of the Sick and Mass will take place at Cardinal Freeman Village from 3:00pm on Tuesday 20th March.

Calling all Lost Sheep and Errant Offspring ! There will be a Communal Penitential Rite with the opportunity to celebrate Sacramental Reconciliation on **Wednesday 28 March at 7pm.**

Counting of the Sunday Collections

People willing to help count our Sunday collections are needed for the First Sunday of each month. Please contact the parish office on 9798 2501 or email vintaff@vinash.org.au

LITTLE SPARKS "A place where your child's light will shine". Do you have a new baby, a toddler or pre-schooler? Come and have fun with your child, meet other parents, play, sing, laugh, share and try new things! Everyone is welcome!



Where: St. Vincent's School Hall

When: Thursdays from 9am to 11am.

Bring some fruit to share. Any queries contact Sinead Kent 0420 653 637.

St Patrick's Day Mass

All are welcome to join with Bishop Terry Brady to celebrate the Annual Feast Day Mass for St Patrick. Time: 10.00am - 17 March, St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney.

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 First Friday of the month 9:00am Communion Service.

St Vincent de Paul Brekkie Van will be providing Sausage Bacon and Egg breakfast **NEXT SUNDAY 18th MARCH**. If you would like to donate Bacon, Eggs or a contribution to this please ring Sinead 0420 653 637.



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

Evangeline featured in Project Compassion 2016. With the support Of Caritas Australia, she has risen to

The role of Senior Artsworke at Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation, now a multi-level contemporary arts centre and major employer for young people in her remote Northern Territory community.

Please donate to **Project Compassion 2018** and help her provide employment and training for First Australians, allowing them to remain on country and keep their culture alive, essential for a just future.

A Just Future starts with your support! You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projecompassion or call 1800 024

In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop 2018 National Pilgrimage

The Sisters of St Joseph invite you to join the National Pilgrimage, giving you the opportunity to journey to significant places in Australia made holy by St Mary MacKillop.

Commence in Melbourne 23 October, travel through Victoria & South Australia, conclude in Sydney 3 November 2018.

COST EX SYDNEY: \$3,230.00 (all inclusive: airfares, accommodation, coach travel, admission fees and meals).

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$700.00

For further information, please contact Sr Therese Leydon 0417 683123 or Sr Annie Bond 02 89124818, or email national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

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: The wrath and the mercy of the lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people (2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23)

PSALM: Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! (Ps 136)

SECOND READING: When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life (Ephesians 2:4-10)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him (John 3:14-21)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.



Next Sunday's Readings

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 50:3-4, 12-15

Hebrews 5:7-9

John 12:20-33