

# 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



## Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019

We all have those "what if..." moments where doubt comes to mind. It was John the Baptist in prison who sent the message, "Are you the one?" John, who in the element of the wilderness was so sure, was now incarcerated and losing hope. John needed that reassurance. Jesus' response was to share the achievements of God's kingdom in terms of restoration of life to the poor and the disabled and happiness to people who were faithful to him. It was for this purpose and shared vision that John had lived and preached. It is a very human quality to feel doubts in times of hardship and John in jail must have been looking deeply into his life and his life decision to follow the call of God. Was this the outcome....or was he trying to share once again with his own followers that this man Jesus indeed was the one, just listen to him. Either way Jesus' message to John was to reassure and bring the Good News of hope. Hope is the most vital quality of life... and we need each other to keep hope buoyant and vibrant especially when the situation would appear hopeless. We become hopeless when through circumstances we lose control. How good is it to be reassured by another who brings hope. Jesus was the voice of hope for John and his followers. Who do we turn to in times when circumstances leave us doubting.... certainly prayer and someone else who will share that prayer and hope with us, so that a new way forward is encountered.

Nelson Mandela, the master of Hope in a hopeless situation said this:

**"We are born to manifest the Glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in all of us. And when we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same."**

*Marguerite Martin*

Dear Lord, you bless the water of Baptism to be your waters of Life, promising your saving Life to all who receive it. Let your unending mercy descend on us in showers of refreshing, life saving rain upon our dry and land.

We pray for Rain.

*God our Father, You created our earth to nourish us and give us life*

*And Jesus told us to ask and it will be given to us  
We ask now in Faith, Hope and Love that you look with favour on our drought stricken land.*

*Our starving animals and failing produce.*

*Sustain, strengthen and give new heart to our farmers and all those affected by this drought*

*In your loving providence send abundant rain soon  
And renew the faith of your people and the face of our land.*

*We make this prayer with many, through Jesus Christ who gives new life to all living things. Amen*

***Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Pray for us***

***St Mary of the Cross Mackillop - Pray for us***

## Congratulations First Communicants!

This Sunday at 10am we welcome four delightful young men who will be joining us in First Communion. Stancio, Callum, Isaac and Apurv. We welcome them and pray for and with them. Congratulations to them and their families.

## Reconciliation on Thursday Evening 19th December @7pm

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

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

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019.  
For urgent matters please ring Fr. Joti @0438 966 383

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

Marguerite Martin  
Aparna John (Mon & Tues)

Mary McNally (Safeguarding  
Officer)

## Schedule of Masses from 30<sup>th</sup> December 2019 to Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	Communion Service
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	No Mass
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> January, 2020	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament & Mass (English/Polish)
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Communion Service
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Mass
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	8am, 10am & 6pm Masses
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Communion Service
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	No Mass
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Mass
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Mass

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

Every Wednesday before the 12 noon Mass.

**Parish BBQ** THANK YOU to all who supported  
last Sunday's BBQ in many ways.

### 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 2019

## CHRISTMAS MASSES



### Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> 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, 25<sup>th</sup> 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)

Parish Office will be closed from Monday  
23<sup>rd</sup> December until 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
Office will reopen on  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020.  
There will be no bulletins during those  
weeks.

## Third Sunday of Advent

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.  
Indeed, the Lord is near.

**FIRST READING:** God himself will come and save us (Isaiah 35:1-6, 10)

**PSALM:** Lord, come and save us (Psalm 145:6-10)

**SECOND READING:** You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's  
coming will be soon (James 5:7-10)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon  
me; he sent to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?  
(Matthew 11:2-11)

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.  
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



### Next Sunday's Readings Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14  
Psalm 23:1-6  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-24