

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



Second Sunday of Lent A

March 8, 2020

How have you been travelling through the first week of Lent? Did you Prepare to Stop? And Reflect on where God was? This week held 3 birthdays for me to share in and celebrate the glory of God. Katie was 34....(how did that happen?) Liam was 37 and darling Ava is now 4 years old and loving My Little Pony! I was very connected with the first two births and could again thank God for bringing His glorious light into my life. And then I went down the mountain and joined the throng....and Covid 19! It has become a bit scary hasn't it. And the Toilet Roll debacle? What is that about? I know if I was locked in for awhile, I would want something a little more substantial than toilet paper sandwiches! However, it brought some humour to the whole situation except for the people who really needed to buy Toilet Rolls! So have we seen the transfigured Christ, the successor of the Law and the Prophets? And shared that moment sharing in the glory. The one sent by God as his beloved Son, his emissary to bring us his glory and salvation. However, before the fulfilment we have the suffering and endurance. It is up to us through Lent to acknowledge the suffering of Christ, acknowledge our own suffering connected to his and to acknowledge the suffering of the world as they fight for their lives in war torn countries. Lord Help us to stay fixed on the transfiguration and the resurrection.

Marguerite Martin

Coronavirus 19 (Covid19) precautions.

We have been alerted by the Archdiocese for precautions we have to make within our community. The first you would have noticed is the absence of Holy Water in both the fonts at the door and the baptismal font. This is not a Lenten discipline. We have also been asked to not share in the Blood of Christ at Communion time for fear of contamination. **Also we are asking our extraordinary Ministers of Communion to wash their hands prior to distribution of the Body of Christ, also to note as there is no cup to distribute, please count the ministers who come forward at communion time.**

Regular Donations

Many parishioners have asked whether we can accept regular payments from credit cards and bank accounts. The answer is yes. If you like the convenience of automatic regular donations to the Planned Giving Envelope Program, please contact Carmen at the Parish office to get started.

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confessions

Beginning March, Confessions will be at 8:00am to 8:30am Saturday mornings.



Miraculous Medal Novena Mass

Saturday 14th March 2020

9:00am Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers will be recited within the Mass.

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

Every Wednesday before the 12 noon Mass.

CONFIRMATION will be held on 16th May. The first Confirmation meeting is on 12th March at the Parish office. Forms are now available at the back of the Church to be filled in and return in the Parish Office. For more information please contact Marguerite 0414 566 961 or the Parish office at 9798 2501.

CATECHISTS Our parish Catechists have returned to Ashfield primary school and last Wednesday could distribute the Ashes to the children. Our ministry at Ashfield boys high will start on 19 March at Josephs feast day! We are one Catechist short. If you would like to involve yourself in this vital evangelization ministry from our parish ring the parish office.

CHURCH MAINTENANCE 100 CLUB: Thank you to ALL who supported this fund raising effort last week, there are still numbers available, so if anyone would still like to purchase a number (\$40) they are on sale today after ALL masses.

The first draw will be made this week, and the winners names published in next week's bulletin.

Just to recap For a single payment of \$40, 100 members choose one number 01 -100 randomly. **Father Joti** will draw out two lucky numbers each week for 9 weeks. If you hold the first number drawn out, you will win \$80. The second number will win \$40. In the tenth and final week, first prize will be \$500 and second prize will be \$250.

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 STAFF: *Fr. Joti Bilowalu CM
Carmen Yap*

*Marguerite Martin
Aparna John (Mon & Tues)*

*Mary McNally (Safeguarding
Officer)*

Palm Sunday April 5 - This year parishioners are asked if they could bring their own Palms (soft variety) or Olive branches to the church on Palm Sunday and maybe if you have a Palms (soft variety) or Olive Tree at home some extras could be brought along to share with others.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK WWCC

If you are over 18 and you are a Reader, Special Minister, Acolyte or Collector at any of the Masses or other services at St Vincent's, you need to obtain a WWCC. **This is a NSW State Government requirement.** To get your WWCC, you can Google **WWCC NSW**. You will be taken to the website of The Office of the Children's Guardian where you follow the prompts. If you cannot do this by yourself, please contact Carmen on 9798 2501 to arrange a suitable time to meet me in the Parish House so I can help you apply. We would like all WWCCs to be handed in by the first weekend in April, if possible. Thank you to all the volunteer ministers who have so far provided their WWCC.

Mary McNally (Parish Safeguarding Support Officer)

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.

Parish Masses this week:

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



Reconciliation: 8:00am to 8:30am
 Morning Prayer: 8:40am (Saturday)
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.

Parish Choirs

Our church choirs would love to boost their numbers— 8am 10am & 6pm. If you love to Praise God with Song, please just make yourself known to any of the current choir members at any of the masses and you will be made most welcome.

Fr. Joti

PROJECT COMPASSION Twenty-seven year old Phany was a struggling farmer and was forced to leave her daughter to take up construction work in the city. Her life has been transformed since joining a Caritas supported program, learning crop growing skills and better water management, to combat drought. Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help people like Shirley, and her children gain confidence and respect within their community.

Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through parish boxes and envelopes or by calling 1800 024 413 or visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion.



St Vincent's Ashfield Social Justice Group

Each month we will be looking at the brochure, *Ten Steps Towards Human Encounter in the Digital World*, published by the Australian Bishops Conference Office for Social Justice. Number one is **"Make Your Online Presence One of Dignity and Respect"**. Remember that each person we communicate with is a real person – made in the image of God.

It is recommended that we read Pope Francis' World Communications Day Messages which show us how the online world can help foster human dignity: <http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en//messages/communications.index.html>

There will be a regular monthly Aboriginal Mass held at 11am at 11 Yarra Road, Phillip Bay (La Perouse) on the first Sunday of each month this year. The next mass will be held on 5th April at 11 am. Visitors are welcome.

The dates relevant to Social Justice this week are:

- Sunday 8th March is *International Woman's Day*: this year marks the 20th anniversary of the Australian Bishops' response to research on the role of women in the church
- Wednesday 11th March; on this day in 2011 an earthquake and tsunami killed 18,500 people and caused widespread contamination.

Social Justice group meets on the **3rd Saturday** of the month in the **parish centre** at **9.45am**. Our next meeting is Saturday 21st March at 9-45 am. **NEW MEMBERS VERY WELCOME.**

Second Sunday of Lent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

FIRST READING: The call of Abraham, the father of God's people (Genesis 12:1-4)

PSALM: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you (Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22)

SECOND READING: God has saved us, and called us to be holy (2 Timothy 1:8-10)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: **Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!** From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. **Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

GOSPEL: His face shone like the sun (Matthew 17:1-9)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.



Next Sunday's Readings
Third Sunday of Lent A

Exodus 17:3-7
 Psalm 94:1-2, 6-9
 Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
 John 4:5-42