

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 Nativity of Saint John The Baptist

June 24, 2018

Some scholars today suggest that before his own public ministry Jesus was a follower of John the Baptist and that it was John who nurtured the call to ministry within Jesus and encouraged him to respond to that call. Regardless of whether or not this was the case, John and Jesus were cousins and the image that we have from the infancy narratives of Luke is that their mothers – Mary and Elizabeth – were very close and we can assume that Jesus and John were equally close and spent a lot of time together growing up. John's decision to go out into the wilderness to live an ascetic lifestyle must have made a big impact on his cousin.

John's ministry was a ministry to the Jewish people only. It was a call to them to repent and return to God's ways. The baptism that he encouraged people to undertake was a baptism of repentance – different from our Christian understanding of Baptism. For John and his followers, the call to baptism was a call to acknowledge one's wrongdoing and, through the baptism in the river Jordan, to be cleansed ready to recommit to living in right relationship with God.

When John announced Jesus as the one coming after him, he recognised that Jesus would take John's own ministry to a new level. Whereas John's message was for the Jews alone, the message of Jesus was for all people – Jew and Gentile alike. John's simple existence – apparently surviving on locusts and wild honey – is in stark contrast to the feast of the reign of God that Jesus heralds. Rather than John's call to prepare the way of the Lord, Jesus called all people to *live* the way of the Lord.

Greg Sunter

First Reconciliation registration forms are available in the Foyer. If your child is 7 years or older (Yr 2/3) they are eligible to receive this sacrament of God's love. This has to be celebrated before First Communion.

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.

Planned Giving Envelopes for the Financial Year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, are available for collection at the back of the Church. Existing Planned Giving Numbers from 186 to 210 have been assigned new numbers. We would like to remind, please do not use your old envelopes.

Thank you for your continuous and generous support to the Parish.

For those interested to register for new Planned Giving Envelopes, please contact the Parish Office or email vinstaff@vinash.org.au.

2018 Holy Father's Appeal

The Holy Father's Appeal will be next Sunday 1st July 2018. The appeal highlights the global charitable causes of Pope Francis and is aimed at alleviating the suffering of those affected by natural disasters, wars, the refugee crisis and poverty, to name a few. It's an opportunity for us to get involved in an important initiative of the Catholic Church on a local level, and we ask you to give what you can.

St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School Ashfield Enrolling now for Kindergarten 2019 and Years 1 to 6

Religious Education in the Catholic Tradition Integrated elearning in the contemporary classrooms, elearning & Digital Citizenship, academic success, Diverse learning programs (G & T Support Learning Programs) Music, Creative Arts & Sports.

Learning Together Through Diversity



Catechist Needed!

So...we are desperate. **Please can you help?**

I appeal to all our Uni students, especially those education students, who now know their Uni schedule or those wonderful retired school teachers! It really isn't that hard speaking to kids about your faith, through an approved syllabus. What it entails is 40mins every second Thursday at midday. Please contact Marguerite.

PARISH STAFF: Fr. Joti Bilowalu CM
Carmen Yap

Marguerite Martin
Aparna John (Mon & Tues)

CatholicCare Sydney

Could you provide short-term help for long-term memories?

As a new agency combining the strengths of Marish 180 and CatholicCare Sydney, Family Spirit urgently need compassionate people to provide short-term foster care.

To learn more, come to our information night: Tuesday 3 July 2018, 5.30-8pm, Suite 301, Level 3, 2-14 Meredith St., Bankstown NSW 2200. Call **CCareline** on **13 18 19** to reserve your place.

Vinnies Winter Appeal - Thank you

The Ashfield Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank all those who gave so generously to this year's Winter appeal. Through your generosity, this year we raised \$6,223.30. This will help the Conference assist struggling individuals and families over the coming winter months.

DATES FOR DIARY

July 31st First Reconciliation Parent only
or Meeting
August 1st First Reconciliation Parent only
Meeting
August 8th E Conference 10am

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.

Social Justice Corner

Dates relevant to Social Justice Issues this week:

- Monday 25th June is the day of the Seafarer
- Tuesday 26th June is both: The International Day of Support for Victims of Torture and International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- On Friday 29th June in 2009 Pope Benedict XVI encyclical, "Charity in Truth" (*Caritas in Veritate*), was released
- On Saturday 30th June in 1945 Unemployment Benefits were introduced in Australia

Plenary Council 2020 *Listening for the Spirit*

Pope Francis has approved the Australian Bishops' decision to hold a Plenary Council in Australia in 2020 and 2021. It is a significant moment for the Church in Australia to make decisions about the future.

To prepare the agenda for the Plenary Council, all of God's people are invited to reflect, on the question:

"What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?"

Find out more about the Plenary Council 2020 at the new website now online:

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

Annual Marriage Mass & Renewal of Vows

The Marriage Mass and Renewal of Vows will take place on Sunday, 8th July at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, at 10:30am. All married couples are welcome. Mass will be celebrated by His Grace, Archbishop Anthony Fisher. Married couples wishing to attend to renew their vows should register with the Life, Marriage and Family Centre on 9307 8404 or LMFEvents@sydneycatholic.org.

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand. We pay our respects to them and for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon the land.

The Nativity of Saint John The Baptist

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: A man was sent from God, whose name was John. He came to testify to the light, to prepare people fit for the Lord.

FIRST READING: Behold I will make you a light to the nations (Isaiah 49:1-6)

PSALM: I praise you for I am wonderfully made (Ps 138:1-3, 13-15)

SECOND READING: Christ's coming was announced beforehand by the preaching of John (Acts 13:22-26)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: John is his name (Luke 1:57-66,80)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Through the tender mercy of our God, the Dawn from on high will visit us.



Next Sunday's Readings

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24

Psalms 29:2, 4-6, 11-13

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15

Mark 5:21-43 / 5:21-24, 35-43