

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



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time C

February 24, 2019

'We are on a Mission from God,' Elwood and Jake famously quipped in the Blues Brothers. These disreputable brothers were attempting redemption by saving their childhood orphanage. They were determined to achieve their mission and overcame bizarre odds and opposition. Being set in your ways, to turn your nose to the grindstone is really part of our Christian mission. It was noting that all those famous quotes of Jesus, like 'turning the other cheek', 'to keep giving to anyone who asks you' but ultimately 'to treat others as you would like to be treated', is about being determined, despite criticism and opposition in achieving 'the mission from God.'

So what is this mission? What is it that we must aim to achieve? The Mission from God is encapsulated in the words and actions of Jesus the Christ. It is not about empire building or building the biggest institution. Our mission is to bring the love of God to all, not just in words but in the realities of our lives, without judgement or prejudice. 'Everybody matters, absolutely'. The enigma of Christ is the mystery of God made human and entering the frailty of life and ultimately death. In every part of life God is there and this is our mission to meet him, where he meets us. Our mission is to be evidence of Christ's love and to share that with others, meeting Christ in every circumstance. Jesus indicates it's not an easy journey there are distractions, criticisms and detractors. If we turn the other cheek, keep giving to the 'robbers' we are revealing that other behaviour...the determination of Christ, the mission from God!

Marguerite Martin

Today we welcome Ms Jo Haylen, our State member of Parliament, Summer Hill, to formally attend to our communal blessing of the cross on the pinnacle of our Church. Ashfield is blessed with many beautiful old churches but St Vincent's with its Roman styling and paintings from the turn of the last century stands apart. The fortunes and demographics of Ashfield have changed, but St Vincent's Church and schools have continued to support and maintain the faith. Some 12-15 years ago the sandstone cross on the apex of the façade was in a perilous state, and the decision was to remove it before it fell possibly causing great injury and harm. The cost of restoration was not in our budget...until with dogged determination, the Parish, and at that time the Parish Priest Fr Alan Gibson, was approached by a very loyal family, the Succars to ask for the return of the cross to its rightful place and again claim our identity within the Ashfield community. With this there was the generous offer to assist in the cost of restoring and returning the cross to its position. Fr Alan took up the cause by applying for a State Government historic grant to assist. With Ms Jo Haylen's support, we won this grant, and that with the very generous donation from the Succar family, the process started. 2018, Fr Alan moved to Melbourne and Fr Joti took the reins, along with Michael Clay who effectively project managed the various artisans involved in this project. We particularly would like to thank the professionalism of Darren Finlayson from Bondi Stone, who was more than helpful.

There will be **Mass at 9:00am** at Cardinal Freeman Village on Ash Wednesday, 6th March.

There will be **NO 3:00 pm Anointing Mass** on this day.

Masses for Ash Wednesday

There will be two Masses in the Parish on Ash Wednesday, 6th March at 12pm and 6:30pm.



PARISH STAFF: *Fr. Joti Bilowalu CM*
Carmen Yap

Marguerite Martin
Aparna John (Mon & Tues)

Last week's Trivia question.

What are the 2 most valuable assets that belong to the parish (besides its parishioners)?

The first is the property - the church, the hall and parish house.

The second, believe it or not, is something that these days is just decoration, out of sight out of mind. Up there in the gallery is a very rare Dodd pipe organ installed in the church in 1925. When installed, it cost £1,250. Today, fully restored, its value is around \$1.5 to \$2 million.

Two weeks ago pipe organ specialists paid a second visit in as many weeks to the church, just to see if the organ was still here and to check on its condition. One of the experts is a restorer from a company in Melbourne, the others all from different backgrounds, all very, very knowledgeable in the field.

Next time you look up at the organ, imagine that behind the front facade of pipes there are another 890 pipes.

Will that pipe organ ever produce sacred music again? Who knows - the quote for its refurbishment is \$220,000.

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.

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: 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.



RECENTLY DECEASED

Marie Josiane "Majo" Mitchell

Past Parish History revealed... paraphrased from the parish archives

According to the original plan of the church, the vacant wall spaces above the sanctuary were to be filled with devotional paintings. It was not till the year 1900 that an opportunity occurred for the engagement of a competent artist for this work. In that year Signore Cavellaro, an Italian painter, came to Australia. Fr. Maurice O'Reilly CM met the artist in Melbourne and saw some of his work. Fr O'Reilly recommended Signore Cavellaro as a suitable artist to decorate the walls of St Vincent's.

*As a result, a contract was entered into for five paintings to be done on the wall spaces above the Sanctuary. The work was completed in 1902 at a cost of £300. **Five or six years later many objections had been raised about one of the paintings - the Nativity - the left hand lower one above the Sacred Heart Altar. This was removed from the wall and the present painting by a Mr. De Pyro was hung.***

The original painting that was done way back in 1902 was actually never removed. A cover up job was carried out. Last week, the removal of the painting of the Nativity, that parishioners have seen for over a hundred years, exposed the 1902 original work. It is incomplete and water damaged. All the paintings you see at the front of the church bar that one are painted on canvas and stuck to the wall. Take a look behind the projector screen or, when the screen has been raised sometime, and judge - were the parishioners way back in 1907 right? *Did it need to be covered over?* Some may say Signore Cavellaro had an off day or month others that was he pressed for time and got his apprentice to paint the Nativity. What do you think?

LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUPS

Lenten Small Groups are part of our Lenten preparation and also a wonderful way to meet like minded people of our Parish. Please ring the office if you wish to lead a group. We will be using the book entitled "Trust" from the Archdiocese of Wollongong. If you wish to buy a book it's at \$10, available from the office.

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

FIRST READING: The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you (1 Samuel 26:2,7-9, 12-13, 22 -23)

PSALM: The lord is Kind and merciful (Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13)

SECOND READING: Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image (1 Corinthians 15:45-49)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Be merciful as your Father is merciful (Luke 6:27-38)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.



Next Sunday's Readings

Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time C

Sirach 27:4-7

Psalm 91:2-3, 13-16

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Luke 6:39-45