

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



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

Our Nativity painting is back and being celebrated with its new lights revealing more than before. The Fourth week of Advent begs the question...how ready am I for Christmas?. Forget the shopping and the cards for a moment and pause and ask how hospitable am I? Have I made ready to accommodate the unexpected in new light? Through Advent we are presented with the figures that offered hospitality to the Word of God. Mary who placed her total trust in the will of God offering herself in hospitality to be the mother that bore him, nursed him and raised him quietly in Nazareth. We are never to know what Mary's parents, Anne and Joachim thought of this except through legends in our faith tradition but surely they would have had fully human reactions to their daughters surprise pregnancy. Maybe this was the first intervention on Mary's behalf to present Jesus as the Saviour, and then loving hospitality was shown to the expectant Mary. We then go to meet Elizabeth, who again miraculously showed hospitality not only to Mary but to the child within. The figure of Joseph in Luke's gospel is silent and overwhelmingly loving and protective of his unexpected family. The image of Joseph is so completed by the arrival of the gift of a son. The hospitality he brought to Jesus was to provide the true physical and spiritual home to bring up God's son, as his own. I wonder how many of Joseph's traits we see in Jesus. These are my advent models. Can I welcome God so simply in to my life knowing what he will demand of me. The key to all this is opening ourselves to the love that only a baby can bring.

Marguerite Martin

The Lighting of the Fourth Week of Advent Candle

Leader: We light the fourth candle on the Advent Wreath as a sign of our faith in God's redeeming love.

Loving God, we thank you for your gift of love - shown to us perfectly in Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless us in our prayer. Help us to hear and do your word. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord.

Amen



Christmas 2019

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)

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, please see Beata at 8am mass or Darrel at the 6pm mass today. There will be a rehearsal on **Monday tomorrow afternoon at 4pm in the church** to get everyone in tune.....

Please Note

Tuesday 24th December...there will be NO 7.00am MASS.

Wednesday 25th December...NO Holy Hour with the Blessed Sacrament.

Thursday 26th December...NO MASS.

PARISH STAFF: Fr. Joti Bilowalu CM
Carmen Yap

Marguerite Martin
Aparna John (Mon & Tues)

Mary McNally (Safeguarding
Officer)

Fr Joti's Absence Fr. Joti will be away from Monday 30th December to Friday 10th January 2020.

Schedule of Masses from 30th December 2019 to Thursday 9th January 2020

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

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 NO 7:00am MASS
 Wednesday 8am, 10am, 12 noon (Polish)
 Thursday NO MASS
 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.

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

Building Maintenance: The final piece of our church's painting restoration work was completed last Monday just in time for Christmas, when the painting of the Nativity was put back into place with all the years of dirt, pollution and water damage removed it now looks magnificent. The parish thanks David Stein and his restoration team for their work over the last 6 months or more.

Michael Clay



Parish Office will be closed from Monday 23rd December until 10th January 2020

Office will reopen on

Monday 13th January 2020.

There will be no bulletins during those weeks.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING: The virgin will conceive (Isaiah 7:10-14)

PSALM: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory (Psalm 23:1-6)

SECOND READING: Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God (Romans 1:1-7)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel; God-is-with-us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David (Matthew 1:18-24)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.



Next Sunday's Readings

The Holy Family of Jesus,

Mary and Joseph

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Psalm 127:1-5

Colossians 3:12-21

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23