

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, come and save us..

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor, Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Recent Deaths: Patrick Melling

Anniversaries: Peter Izatt, Giuseppe Sinato, Giuseppe Panetta, Maria Rosa Panetta, Domenico Panetta

Thanksgiving: \$2427.70 **Presbytery:** \$1383.05

Rosters for next weekend 21st & 22nd December

6.00 pm	8.30 am	10.30 am
<u>Lectors:</u> J Harris	K McCartney	L Wilson
<u>Special Ministers:</u> J Burke, M Mollica	P McKay, M Thomas	D Meller, L Anderson
<u>Offertory:</u> R & A Hutcheon	D & L A'Hearn	M Beshara
<u>Counters:</u> S Boyle, A Monaghan	<u>Transport:</u> K Doherty, P Fox, G Johnson, D Meller	
<u>Flowers:</u> T Dargan, J Whelan	<u>Church Cleaning:</u> F Group	<u>Linen:</u> R Attard
<u>Next week's Readings:</u>	Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24	

RECENT MARRIAGES

Congratulations to **Kevin Henshall** and **Thakshila Balasuriya** who were married last weekend. May we remember them in our prayers.

RECENT BAPTISMS

Congratulations to **Miah Lofts** who was Baptised and **Melissa Lofts** who was Received into the Church last weekend. May we remember them in our prayers.

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL

Thank you to all those who generously donated to the Melbourne Overseas Mission Appeal. A total of \$826.50 was received.

FRIDAY MORNING TEA

All are welcome to attend the final Friday morning tea for the year after 10.00am Mass. Please bring a plate to share for a special Christmas morning Tea.

EVENING OF PRAYER FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

As we draw close to the celebration of Christmas I invite you to come and share an evening together in prayer for Peace and Reconciliation, in our lives, acknowledging God's gifts and seeking his strength and then after our prayer, in the Parish Centre for light refreshments. I invite you to gather with me on **Tuesday 17th December at 7.00 pm in the Church** and then in the Parish Centre or Adventure Playground, weather permitting, at around 7.30 pm. Come and share this evening together as a family and as parishioners together. Fr Peter

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Vigil: 6.00 pm Family Mass
Proceeded by Carols at 5.30 pm
Midnight Mass
Proceeded by Carols at 11.30 pm

Christmas Day: 10.00 am Mass
Proceeded by Carols at 9.30 am

New Year's Eve: 6.00 pm Vigil Mass

New Year's Day: 10.00 am Mass

STRATHMORE INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL CAROL EVENING

This year the Carol evening was scheduled for St Vincent de Paul. As the Strathmore Uniting Church will close soon we will now hold the **Carols at the Strathmore Uniting Church, Cnr Upland and the Crossway, on Sunday 15th December at 5.00 pm.** You are invited to share this evening with the members of the local Uniting and Anglican Church communities as we gather in song and reflection on the impending birthday of Christ.

CAROLS IN THE CATHEDRAL

Friday 13 December 2013, 8:30pm. The Tudor Choristers present their annual Christmas concert, featuring a selection of traditional and less well-known carols from across the centuries. Cost: \$30 full, \$20 concession, \$60 family St Patrick's Cathedral, Cnr Gisborne Street & Cathedral Place, East Melbourne. More info: www.tudorchoristers.org.au/

2014 COLUMBAN CALENDARS

In the Piety Stall for \$9.00 each. Sales of the Calendars support the activities of Columbans in poor communities and its missionary activity.

PARISH WEBSITE

Our Website is now up and running. Check it out at 'cam.org.au/strathmore'. Comments and feedback would be appreciated, especially if there are aspects that you would like included.

HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME:

If you are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion please contact the Parish Office on 9379 1488 to be placed on our roster. Also, if you would like to attend Mass on Sunday but cannot do so due to lack of transport we can arrange it for you.

Vision

To be a community celebrating Christ in Life

Mission

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

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER CELEBRATES 40 YEARS IN AUSTRALIA

Saturday 22 February 2014 In February, Marriage Encounter will celebrate 40 years of running weekends in Australia. We would love to hear from couples and priests who have been involved with ME in the past and who would like to gather to share memories, celebrate what has been and hear about ME today, as well as our vision for the future. Join us for a special gathering as we celebrate this milestone. Please spread the word. More info: Helen & Leo Wursthorn or call 9874 6979 or helenandleow@gmail.com for more information.

EVANGELIUM – SUMMER SCHOOL

Friday 24 January – Monday 27 January 2014
The Evangelium Summer School 2014 will give participants an opportunity to delve into the sacred scriptures in a new and exciting way, and give you the confidence to read, pray and proclaim the scripture. Utilising the innovative “Great Adventure Bible Study” series by Jeff Cavins and calling upon some of Melbourne’s most engaging speakers, the Evangelium Summer School will take you through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation in one weekend, helping you to follow the story of salvation from the creation of the world to the present day and beyond. The Evangelium Summer School is a chance for young Catholics (18 -35) to come together in the heart of Melbourne, and rediscover the heart of their faith. Cost: \$180 (twin share room), \$200 (single room) - Cost covers all meals and reading resources. Corpus Christi College, Carlton. Registration & more info: www.evangelium.co/

CORPUS CHRISTI SPIRITUAL DIRECTION AVAILABLE

The Champion Team at Corpus Christi, Greenvale offer opportunities for spiritual direction, ministry supervision and live-in retreats. The Corpus Christi Community in Greenvale was founded by Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Jacinta Bright 0425 710 797
More info: www.championcorpuschristi.com

PARISH HALL:

The Parish Hall is unavailable for hire due to School building works. All enquiries should be directed to Catherine Cook on 0424 938 145 stvincentshallbookings@gmail.com

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

CARDS AFTERNOON

Join us on the last Monday of every month for Cards in the Parish Centre commencing at 12.15 pm. All welcome, please bring a plate to share.

Caring for one another



St Vincent de Paul Press

14th & 15th December, 2013

Third Sunday of Advent

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](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

Telephone: 9379 1488 **Facsimile:** 9379 1574

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

Principal: Mr John Grant

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

Blessed Sacrament Chapel: Open Tuesday - Saturday 7.00 am - 5.00 pm for private prayer

Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation: Saturday 9.00 - 9.30 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.*

3rd Sunday of Advent

Prepare

There is an air of expectancy as we make our final preparations for the celebration of the birth of Christ. In the letter of St James, (today’s second reading), he uses the image of the farmer waiting patiently ‘for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains’. So James reminds us that we have to be patient and not lose heart as we prepare for the important celebrations in our lives. Preparing to celebrate Christmas is a little like waiting for the crop to ripen, the bread to rise, the flower to bloom, the baby to be born. All these events in life require that we spend time preparing ourselves and those around us.

As we move into this third week of Advent may it be a time of reflective preparation, focusing on the Birth of Christ and the ways in which we as families will gather to share our love around the table of the Lord and the table of our families.