

LENTEN REFLECTIONS 2015

Wednesdays, 12.30 -1pm: 18, 25 Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 Mar, 1 Apr. Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, 362 Albert St, East Melbourne Like 30 mins of quiet out of your busy day? A time to reflect together in the season of Lent. Contact: 9926 9300

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Invest in your most precious asset.....Your marriage! Forget life's tensions and interruptions and rekindle the closeness, intimacy, love and romance that brought you together. Recharge your relationship batteries and explore the precious nature of your marriage, allowing you both to share your 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. 2015 Melbourne weekend dates : 17-19 Apr, 19-21 June, 21-23 August and 23-25 Oct Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided. Information/Bookings: Marianne & Marcel (03) 9733 0997 Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au or www.wwme.org.au

SHORT COURSE IN JESUS' PASSION, DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Wednesdays 25 February, 4 March, 11 March and 18 March 2015, 6.30-8pm. Christ Lecture Theatre, Australian Catholic University, 115 Victoria Pde, Fitzroy. A short course offered by the Australian Catholic University (ACU) for the public in 2015. It is an opportunity to explore the most important topics of Christian faith during the season of Lent. Delivered by ACU theologians, including Rev. Prof. Anthony Kelly CSsR and Rev. Prof. Francis Moloney SDB. The course will follow the events of the Triuduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday), as they are stated in the Apostles' Creed. Refreshments provided from 6pm. Registration is essential and closes Friday 20 February. Register: <http://www.acu.edu.au/686192> Contact: Dr Joel Hodge at joel.hodge@acu.edu.au.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL PLAYFROUP

Please join us on Thursdays between 9.00am and 11.00am in the Parish Centre for play, fun and conversation. For further details contact Fiona McIl-downey 0411 061 978 or just come along.

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

PALMS AUSTRALIA

Palms Australia will be conducting a guided tour of the communities in which their global volunteers are working in East Timor from April 6-18. Places are limited. Enquires need to be processed by February 28th call 02 9518 9551 www.palms.org.au/Encounters

INDOOR BOWLS EVERY FRIDAY:

Please join us for Indoor Bowls at the Parish Centre every Friday afternoon from 1.30 pm. All welcome, equipment provided.



St Vincent de Paul Press

14th & 15th February 2015
6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

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: 9379 1488 **Facsimile:** 9379 1574

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

Acting 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 - Friday 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.*

Jesus showing compassion

Leprosy also known as **Hansen's disease (HD)**, is a chronic infection caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae* and *Mycobacterium lepromatosis*. Initially, infections are without symptoms and typically remain this way for 5 to as long as 20 years. Symptoms that develop include granulomas of the nerves, respiratory tract, skin, and eyes. This may result in a lack of ability to feel pain and thus loss of parts of extremities due to repeated injuries. Weakness and poor eyesight may also be present.

Left untreated, leprosy can be progressive, causing permanent damage to the skin, nerves, limbs, and eyes. Contrary to folklore, leprosy does not cause body parts to fall off, although they can become numb or diseased as a result of secondary infections; these occur as a result of the body's defences being compromised by the primary disease. Secondary infections, in turn, can result in tissue loss causing fingers and toes to become shortened and deformed, as cartilage is absorbed into the body.

“If you want to” he said “you can cure me”. And Jesus said, “Of course I want to. ‘Be cured’”. The lepers were outcast because they were seen as unclean. In those days they were dismissed from the community.

Through these words and actions Jesus invites us to reach out and support those who are in need in a like way manner. Are we prepared to say, “Of course I want to”?

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: I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. 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: James Wells, Michael Valentine, Br Jim Ahern,
Clark & Cullinan Families.

Thanksgiving; Presbytery:

Rosters for next weekend 21st & 22nd February

6.00 pm	8.30 am	10.30 am
Lectors: J Harris	A Mucic	M Sullivan
Special Ministers: J Mammone, J Burke	M Thomas, P McKay	C Picinich, G Cascone
Offertory: F Rivellese	C Vega	V Rogers, J Evans
Counters: A Monaghan, J Burke	Transport: P Fox, G Johnson, P Waddington	
Flowers: T Dargan & J Whelan	Church Cleaning: G Group	Linen: V Page
Next week's Readings:	Gen 9:8-15; 1 Pet 3:18-22; Mk	

TUESDAY MASS

This Tuesday the 17th February Mass will be celebrated at 7.30am. There will be no 10.00am Mass on this day as Fr Peter has Committee Meetings with the Archdiocese.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES

Masses will be celebrated on Ash Wednesday at 10.00am and at 7.00pm. Ashes will be distributed at each of the Masses as we commence the season of Lent in preparation for Easter.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

On the Fridays of Lent you are invited to share a reflection on The Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm in the Church

RECENT BAPTISMS

Congratulations to **William Reed** who was Baptised last weekend. May we remember him and his families in our prayers.

FR PETER'S IMAGES AROUND THE SOUTH TIROL

Fr Peter will show images, in the Parish Centre from his visit to the South Tirol, North Italy taken during his recent visit:

On **Friday 27th February** after the 10.00 am morning Mass.

On **Thursday 5th March**, at 7.30 pm.

All are most welcome to attend either session, please bring a small plate to share.

THE SEASON OF LENT

The Season of Lent, commencing on Wednesday, has a twofold character:

- * it recalls our Baptism and the promises undertaken.
- * it stresses a penitential spirit.

Lent is a time of penance, when we are exhorted to devote ourselves in a special manner to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity, and to deny ourselves.

By these means especially, Lent readies us for celebrating the Paschal Mystery (Easter) after a period of closer attention to the Word of God, and prayerful reflection.

Ash Wednesday and God Friday are days of Fasting and Abstinence from meat.

All who have completed their 18th year and have not begun their 60th year are bound to fast. All who have completed their 14th year are bound to abstain.

On all other Fridays, the we are called to perform one of the following:

Prayer: For example:- Mass attendance, family prayer, making the Stations of the Cross.

Self-denial: For example:- not eating meat, not eating sweets, giving up entertainment, limiting food and drink, supporting Project Compassion.

Helping Others: For example:- special attention to those in need, sick, poor, elderly.

Project Compassion Boxes and Envelope Packs are available, for our use during Lent, in the porches of the Church. Another way of making a sacrifice during Lent.

THE EASTER EVENT

This year the Easter Event (organised by the Strathmore Inter Church Council) will take place at the Strathmore Uniting Church from Monday 16th March to Thursday 19th March. Children from local schools arrive at the venue by bus and over the course of 60 minutes the story of Easter is explained to them. Our parish contribution is a 15 minute drama of the Passion of Christ, which is repeated five times per day. We need volunteers to play the parts of Jesus' followers in a narrated performance. All costumes are supplied. Please consider this event as a great opportunity for our parish to be involved in the community while spreading the real story of Easter. We also need volunteers for other aspects of the event, including baking and serving of drinks. If you wish to contribute to this community event, please place your name on the corresponding sheet(s) in the East porch of the Church. Further information is available from Alma Henshall 9379 1047.

PARISH SENIORS SOCIAL GROUP – LUNCH AT FLEMINGTON RACECOURSE

The Parish Seniors Social Group would like to invite senior members of the parish to join us for Lunch at Headquarters Tavern, Flemington Racecourse on Wednesday 11 March at 12:00 pm. A two course meal will be available at a cost of \$15 and transport will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Keith Foletti (9379 4920), Eileen Sheppard (9379 1798) or Alma Henshall (9379 1047). Booking close 28 February 2015.

Vision

To be a community celebrating Christ in Life

Mission

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