

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 Lent A

March 15, 2020

It's very hard not to prepare to Stop and Assess with what's happening! The panic buying, fighting in supermarkets and trains as if the last days are here. Apocalyptic is a word that's in too common usage this year plus I think I could cope with a bit of self-isolation at present...but there seems no escape from it. Even looking at the hand sanitiser up near the altar, and the absence of our precious symbol of water, to be so vital in our Easter celebration calling for all to 'come to the water', that 'we will draw joyfully from the wellspring of creation'. At least we may have a good fire at the Easter Vigil! It is always in the most unlikely times and to the most unlikely people Jesus calls to proclaim him. It is beside the well that the Samaritan woman responds to Jesus and gives him the drink of refreshing water from the well. Despite her flawed state, Jesus reveals to her that he indeed the long anticipated Messiah and unlike the God of the Samaritans, you don't meet him in temples or up mountains. In fact you meet him in the unglamorous, every day. And this Messiah asks you to give to him. Refreshment, and this is what gives him shape and vitality! And to carry his message out to all you meet. The Samaritan woman has deep longings...it has permitted her flawed past, but no other longing has satisfied her like the dropping of the bucket into the well. She is transformed by sharing, by her hospitality. Who can we meet in small acts of sharing and hospitality? Or are we a closed book in our relationship with God!! Don't limit God to our beautiful Church but see him, feel him in all creation. It takes effort to draw that bucket up and face our flaws but know in Jesus eyes the Samaritan woman who felt totally at home.

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.**

Happy St Patricks Day for Tuesday or St Josephs Day for Thursday. Wonderful Saints names for our Candidates for Confirmation to choose to be their patrons. We met these candidates on Thursday evening and today they will formally enrol in the Confirmation program.

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confessions

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

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

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

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.

Building Maintenance 100 Club....Week One Draw
Thank you to ALL who have supported this fund raising effort, to help in maintaining our 125 year old church.

Week 1 winners.....

First Prize winner No. 77 Sr. Mary Walsh
Second Prize winner No. 30 Ivan Simic

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.

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

Marguerite Martin
Aparna John (Mon & Tues)

Mary McNally (Safeguarding Officer)

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)

Italian Open Garden Day in Hunters Hill .Monday,

March 30, 2020 We are very graced in this Parish to have the L'Arche Community come here for Mass. They really enrich our community. There is to be a Fund Raiser for L'Arche on Monday March 30 2020 9.30am -12pm at "Clifton" , a heritage listed water front property in Hunters Hill. It is an Italian themed morning tea. Drinks and Gelato are also available. Local Cafes will be offering Italian Lunch specials for ticket holders. \$30. entry and morning tea. Tickets and donations www.trybookings.com/BINEN Any queries ring Felicity McCaffrey 0407 117 868.

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.



PROJECT COMPASSION

Barry grew up in a tough environment. With the support of a program from Caritas Australia's partner, Red Dust Healing, Barry has overcome many of life's challenges. He is now an inspirational father to his four girls and a leader in his community.

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

The second step in *Ten Steps Towards Human Encounter in the Digital World*, published by the Australian Bishops Conference is **Be Present to Others in the real and virtual worlds**; on the one hand, the brevity of communication on social media can be open to misinterpretation and superficiality and, on the other hand, excessive use of social media can deprive family and friends of your 'real' presence in their lives. So,

- Limit screen time
- Abstain and take a digital detox – times for reflection especially in Lent
- Establish device free times. Eg. Meal times.

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.

Breaking Up Laudato Si' a talk by Sue Martin.

St Francis Xavier Ashbury Social Justice Group invites you to be part of the human family that Pope Francis is bringing together to seek sustainable and integral development.

Understand how and why you can be part of the conversation and help to protect our common home from further environmental degradation.

Speaker: Sue Martin B. Ag Sc., Grad Dip Ed, Cert IV in Carbon Management and Assessment and Training. Sue is a project Officer with Catholic Earth Care NSW and The Jesuit Reconciliation with Creation. Sue is also a trained Laudato Si' animator.

Date: Thursday 19th March, 7pm, 2020

Venue: Piazza, 53 Leopold St, Ashbury (Across the road from St Francis Xavier's Catholic Church).

Third Sunday of Lent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor

FIRST READING: You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea (Exodus 17:3-7)

PSALM: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Ps 94: 1-2, 6-9)

SECOND READING: The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us (Romans 5:1-2, 5-8)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: **Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that all may never thirst again. **Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

GOSPEL: The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life (John 4:5-42 or John 4:4-16, 19-26, 39-42)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.



Next Sunday's Readings Fourth Sunday of Lent A

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13
Psalm 22
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17,
34-38