

# 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



## Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018

Advent is the invitation to yet again journey to Christmas. To really reach the destination promised at the end of the journey may take a toll. We can but imagine the first journey to Christmas, with its preparation that challenged the intellect, the faith, and the physical comfort zone of its major players.

Let us reflect on the journey - destination Bethlehem, with Joseph leading Mary (are we allowed to imagine the donkey?) carrying the precious cargo. What were the preparations they undertook for such a perilous journey, what were the conversations along the road, were they full of the future hopes and plans with the new baby, or was the topic making sense of the new knowledge and Mary's blind faith in God's providence that surrounded them with that assured hope of salvation.

Google told me that the distance from Nazareth to Bethlehem is 155 km on route 6 and today would take 1hr and 53 mins by car. It is estimated the journey undertaken by these expectant parents, on foot is to have taken between 4 and 8 days!

Every year we seem to do the same journey to Bethlehem, without too much deviation. Do we travel like Joseph and Mary? How are our preparations going? Are we certain of the Hope that this baby will bring?

We still have a couple of weeks to prepare the place....he was born in humbleness, in a place where animals lived and ate. He was laid in a manger. Jesus came to be a Saviour in the messiest of places. Invite him in!

*Marguerite Martin*

**The Fence and Playground closure**, sadly due to a lot of rules and regulations put in place by the Archdiocese and Catholic Education the parish was unable to get permission to move the fence this week, but as school finishes this week, the situation may change.

Along with the club car park down on the corner there is a **small car park** across the road between Bethlehem and DLS which the parish is able to use, but as stated it is small so if you fit and well maybe that can be left for the elderly.

The back gate of the school will be open, so people could also park in Charlotte St and walk through.

So as that old saying states "When things get tough, the tough get going" even though the parish has restricted parking, it needs your support over the next few weeks.

**Christmas Cards THANK YOU** to all who purchased the cards or just made a donation. The money raised help pay for the broken window in the hall.

## CHRISTMAS 2018

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

#### Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> December

6:00pm

Children's Mass

8:00pm

Mass with Carols

10:00pm

Polish Mass

12:00am

Midnight Mass

#### Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December

8:00am

Mass with Carols

10:00am

Mass with Carols

12:00pm

Polish Mass

There will be NO evening Mass  
in

English or Polish on Tuesday night

Please note there will be 9:00am Mass  
on Christmas Day at Cardinal Freeman Village  
(137 Victoria Street Ashfield)

**Twinkle Twinkle Little Stars.....**The stars you see hanging on the wall near the Christmas Tree carry Advent and Christmas messages from the young pupils at the local schools...why not have a quick read !!!!

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> December is a Public Holiday**  
Mass will be at **9:00am** instead of the usual 12noon.

**There will be 6:00pm Mass on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018, NO MASS on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019.**

**Choir Practice** Beata and Ravilya our two musicians at the 8am mass will be leading the singing at **Midnight mass** this year, they will be rehearsing this Thursday night in the church at 7pm. There is an open invitation to anyone who would like to join in to practice the singing or play an instrument to celebrate the spirit of Christmas.

## **RECONCILIATION IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS**

There will be no reconciliation on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December between 8:10am to 8:40am, instead the new time for Reconciliation will be from **9:30am to 10:30am on this Saturday.**

### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS**

Over the next three Sundays, December 2, 9 and 16, your local St Vincent de Paul branch will be collecting non-perishable food items for Christmas hampers. These will be distributed to struggling individuals and families in our area, who have been assisted by the Society during the year. Please place your donated items in the baskets under the Christmas tree. Thank you for your generosity in making sure these families are able to share in the joy of Christmas.

Some suggested items:

Tinned fruit, vegetables, soup, tuna, salmon  
Breakfast cereals and bars  
Biscuits savoury and sweet  
Pasta and sauces  
Tea, coffee, milo, cordial  
Christmas cakes, puddings and other treats

### **Parish Masses this week:**

Monday 12 noon  
Tuesday 7:00am  
Wednesday 12 noon  
Thursday 9:00am  
Reconciliation: Saturday 9:30 to 10:30am  
Morning Prayer: 8:40am  
Saturday 9:00am  
**Sunday**: 8am, 10:00am 6:00pm  
Polish Mass 12 noon

### **Cardinal Freeman Village Chapel**

Sunday 9.00 am First Wednesday of the Month,  
3:30pm Reconciliation, 4:00 Mass & Anointing, First  
Friday of the month 9:00am Communion Service.



Parish Office will be closed from  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December until  
11<sup>th</sup> January 2019.  
Office will reopen on Monday  
14<sup>th</sup> January 2019.  
There will be no bulletins  
during those weeks.

### **Social Justice Corner**

Dates relevant to Social Justice Issues this week:

- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December is *International Migrants Day* and on this day in 1894 the South Australian parliament was the first to give women the right to vote
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Native Title Bill by the Australian Senate (1993)

### **The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office**

If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options you have available to you. Please contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office @ 02 9390 5812.



*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.*

### **Third Sunday of Advent**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.  
Indeed, the Lord is near.

**FIRST READING:** With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you (Zephaniah 3:14-18)

**PSALM:** Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy  
One of Israel (Isaiah 12:2-6)

**SECOND READING:** The Lord is near (Philippians 4:4-7)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** What, then, must we do? (Luke 3:10-18)

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold,  
our God will come, and he will save us.



### **Next Sunday's Readings**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Micah 5:1-4

Psalm 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:38