

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 E-mail 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



Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2019

The fires and the air quality in Sydney has brought it home! Greg Mullins, former Fire and Rescue commissioner NSW, speaks passionately about it ; our young ones deserted their schools on Fridays to protest.....Climate change is here! There are many who still deny this and have placed blinkers refusing to see the future. Their message is always passionate, single minded and prophetic. *Change, you don't need to destroy the environment. If you do the future is bleak.* For the economic rationalists, the environment is there to serve, and make just a small proportion rich. People who work in forest industries/pulp mills make a living, people who own pulp mills make fortunes. It has always been convenient to describe the anti-establishment as hippies but these protesters are different. John the Baptist, is one of the few people in the Gospels whose physical appearance is described and he is out there especially when compared to the establishment he is daring to preach to! People who rock the establishment have always been made out as radicals and that is why John was being watched by The Pharisees and Sadducees. *The brood of vipers* who were infiltrating what John was preaching and doing. After all didn't they have ownership of the God scene! John the Baptist seems to me as a bit of a feral. He is crying out passionately. He too has seen a vision of a future. The Kingdom brought about by Jesus. John's task is to speak out, Repent! Change! *Prepare a way for the Lord* who will bring the idyllic future that Isaiah (in the first reading) could see in the Kingdom of God, *where wolves lived with the lambs... where there is no hurt, no harm.* All this can come through the one Saviour, Jesus. Are we ready to listen to John and prepare a way for this Saviour?

Marguerite Martin

Christmas Midnight Mass

Members of the 8am and 6pm masses are combining to make this year's celebration as memorable occasion as it was last year. If any parishioners or friends wish to join in, to sing or play a musical instrument, please see Beata at 8am mass or Darrel at the 6pm mass today. There will be a rehearsal prior to Christmas to get everyone in tune.....

Office will be closed on Friday
13th & 20th December 2019.
For urgent matters please ring
Fr. Joti @0438 966 383

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Over the next three Sundays, December 1, 8 and 15, your local St Vincent de Paul branch will be collecting non-perishable food items for Christmas hampers. These will be distributed to struggling individuals and families in our area, who have been assisted by the Society during the year. Please place your donated items in the baskets under the Christmas tree. Thank you for your generosity in making sure these families are able to share in the joy of Christmas.

Some suggested items:

Tinned fruit, vegetables, soup, tuna, salmon
Breakfast cereals and bars
Biscuits savoury and sweet
Pasta and sauces
Tea, coffee, milo, cordial
Christmas cakes, puddings and other treats

As we contemplate Advent, we must come to grips in this world the central message that was essential for Christ to bring to the world.

Everybody Matters, Absolutely. This is the key to the gospel. This is the simplistic answer to the why? and Why Me? because You matter and so does He and so does the insignificant other who seems to be a complete waste of time and air. We all matter to God therefore we need to action that and matter to each other. we do live in a world where there is much judgement made and people dismissed without care. This is not Gods way or our way. On **Thursday Evening 19 December @ 7pm**, we will gather for our Parish Reconciliation of Acceptance and Recognition of God born within all.

Christmas Music and Beyond !!!!!!!

- Sing, Sing, Play, Sing !!!!!!!

Our church choirs would love to boost their numbers - 8am, 10am, 6pm. If you would like to join in the prayerful song of music, please just make yourself known to any of the current choir members at any of the masses and you will be most welcome. Instrumentalists welcomed also.

PARISH STAFF: Fr. Joti Bilowalu CM
Carmen Yap

Marguerite Martin
Aparna John (Mon & Tues)

Mary McNally (Safeguarding
Officer)



In the first year the group started, we focused on Affordable Housing and Aged Care.

On the issue of affordable housing, we have supported the Sydney Alliance, consisting of people of different denominations and faiths as well as citizen's groups, who lobby the state government to change building regulations in order to provide affordable housing. We also lobby the Inner West Council to provide more affordable housing within the state government legislative framework; before the last council election, our group invited all candidates to speak at the parish hall about what they each offered.

There are 6 aged care facilities in the parish and our group is concerned about the standard of care because most people have had family or friends needing a Nursing Home. Lucille McKenna, a Director of Nursing, General Manager, Registered Nurse for 40 years and Inner West Councillor, spoke to our group, identifying issues for the residents in aged care facilities. One problem is the low registered nurse to patient ratio. We have been following the Aged Care Commission with interest.

Dates relevant to Social Justice this week:

- Monday 9th December is *International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and International Anti-Corruption Day*
- Tuesday 10th December is *Human Rights Day* and on this day in 1948, the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights was adopted.

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

Parish Masses this week:

Monday 12 noon
Tuesday 7:00am
Wednesday 12 noon
Thursday 9:00am
Saturday 9:00am

Morning Prayer: 8:40am (Saturday)

Sunday: 8am 10:00am 6:00pm

Polish Mass 12 noon

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



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.

CHRISTMAS MASSES



Tuesday, 24th December

6:00pm Children's Mass

8:00pm Mass with Carols

10:00pm Polish Mass

12:00am Midnight Mass

**preceded by Carols at
11:30pm**

Wednesday, 25th December

8:00am Mass with Carols

10:00am Mass with Carols

12:00pm Polish Mass

**There will be NO evening Mass
in**

English or Polish on Wednesday night

**Please note there will be 9:00am Mass
on Christmas Day at Cardinal Freeman
Village (137 Victoria Street Ashfield)**

**HOLY HOUR
with the BLESSED SACRAMENT
11am to 12 noon
Every Wednesday before the 12 noon Mass.**



Second Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

FIRST READING: He judges the poor with justice (Isaiah 11:1-10)

PSALM: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever (Psalm 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17)

SECOND READING: Christ, the hope of all people (Romans 15:4-9)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand (Matthew 3:1-12)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and Behold the joy which comes to you from God.



**Next Sunday's Readings
Third Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10
Psalm 145:6-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11