

# 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](http://www.vinash.org.au) E-mail [vinstaff@vinash.org.au](mailto:vinstaff@vinash.org.au)

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Parish Office Hours: 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday



**Fourth Sunday of Lent A**

**March 22, 2020**

How often do we feel blind hopeless? Are we asking to be healed? The Gospel of John is the Gospel of love and relationship. The choice that Jesus makes to heal on the Sabbath is a sign in itself to the value of people over laws, but more deeply to the reference that God the Father is continually working in the world and this is a sign pointing to the continual work of creation. This week as we Stop and Prepare for this most unusual Easter we are asked to identify where we can be that sign of God in the world constantly creating and transforming lives! This story of transformation is bringing light into a dark world. Nothing could be as dark as our world at the moment, where fear and disease has gripped us all, in total panic! How can we be transformative? How can we be that sign of light? That sign of creative hope! Sought, found, being truly heard and having the desire to be fully alive then Jesus reaches into our lives. So as Church what is our role? "We do not live in the world and go to Church, we live in the Church and go to the world". Richard Rohr. We are called to identify those who call to be fully alive and then to be transformative in their lives. We are the sign of God alive in the world constantly caring, revealing and transforming. Through simple actions the washed off muddy paste revealed new light and developed an understanding of God. To the former blind man Jesus went from a man, to a prophet, to a man from God, to the Son of Man and finally to Lord! The light unfolded and he brought the Church to the World!

*Marguerite Martin*

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Please take note of the of the protocol that communion must be administered by placing it in the hand of the recipient. I'm sure you are all conscious and understanding of this.

Under no circumstances should communion be administered orally and please politely refuse anyone who comes forward in this way.

*Fr. Joti*

*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.*

**CARDINAL FREEMAN VILLAGE CHAPEL**  
Sunday Mass at Cardinal Freeman Village will be suspended with immediate effect and until further notice.

## Coronavirus

The situation is changing daily and the immediate future is unclear. If we must deal with a cancellation of public masses for any length of time, what are our options?

Phone the Parish on 9798 2501 or visit

[www.vinash.org.au](http://www.vinash.org.au) for latest information on

how the Parish is responding to this challenge.

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

Every Wednesday before the 12 noon Mass.

**Building Maintenance 100 Club....Week Two Draw**  
Week 2 winners.....

**First Prize winner No. 38 Bob Honeybrook**

**Second Prize winner No. 31 Alex Sukkar**

**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.

## **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.

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

*Marguerite Martin*  
*Aparna John (Mon & Tues)*

*Mary McNally (Safeguarding Officer)*

## PROJECT COMPASSION

Thirty-year-old Sakun lives in a village in central east India.

She developed polio as a child had a difficulty walking. After joining a Caritas Australia-funded program, Sakun has learned new skills and gained important mobility. She is more resilient, more confident and more independent.

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](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion).



*St Vincent's Ashfield Social Justice Group*

Social Justice group meets on the **3rd Saturday** of the month in the **parish centre at 9.45am**. Our next meeting is **NEXT Saturday, 18th April at 9.45 am**. **NEW MEMBERS VERY WELCOME.**

**Position Vacant** We are looking a person to fill the position of Administrative Support/Receptionist at Ryde -Gladesville Catholic Parish, which is located in the corner of Victoria Road and Charles St., Ryde. The position to provide administrative support to the Parish.

### 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 Mass at Cardinal Freeman Village will be suspended with immediate effect and until further notice.

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**FIRST READING:** In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel (1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13)

**PSALM: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want**  
(Ps 22)

**SECOND READING:** Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you  
(Ephesians 5:8-14)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. **Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**GOSPEL:** The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored (John 9:1-41 of John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38)

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.



### Next Sunday's Readings Fifth Sunday of Lent A

Ezekiel 37-12-14  
Psalm 129  
Romans 8:8-11  
John 11:1-45  
or John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27,  
33-45

## Families

What can families do?

Families can pray together – if you do this already, great! If not, it's a good time to start. And here's a few resources or ideas:

- Read the readings of the Sunday from the parish website or other online resources or from your Sunday Missal – make it a short liturgy of the word. Make up your own prayers of the Faithful – conclude with the Our Father and maybe other favourite prayers.
- Pray the Liturgy of the hours. There is an App that will give you the texts of the Mass of the day and the Liturgy of the Hours – it is called **Universalis**. It is available for Apple, Android and Windows. There is a small cost to buy this and register once only.
- Use different Websites/Apps for prayer:  
Pray as you Go - <https://pray-as-you-go.org/> (also an App)  
The God Minute - <https://www.thegodminute.org/> (also an App)  
Sacred Space - <https://www.sacredspace.ie/> (also an App)  
Jamberoo Abbey - <https://www.jamberooabbey.org.au/prayer>  
Click to Pray - <https://clicktopray.org/> (also an App)
- Read the Bible taking a book, like a Gospel or the Psalms, and working your way through it together, section by section
- Use Lectio Divina when reading a bible text – this is explained in Universalis and also on the Jamberoo Abbey website.
- Use Christian Meditation - use the App WCCM where you will find explanations and guides for meditation – your children may already know how to meditate. Let them teach you?
- Pray the Rosary together
- Come to the church which will be open (times to be decided – will be published), respecting the social/physical distancing that is recommended if there are others in the Church, and do your praying there together at a time that suits your family.
- Watch Mass online or on TV – there are a number of links – these will be published on the Parish website progressively over coming weeks.

## Individuals

What can individuals do?

Develop a prayer partner with whom you can pray regularly either by phone, by Skype or Facebook, or simply by committing to pray at the same of the day as each other. Perhaps you could use one of the forms of prayer above.

Each person could do their own thing or do one or more of the above. If not doing anything at preset, see this as an opportunity to develop personal prayer habit.

Don't turn your back on the relationship with God that is your life and meaning by doing nothing.