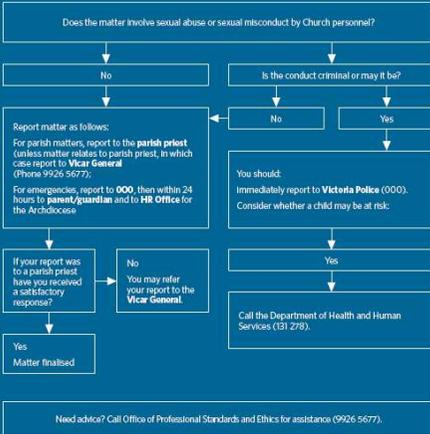


May our children flourish

ENSURING THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF CHILDREN IN OUR CARE



If you **see something** that concerns you, **say something**



May our children flourish

ENSURING THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF CHILDREN IN OUR CARE



Commitment Statement to Child Safety

We are committed to a safe and nurturing culture for all children and young people in our Church!

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as central and fundamental responsibilities of the Church. This commitment is drawn from and inherent to the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel.

We want our children to be safe, happy and empowered.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne has a universal expectation for the protection of children. It is resolutely committed to ensuring that all those engaged in the Church promote the inherent dignity of children and young people and their fundamental right to be respected and nurtured in a safe environment. This is particularly so for the most vulnerable children, including Aboriginal children, those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and children with a disability.

The Catholic Church has a moral, legal and mission-driven responsibility to create nurturing environments where children and young people are respected, their voices are heard and where they are safe and feel safe.

We have zero tolerance of child abuse and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and reported in line with our legal obligations, our moral obligations and our Church policies.¹

Creating child-safe environments is a dynamic process that involves active participation and responsibility by parishes, schools, families and communities. It is marked by collaboration, vigilance and proactive approaches across policies, procedures and practices.

We are committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early and then reducing or removing them. If you see something of concern, please let us know.

Every person involved in the Catholic Church has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

Reference

- CEV/Commitment Statement to Child Safety

¹ The scope of this Commitment Statement to Child Safety is intentionally broad. It applies throughout the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne other than to Catholic Education Melbourne or any Catholic system school to which the policies of CEV apply.

² See Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne 'My our children flourish - Code of Conduct for Caring for Children'.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish Prayer

Loving God, through St Vincent de Paul, we seek your guidance and constant protection, for our parish community.

Gathered together as your people, we come as we are, to live out the Gospel message, in a faithfilled, welcoming and caring community.

Grant us your help in our weakness, that we may proclaim to all, your abundant goodness.

We praise and thank you for your gifts given freely, to share with one another.

May we never lose faith in you and always strive to live, in a spirit of strength and gentleness.

On our journey, may we be an example of your love, to those we meet.

Loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, may you always watch over us in all we do. Amen

HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME:

If you know of anyone who is unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home please contact the Parish Office on 9412 8460. Also, if you know of anyone would like to attend Mass on Sunday but cannot do so due to lack of transport we can arrange it for them. Please let us know as we would love to assist.

Please note the new Parish Phone number 9412 8460.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL PRESS

10th & 11th December 2016
THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT Year A

The Weekly Bulletin of the Parish of St Vincent de Paul, Strathmore

Parish Priest: Fr Peter J Ray

Fr Peter Email: Priest.Strathmore@cam.org.au

Parish Administration: Mrs. Patricia McNicholl Parish Office **Email:** Strathmore@cam.org.au

Presbytery: 2 The Crossway, Strathmore, Victoria 3041 **Web:** cam.org.au/strathmore

Telephone: 9412 8460 **Facsimile:** 9287 5536

St Vincent de Paul Primary School: Woodland Street, Strathmore, 3041

Principal: Mr Shane Byrne

Telephone: 9379 5723 **Facsimile:** 9379 2389 **Email:** principal@svstrathmore.catholic.edu.au

Sunday Mass: Saturday Vigil: 6.00 pm **Sunday Morning:** 8.30 am & 10.30 am

Weekday Masses: Tuesday - Saturday 10.00 am

Blessed Sacrament Chapel: Open Monday - Friday 9.00 am - 3.00 pm for private prayer

Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation: Saturday 9.00 am or by request

Sacrament of Baptism: Baptism will be celebrated only by appointment and after a preparation evening, arranged through the Parish Office.

First Sunday of the Month: During our weekend Masses

Second Sunday of the Month: 12.00 noon

Third Sunday of the Month: 12.00 noon

Sacrament of Marriage: By appointment with at least six months notice.

A community celebrating Christ in life by striving to maintain a strong sense of belonging and generosity of heart.

Old-fashioned, Spiritual Christmas?

John R. Brokhoff, *Preaching the Parables—Cycle C*, p. 28.

"What has happened to the old-fashioned, spiritual Christmas? The cause is our disregard of Advent. The church set aside this four-week pre-Christmas season as a time of spiritual preparation for Christ's coming. It is a time of quiet anticipation. If Christ is going to come again into our hearts, there must be repentance. Without repentance, our hearts will be so full of worldly things that there will be 'no room in the inn' for Christ to be born again.... We have the joy not of celebration. Which is the joy of Christmas, but the joy of anticipation."

Memory Awakens Hope

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, (Pope Benedict) *Seek That Which Is Above*, 1986

"Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to man. Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope...."

It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."

