

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



Second Sunday of Lent

March 17, 2019

We have all started Lent with a lack of certainty, with questions. This church that has been so much of our identity has had the rug pulled out from underneath it, in the worst way. It would seem to add 'catholic' to an individual's profile now is to add something of a sinister nature. However, Lent isn't about this...it's about turning back to God. What is He asking of us in this time and place? His message of Love is as relevant and revolutionary today as it was 2000 years ago. I turn to a reflection of 10 years ago, remembering my mother's death, and her transmitted and unfailing faith in the Risen Lord.

I had started Lent in the rawest way, with the death of my dear Mum. Never before have I viewed this time of turning back to God, examining one's motivations, actions and thoughts with such clarity and sadness. My mother was a typical Irish woman, the type whose faith was intermingled with the everyday. Not long before she became ill, we contacted one of her remaining peers, who had suffered a loss in the family, and in that conversation every second sentence was concluded with 'God Willing' or 'Please God' and 'Thanks be to God'. At the time I was slightly amused and amazed by how she could drop right back into the old friendship of 90 years, and also the old lingo...but I dwelled on the faith that was so immediate and on 'the tip of the tongue' for both of them that I wondered about my own faith. Do I include God in all my activities and conversations like that? It is a culture of faith that rests in the assuredness of the Resurrection.

But not to beat myself too hard, I can look to the apostles, particularly the eminent ones Peter, James and John. It is upon the faith of these men our church is founded. Jesus included them in his prayer time (I would think that would be special); Jesus is transfigured and exposed in brilliance and glory as God shows the extent of his love and connection with his Son. Meanwhile our very human church founders are heavy with sleep and confusion. I have wondered why Jesus asked them to share such an intimate moment knowing of their frailties. So as much as Peter did not know what he was saying, God did. His proclamation needed to be heard. *"This is my Son, the chosen one. Listen to him."*

So often my prayer time is all about my prayer, yet God has asked me **to listen**, in the light of His Son, the Chosen one, and I can in the assured faith of the Resurrection.

Marguerite Martin



Happy St. Patrick's Day to ALL our Irish Parishioners, Irish Descendants and those who wish they were Irish!!!

Parish Pastoral Council The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Wednesday 20th March at 6.00pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms.

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.

PROJECT COMPASSION



Tati lives in the remote forest of Indonesia. She is a mother of three who was earning an income working in a local rubber Plantation. Since taking part in ecotourism training with Caritas Australia and its partners, Tati can now afford to send her children to school. With new hope and commitment Tati aspires to a future free from poverty for her family.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help lift communities in Indonesia out of poverty, and give them home to protect our common home.

Lives change when we all give 100%. You can donate through the boxes and envelopes or by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or 1800 024 413.

PARISH STAFF: Fr. Joti Bilowalu CM
Carmen Yap

Marguerite Martin
Aparna John (Mon & Tues)

Parish Trivia Question. Last week the answer to the subject of the painting from the parish archives on the wall nearest the choir gallery was given "**The raising of the son of the widow of Naim**" mention was made that it was donated by a Captain Cotter, but no record was able to be given who he was.....but thanks to an interested parishioner and google these facts have emerged. Captain Stephen James Cotter and his wife Catherine lived in 55 Alt St Ashfield. They had 2 children a son William Edmund and a daughter Helen Adelaide. Their son William enlisted on February 20 1917 and joined the 34th Infantry Battalion in the rank of private. Private William was killed in action in France on April 3 1918. William is buried in an unknown grave at Villers-Bretonneux Australian National Memorial France, hence the subject of the painting one may think.

Parish Trivia (con't) to start the translation of the latin words around the roof of the church at the front...**EGO SUM NOLITE TIMERE** literally translated into modern English "I am here. Do not be afraid."

Thank You to Stephen and Karen Pham for the donation of the roses and other plants for the garden which slowly coming together at the side of the church.

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.



Social Justice Corner

Prior to the upcoming State election, the Parish Social Justice Group is following up with the major parties regarding their policies on **Affordable Housing**. The group will be doing the same in the lead up to the Federal election in relation to **Aged Care and Refugee** policies.

The social justice group is keen to ensure that whatever is promised will be delivered after these elections.

Parishioners will be kept informed of progress.

The social justice group meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month in the parish centre at 9.45am.

Dates relevant to Social Justice this week:

- Tuesday 19th March; on this day in 2003 Iraq was invaded by the US and Allies
- Wednesday 20th March is *the International Day of Happiness*
- Thursday 21st March is the *International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, International Day of Forests, World Down Syndrome Day, National Harmony Day (Australia) and National Close the Gap Day*
- Friday 22nd March is *World Water Day*
Saturday 23rd March is *World Meteorological Day*

Catholic Women's League Summer Hill
Luncheon and Fashion Parade
Saturday 27th April 12 noon
Tickets available now \$20.00
Cecily Ristuccia 9798 5059

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.



Second Sunday of Lent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Of you my heart has spoken; Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

FIRST READING: God made a covenant with Abraham, his faithful servant (Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18)

PSALM: The Lord is my light and my salvation (Ps 26:1, 7-9, 13-14)

SECOND READING: Christ will transfigure these bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body (Philippians 3:17—4:1)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning (Luke 9:28-36)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.



Next Sunday's Readings

Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

Psalm 102:1-4, 6-8, 11

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Luke 13:1-9