

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



First Sunday of Lent

March 10, 2019

The wilderness, or desert, I used repeatedly throughout the Bible as a place of special encounter with God and preparation for a new direction or a new ministry. The 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness immediately followed his baptism in Jordan where his status as the beloved of God was confirmed. He is led by the Spirit to go out into the wilderness for a period of fasting, prayer and preparation before entering into his public ministry. In fact, the event that immediately follows this passage is the episode in Nazareth where Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah and declares the intent of his ministry. It is presented as if, having spent his time in preparation and overcoming the temptations before him, Jesus strode out of the wilderness and laid out what he had decided.

The episode of the temptations is a clear indicator of the humanity of Jesus—he experienced doubt, uncertainty and fear just as we do. If the gospel intended to emphasize the divinity of Jesus, none of these temptations would have been an issue. We are told that Jesus was indeed tempted, not just pestered by the devil. The opportunities laid before Jesus were actually tempting to him. They challenged his resolve. They made Jesus question the sort of Messiah that he was to be: the tall-conquering, powerful Messiah that the people expected; or the servant to the poor who will be tortured and put to death. Jesus is tempted to use his power to make his task easier or to display his authority to others. Had he chosen to do this, surely it would have been easier to get people's attention—and that was the temptation: to take the easier path or stick to the more subtle, more personal, more difficult path.

Greg Sunter

For ourselves, this Lent may be time of questioning identity, particularly as Catholics. Our ground has shifted, perceptions have been altered, we may feel disillusioned, shame and guilt. We may be looking for someone to blame. Such change can rob us of hope. It can sound somewhat pious to say that the point we have in the midst of all this change and loss, is God. Without God, what have we got to hold on to? It is embracing the Cross with Jesus that we fully enter the pain of human experience. Only there can our fears, shame and anger be laid to rest.



Project Compassion

Twelve year old Thandolwayo would walk seven kilometers each day to collect contaminated water for her family. It looked like she would never realize her hope of finishing her education and becoming a nurse until a Caritas Australia supported project created access to clean water helping Thandolwayo to stay at school and achieve a future full of hope.



Please donate to **Project Compassion 2019** and to provide clean water and a future full of hope for vulnerable communities in Zimbabwe.

Lives change when we all give 100%. You can donate through the boxes or envelopes of Caritas Project Compassion.

Parish Men's Group will meet next Tuesday night 12th March at 7:30pm, 1st Floor Club Ashfield. Men of all ages most welcome. An informal night of conversation in relaxed atmosphere.

Thursday 14th March

there will be **NO 9:00am MASS** on that day,
Fr. Joti will be away for a meeting.

CONFIRMATION will be held on 9th June. The first Confirmation gathering is on 5th May at 10am Mass for enrolment followed by an information session. For more information please contact Sinead @0420 653 637.

ORGANIST/PIANO PLAYER REQUIRED FOR 8AM MASS *(The search continues)*

8am mass is in need of volunteer organist or pianist willing to join the current musicians.

The position/s would be on a rostered basis approx 1 or 2 Sundays a month or when time suits.

Young or young at heart, music student, retired teacher or someone who is musically talented and can lead the early morning attendees at 8am in the prayer of music.

If you are interested or you may know of someone and require more information please speak to the musician at 8am mass, or if you know someone that fits the bill contact Parish office, so contact can be made.

PARISH STAFF: Fr. Joti Bilowalu CM
Carmen Yap

Marguerite Martin
Aparna John (Mon & Tues)

Parish Trivia Question

Last week the question was : What is the subject of the painting nearest the choir gallery, left hand side towards altar?

If you said :The raising of Lazarus" sadly you be incorrect. The actual subject is **"The raising of the son of the widow of Naim"** The painting was donated to the church way back in the late 1920's or early 30's, by a Captain Cotter, sadly no record informs us in what area he may have been a captain. But thank you skipper for our painting !!!!

This week's question:

How many times have you looked up and seen all that wonderful latin writing above and wondered what it all meant. **EGO SUM NOLITE TIMERE EVANGELIZARE PAUPERIBUS MISIT ME + HAEL EST DOMUS DEI ET PORTA COELI + AVE MARIA GRATIA PLENA DOMINUS TECUM.** Any ideas ?

Full time position: The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

Applications are invited for the full time role of Employment Services Assistant, part of the HR team located at the Polding Centre, Sydney.

For further information, the advertisement and position description for this role can be viewed at <https://catholicjobsonline.com.au/job/employment-services-assistant-sydney/>

Parish Masses this week:

Monday 12 noon

Tuesday 7:00am

Wednesday 12 noon

Thursday NO MASS

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.



Social Justice Corner

On Thursday evening 14th March 2019, 6:30-8:30pm, nine days before the next NSW election, Sydney Alliance, Vinnies NSW and the Everybody's Home Campaign are jointly hosting an Assembly to lobby for affordable housing. Our Social Justice group is a member of the Sydney Alliance through the Sydney Catholic Archdiocese.

EVERYONE IS INVITED.

If you would like to attend please register at no cost on <https://rentingfair.org.au/> and join us. There will be a group from our parish going in together by train.

For those travelling into the city by train, we will be meeting at 5.20pm near the turnstiles at Ashfield Station, and plan to catch the 5.25pm train.

For those meeting at the Town Hall, we will be gathering near the side entrance opposite St. Andrew's Cathedral at 5:50pm.

It is important that everyone attending the assembly contact **Julia Pokorny (juliapokorny007@gmail.com or 0410 032 454)** to let her know where you will be meeting, and so she can keep you posted with any more details.

The only date relevant to Social Justice Issues this week is Monday 11th March when, in 2011, earthquake and tsunami Fukushima, Japan killed 18,500 people and caused widespread contamination.

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.



Interested in volunteering to lend a helping hand to seniors?

We need people in South West Sydney to visit seniors for a chat over a cup of tea and to help with light housework

Call CCareline on 13 18 19 to find out more.

First Sunday of Lent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

FIRST READING: The confession of faith of the elect (Deuteronomy 26:4-10)

PSALM: Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble (Ps 90:1-2, 10-15)

SECOND READING: The confession of faith of the believers in Christ (Romans 10:8-13)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, kind of endless glory!

GOSPEL: Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted (Luke 6:39-45)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.



Next Sunday's Readings

Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Psalms 26:1, 7-9, 13-14

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 9:28-36