

## PRAYERS FOR VOCATIONS

Very soon the students for the priesthood will recommence their studies at Corpus Christi College, our seminary in Carlton. It is anticipated that there will be eleven new students for the Melbourne Archdiocese this year. Please keep them in your prayers, and pray for more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Perhaps God is calling somebody from our parish or family.

## PALMS ENCOUNTERS:

An experience to share this Easter and beyond. A Palms Encounter is an intimate, immersive, intercultural experience providing insights that challenge perceptions and deepen understanding. Palms long-term volunteers guide the Encounter with our Catholic Communities in East Timor. Register now for our 2 – 14 April Encounter and receive \$400 off a 2nd ticket. Call Roger on 02 9560 5333 or go to [www.palms.org.au/Encounters](http://www.palms.org.au/Encounters) for more. Real encounter, real people, real exchange, real life

## WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Friday 24 March, 7pm to Sunday 26 March, 5pm St Pauls Missionary College, Nortons Lane, Wantirna South An invitation to join other couples and invest in your most precious asset, your marriage. This residential weekend will explore the precious nature of marriage, allowing couples to share feelings, hopes and dreams with each other in ways that normal, daily living tends to inhibit. There is no group sharing. Couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome. Accommodation and all meals provided. Details and bookings: Marianne and Marcel on 9733 0997 or [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au) or [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au) Cost: \$55 application fee + confidential donation at the weekend. (Average cost for a couple for a weekend is \$595 but no couple is refused a weekend if they are not able to pay.)

## *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

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL PLAY-GROUP

Thursdays between 9.00am and 11.00am in the Parish Centre for play, fun and conversation. For further details contact Fiona McIlldowney 0411 061 978 or just come along.



## **St Vincent de Paul Press**

11th & 12th February 2017  
6th Sunday in Ordinary time Year A

The Weekly Bulletin of the Parish of St Vincent de Paul, Strathmore  
**Parish Priest:** Fr Peter J Ray **Email:** [Priest.Strathmore@cam.org.au](mailto: Priest.Strathmore@cam.org.au)  
**Parish Administration:** Mrs. Patricia McNicholl  
Parish Office **Email:** [Strathmore@cam.org.au](mailto: Strathmore@cam.org.au)

**Presbytery:** 2 The Crossway, Strathmore, Victoria 3041 **Web:** [cam.org.au/strathmore](http://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](mailto: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

**Our Church is Open:** Tuesday - Friday 7.00 am - 5.00 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.*

**Pharisees:** A politico-religious sect or faction among the adherents of later Judaism, that came into existence as 3C B.C. A growing sense of superiority to the heathen and idolatrous nations among whom their lot was cast came to be one of their main characteristics. They were taught insistently to separate themselves from their neighbours. Intermarriage with the heathen was strictly forbidden and many such marriages previously contracted, even of priests, were dissolved. They were called Pharisees, meaning those who separated themselves from the heathen, and from the heathenizing forces and tendencies which constantly invaded the precincts of Judaism. They considered it an abomination to even eat at the same board with the heathens or have any social relations with them whatsoever. Owing to their heroic devotedness their influence over the people became great and far-reaching, and in the course of time they, instead of the priests, became the sources of authority. In the time of Our Lord such was their power and prestige that they sat and taught in "Moses' seat". This prestige naturally engendered arrogance and conceit, and led to a perversion in many respects of the conservative ideals of which they had been such staunch supporters. In many passages of the Gospels, Christ is quoted as warning the multitude against them in scathing terms. "The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassel and like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi." (Matt., xxiii, 1-8). Cf JAMES F. DRISCOLL

### *Our Vision*

*To be a community celebrating Christ in Life*

### *Our Mission*

*That we strive to maintain a strong sense of belonging and generosity of heart*

**Entrance Antiphon:** Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Happy are those who follow the law of the Lord!

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them: they were not disappointed in what they craved.

**Recent Deaths:**

**Anniversaries:** John Oakley, Arthur, Lorna & Ian Randall, Alfred Tormey, Leonie, Edward, Leo & Dorothy Knowles, Joseph Pittappillil, Mary Joseph

**Thanksgiving:** \$3172.60      **Presbytery:** \$1166.05

**Rosters for next weekend 18th & 19th February:**

6.00 pm	8.30am	10.30am
<b>Lectors:</b> L Capparelli	A Mucic	J Pattison

<b>Special Ministers:</b> K Ferguson, A Mammone	A Henshall, R McGowan	L Anderson, G Johnson
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<b>Offertory:</b> F Rivellese	B Evans	Tenuta Family
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<b>Counters:</b> M Schembri, G Delaney	<b>Transport:</b> M Green, D Meller, P Waddington	
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<b>Flowers:</b> M Ponte	<b>Church Cleaning:</b> Group F	<b>Linen:</b> M Sullivan
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**Next week's Readings:** Lev 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

**FEASTS THIS WEEK**

**Tuesday:** Sts Cyril and Methodius

**Tuesday Mass**

This Tuesday Fr Peter will celebrate Mass at 7.30am. There will be no 10.00am Mass on this day.

**MEETINGS THIS WEEK**

**Monday:** Book Club in the Parish Centre at 1.00pm

**Tuesday:** Parish Education Board Meeting in the School at 7.30pm

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY - THIS SUNDAY**

During 10.30am Mass primary school aged children are invited to join us for CLW.

**ST VINCENT de PAUL SENIORS' SOCIAL GROUP**

Parishioners are invited to a lunch at 'Legends' Moonee Valley Racecourse Tabaret on Wednesday 22nd February at noon. Seniors 2 and 3 course meals available. Bookings to Keith Foletti on 9379 4920 by 17th February. Transport may be provided.

**ST VALENTINE**

St Valentine's day reminds us of the importance of romantic love and marriage. Brochures are available which enlighten us on romance and mystery. You are most welcome to take a brochure from the porch.

**Have you returned your Ministry support form? Please do so before Wednesday.**

**First reading**

**Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21**

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

**Second reading**

**1 Corinthians 2:6-10**

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: *the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.* These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

**Gospel**

**Matthew 5:20-22,27-28,33-34,37**

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven. 'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. 'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You must not kill*; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny. 'You have learnt how it was said: *You must not commit adultery.* But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: *Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal.* But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery. Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord.* But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no.