

# St Vincent's Parish, Ashfield

A parish under the pastoral care of The Congregation of the Mission known as Vincentian priests and brothers.

12 Bland Street, Ashfield 2131 [www.vinash.org.au](http://www.vinash.org.au) E-mail [vinstaff@vinash.org.au](mailto:vinstaff@vinash.org.au)

Phone: 9798 2501; 9798 2503 (for urgent matters 0438 966 383) Fax: 9798 2504

Parish Office Hours: 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday



## Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time C

July 21, 2019

One of the things I find reassuring about today's Gospel is that the Church seems to have been wrestling with women's leadership since the very beginning. It's the issue that will not go away.

When it comes to interpreting scripture, I am always pleased that I'm a Catholic. We're not fundamentalists or literalists. We believe that the truth of the scripture lies not just in the words themselves, but also in the careful interpretation of the text in history. The story of Martha and Mary is a complex narrative. It can be read on at least two levels.

The first level is extraordinary enough: it focuses on Mary who assumes the position of the Rabbi's student and is defended against any attack on her right to be there. In first century Palestine, Jewish women were 'not permitted to be taught the Torah, but only instructed about how they should live their lives in obedience to its demands. They were not permitted to touch the scriptures nor to take part in public debate or official liturgical ritual.' (Fitzmyer, Luke p.892) From this context we can see the sort of freedom Jesus envisaged for women, against the practice of his own day.

On another level, however, this story focuses on Martha. The writer of Luke's Gospel tells us that we are in Martha's home and, that with Jesus as special guest at table, she is serving the members of her household with care and devotion. Martha comes across as strong and outspoken. Mary, meanwhile, is passive and silent. It is likely this story is criticising a call in Luke's community for women to move away from the leadership Jesus gave them and to adopt again the traditional roles to which the Jewish/Christians were more familiar.

To that end today's story from such a community holds a key to our own dilemma. Just as Jesus broke through the gender boundaries of his own day, so too must we. We must renew our commitment to ending anything that degrades, exploits or dehumanises women throughout the world.

Fr Michael Tate

**HOLY HOUR**  
**with the BLESSED SACRAMENT**  
**11am to 12 noon**

Every Wednesday before the 12 noon Mass.

***The receipts for donations to the Planned Giving, CWF and Project Compassion for the financial Year 2018-2019 is now available at the back of the church.***

**Fr Joti Absence** Fr. Joti will be away from Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July for the Provincial Council meeting. Masses will be at the usual time.

**The Parish Pastoral Council** recently discussed the idea of introducing a welcoming group with representatives at each mass to welcome people as they arrive for mass.

We are looking for volunteers! If you think you could help out, please let us know. The role would involve being available 15 minutes prior to mass, and handing out the bulletin and offering a greeting and smile to people as they arrive.

The Parish Pastoral Council believes this is important both in terms of welcoming new people or visitors, but also to create a greater sense of our belonging to the Church. If you are interested please contact Rodney Winter on [rw99999apple@gmail.com](mailto:rw99999apple@gmail.com).

## **RECONCILIATION PREPARATION**

Please collect an application form from the foyer and return to the Parish office ASAP. The Parent only meeting will be on MONDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 6.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room. Any queries please call Sinead Kent on 0420653637.

## **Parish Roof Maintenance 100 Club**

### **Week 7 Lucky Draw:**

First Prize (\$80) - No. 51 Tess Morales

Second Prize (\$40) - No. 74 Prosperita Rita

**THANK YOU** to all parishioners, friends and supporters for supporting this fund raising effort for the parish.

Barbara Abella can you please contact the parish office.

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

Marguerite Martin  
Aparna John (Mon & Tues)

**Church Maintenance Update:** After many months of delays last week scaffolding was erected outside at the back of the church in the playground over 12 metres high and also inside the church within each of the side altar spaces, this allowed for the **interior** lead light ceilings to be removed and taken away for repair, which may take up to six weeks, on return these will be put back into place. Not only did the lead light come down but also about 60 to 70 years of dust, pollution, bird nests and other unknown objects. On Monday the **exterior** roofs above the main altar and the side altars were replaced with new laser light sheeting. *This should now weather proof these areas when the drought finally breaks.*

With this work now done it allows for the restoration of the paintings to go ahead. Time frame to be advised. The Parish House's roof which has had a major leak for some time above the kitchen area was also worked on Wednesday with the removal of the rusted out part of the roof and new colourbond aluminium sheeting fixed in place.

The cost of these works around \$36,000

Michael Clay

#### Parish Masses this week:

Monday 12 noon

Tuesday 7am

Wednesday 12 noon

Thursday 9am

**Reconciliation:** Saturday 8:10am to 8:40am

Morning Prayer: 8:40am

Saturday 9am

**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

Arrupe House which is a Jesuit-run social service that helps support and settle refugees in Western Sydney, is running out of some urgent items and needs our help. These items are:

Diapers for babies and toddlers.

Female sanitary pads in larger sizes (no tampons please because the community using these donations won't use them)

Toothpaste.

Please place items in a box in the church foyer.

The Social Justice group meets on the **3rd Saturday** of the month in the **parish centre** at **9.45am**. NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.

Date relevant to Social Justice this week:

- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July: on this date in 1833 the Emancipation Bill, abolishing slavery throughout the British Empire, was passed

### A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or

[safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

*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.*

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand. We pay our respects to them and for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon the land.

## Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time C

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul.  
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

**FIRST READING:** Lord, do not bypass your servant (Genesis 18:1-10)

**PSALM:** The just will live in the presence of the Lord (Ps 14:2-5)

**SECOND READING:** The mystery hidden for centuries has now been revealed to his saints (Colossians 1:24-28)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia, alleluia! Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** Martha took up the duties in the house. Mary chose the better part (Luke 10:38-42)

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.



### Next Sunday's Readings

Seventeenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Genesis 18:20-32

Psalms 137:1-3, 6-8

Colossians 2:12-14

Luke 11:1-13