

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



Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time C

November 3 2019

Some years ago Randy Newman brought out a quite popular song called 'Short People'...it was a joke song that stigmatised the height challenged! "They have no reason to live.. they got little hands And little eyes And they walk around Tellin' great big lies..." Today we present the story of such a short man, Zaccheus. In all the Gospels I have been trying to think of any other character that was physically described, apart from the lepers and the maimed, but the Senior Tax Collector from Jericho. Was it because Zaccheus lived in the Land of the Giants that caused him to be described or was this a subtle way to describe his personality and to make him an even more despised person, or was it because he too was healed...not of his physical appearance but those other short comings. A total transformation!

In those days rich men had all things done for them, to be seen exerting ones self was not in keeping with rank or position yet this little rich senior tax collector climbed a tree to witness Jesus walk past. Zaccheus' curiosity with Jesus developed into a yearning to see what others had blocked out because of his stature, his position and his sinfulness. Others had condemned him and prevented him seeking Jesus.

Thank God for the Sycamore tree that he ran ahead to climb. Jesus actions were recognition of Zaccheus' inner yearning, entering into his intimate space, and sharing that meal. Jesus inclusiveness is for all, but especially the sinner.

Zaccheus sins and short comings were so visible but was the sin of the crowd that excluded. To follow Jesus demands so much more.

The account of Zaccheus' conversion illustrates what Jesus alone can do. He recognises our longing, he enters our sinfulness and then wants to share that meal with us. We sometimes have to go out on a limb to achieve this!

Marguerite Martin



JESUS IN THE BREAD AND WINE

We call this meeting with Jesus, 'our Communion', our connection with God. It is the most tangible meeting with Jesus with us and in us. He feeds us physically and spiritually, connecting us to each other, the Body of Christ through the many grains of wheat and grapes, in the bread and wine. It is food for the soul, connection with God and each of us and missioning to carry Jesus to the world. We have all heard the line you become what you eat, so we unworthily become Christ like, called to carry the word to the world. It is also the sacrament that further initiates us into the Church.

Parish Welcoming and Hospitality Ministry

As part of our Parish welcoming and Hospitality there will be tea and coffee provided after 8 am and 10 am Mass on the 1st Sunday of the month beginning this Sunday. All are welcome for tea and coffee after Mass in the hall

Dear God

As our friends at Bethlehem, De la Salle and other high schools sit for their HSC exams, We, as Parish community, thank you for their gifts and talents.

We ask that You help them to remember all they have learned.

Calm their nerves and anxieties and to be gracious with what they have overlooked.

We ask You to guide their way. Holy Spirit journey on with them.

Amen

St. Vincent pray for us.

HOLY HOUR with the BLESSED SACRAMENT 11am to 12 noon

Every Wednesday before the 12 noon Mass.

Miraculous Medal Novena Mass

Saturday, 9th November 9:00am

Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers will be recited within the Mass.



CWF Pastoral Appeal: Our parish will ask you to support the **Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Pastoral Appeal** this weekend. Your donations go directly towards the charitable and pastoral works of the Sydney Archdiocese for the benefit of this community so we ask you to kindly consider your support. Our quota is **\$4,355**. Thank you.

Kadavu Mission Project

Thank you all Parishioners for the generous donation towards the Kadavu Mission Boat Project. We raised a total of Seven Thousands Dollars. More donations are being received at this moment.

PARISH STAFF: Fr. Joti Bilowalu CM
Carmen Yap

Marguerite Martin
Aparna John (Mon & Tues)

Social Justice Corner

On Saturday the 26th of October, some members of St Vincent's Social Justice group attended National Open day at the Lakemba Mosque. From Tariq, who generously gave of his time, we learned of customs and beliefs in a very real way; we explored the differences between, and similarities to, our two faiths.

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

Walk with Christ Sunday 24th November at 2:30pm We currently have two prayer books in our Blessed Sacrament Chapel. The first book remains in the chapel for any parishioner who wishes to write a prayer petition. The second book which is clearly marked is parishioners to take any other parishioner in the parish who are sick at this time so that they can add their prayer petitions as well.

Dates for your diary: **Sunday, 8th December** Parish Christmas BBQ after ALL masses in the playground.

Friday, December 13 Youth Group Trivia Night in the hall @ 7pm. Money raised will go towards Youth Group Expenses and church maintenance. All details on the brochure in the foyer of the church.

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,



Building Maintenance Update: The restoration of the paintings is almost complete and the scaffolding will be removed at the end of this week. As mentioned before, the paintings aren't been repainted, they are having years of dirt, water damage and pollution removed from them. Many people will not see a great deal of difference but, just to see how much surface dirt has been removed, is amazing.

On Monday, the top of the frame of the old Nativity painting had a new section inserted. This work had to be done as the old frame was cracked and the only thing holding the two pieces in place was pressure. It had become a safety issue. The plasterer, Dave, did a fantastic job of recreating the profile of the old frame and it is very hard to see the insert.

On Wednesday Chris, a heritage painter, painted the frames on both the Nativity and the Annunciation. The above work was organised by Mark Clarkson (my new best friend) who is contracted by the Archdiocese to assist churches in the Sydney area with any building problems. What a great help he has been to the parish and me.

Also on Wednesday, we began to gather quotes and more information about the removal of the black mould and the sealing of the church walls. This particular job and replacing the roof on the parish hall are BIG jobs (meaning very expensive) and more discussion will have to take place on whether or not the parish can afford to undertake either or both of the these jobs. After 125 years the stage has been reached where this work has become a necessity for the preservation of St Vincent's Church buildings .

Additionally, a quote is being sort to improve the lighting in the church, as it is very dark in the church at times, particularly during winter evenings. This is not helped by the build-up of dust on the pelmets where the fluorescent lights are situated.

Michael Clay

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me!
Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

FIRST READING: You have mercy on all things because you love everything that exists (Wisdom 11:22—12:2)

PSALM: I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God
(Psalm 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14)

SECOND READING: The name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you and you in him (2 Thessalonians 1:11—2:2)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! God loved the world so much he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: The Son of Man came to seek and to find that which was lost (Luke 19:1-10)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.



Next Sunday's Readings

**Thirty-second Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

Psalm 16:1, 5-6, 8, 15

2 Thessalonians 2:16—3:5

Luke 20:27-38 or

Luke 20:27, 34-38