

# 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 Advent

December 23, 2018

I have grown up as a cradle catholic in a family steeped with and within the now exotic rituals of our faith. We light candles, we sprinkle water and in more formal settings, we incense people and altars. When we meet as the extended family for Easter and Christmas, it is always the chat of the ceremonies we have attended in our various parishes and the choirs and hymns. The secular world has trouble with this! Our domestic church, my house, hides the baby Jesus, from the crib. It always causes great dismay from the little ones who see the crib and "Where is the Baby Jesus?" So new rituals have been born....it was heard from one TV presenter...Christmas the day Santa was born?! Reindeers, Frosty the Snowman etc....however we might dish these stories, the truths of the redeemer born on Christmas Day somehow prevails. Kindness, generosity, thoughtfulness, so maybe all is not lost! Especially when all our news bulletins will be telling us of other side of human nature; of meanness, selfishness, and greed.

We read today of Mary and Elizabeth, the pregnant mothers, meeting. The gospel is smattered with words like Blessed, Honoured, Joy, Believed and Promise. Yet these two women were to suffer the unspeakable pain with both their sons suffering brutal and violent deaths. What sense do we make of all this death, this unfulfilled promise of life taken brutally, given by God and taken by humans. For Mary and Elizabeth, women of hope "*Blessed are they that believe that the promise of the Lord would be fulfilled.*" Elizabeth's child trusted in the Resurrection, he leapt with joy, in recognition. Mary's child is the Resurrection. Hope is assured. So in the context of our human sadness, rest assured of the divine hope.

*Marguerite Martin*

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December...there will be NO 12noon Mass.**

**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.**

**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 !!!!

## 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)**

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.

**The Ashfield St. Vincent de Paul Conference** would like to thank you for your donations of food for this year's hampers. As a result of your generosity we were able to deliver hampers to 30 individuals and families in our community. They are most grateful for your donations. May you have a blessed Christmas and may the New Year bring you many blessings. Thank you.

**Storm Damage Update.** Last Tuesday, word was received that the insurers have agreed to the restoration of the 5 paintings at the front of the church damaged during the storm in October and overtime. Four of the paintings will be worked on by conservators within the church via scaffolding but the painting of the Nativity will be removed and taken away to be restored in their studios. BUT! there is a catch, there is a role that that parish must now play and that is to have an inspection of the condition of the skylights above the main altar and the two side altars and have these repaired or replaced. It has been suggested that over time they have become brittle and porous and need work done on them to stop moisture from seeping in. Arrangements have been made for a building professional to come and check these skylights the cost is unknown at this moment. Also approval has been given to fix the lighting and ceiling in the corner above the bottom of the stairs leading upstairs to the gallery. Whilst parishioners have had to put up with the car parking problem lately, in the New Year scaffolding maybe in various places within the church and some weekday masses may have to be celebrated in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, *so please be patient.* Michael Clay

As a parish how fortunate we are to have Michael Clay who has taken on the responsibility to meet, discuss and form close ties with the many and varied skilled artisans who have assisted us in our many hours of need this year. Thank you Michael for your patience, perseverance and tenacity in all your dealings on our behalf.

**Parish Masses this week:**

Monday NO 12 noon Mass  
 Tuesday 8:00am 10am 12noon (Polish)  
 Wednesday 9:00am  
 Thursday 9:00am  
Reconciliation: Saturday 8:10am to 8:40am  
 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.

**Historic Cross replaced on the top of the church.** Last Thursday, after over 12 months of planning, the project initially started by Father Alan and inspired by the Sukkar family came to fruition. The sandstone cross which had adorned the top of the front of the church on the roof was skilfully recreated and restored to its rightful position above the church. It had been removed some 10 or so years ago as it had become an OH&S issue because of its condition. Fr Alan applied for a State Government Grant for restoration works that was supported by our local Summer Hill State MP Jo Haylen and money donated by the Sukkar Family. Early on Thursday, the team from Bondi Stone who organised the remaking of the cross, lifted the new version by crane on to the front facade of the church and secured it in place. It was both satisfying and exciting to see St Vincent's return to its former glory... the true symbol of who we are, is back for all to see, just look up and see or admire it from a distance.

As a Vincentian Parish, we have an underlying purpose to help always those who are down on their luck. Over the weeks, we often have knocks at the door or people ringing us confused we aren't St Vincent de Paul Society. These we often can redirect. However when it comes to helping a parishioner, who is having difficulty with, say, a bill or has been a victim of domestic violence, we have always found that little bit of money to tide them over until they are on their feet again. This Christmas is no exception except our small amount of discretionary cash is very low and is proving to be embarrassingly insufficient for the demands made on it. Please help us not to be like the Inn keepers of Bethlehem. If you could join us in helping one or two of our St Vincent's family, please see Fr Joti with your donation.



**Third Sunday of Advent**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

**FIRST READING:** Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel (Micah 5:1-4)

**PSALM:** Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19)

**SECOND READING:** I am coming to do your will (Hebrews 10:5-10)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? (Luke 1:39-44)

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.



**Next Sunday's Readings**

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
 1 Samuel 1 ;20-22, 24-28  
 Psalm 83 ;2-3, 5-6, 9-10  
 1 John 3 ;1-2, 21-24  
 Luke 2:41-52