

the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him. Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said: 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

PROJECT COMPASSION



Kinchela Boys home Aboriginal Corporation offers Uncle Richard and other former Stolen Generations survivors the chance to heal after a childhood of suffering, and manage the inter-generational effects of their pain.
Please donate to Project Compassion 2017 and help members of the Stolen Generations support each other on the journey to wellbeing.

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH INSURANCE EASTER HAMPER RAFFLE

CCI has offered us an Easter Hamper to Raffle. The proceeds will be used to support our pastoral outreach this year.

Tickets for the Hamper are only \$1.00.

The hamper is valued over \$150.00. A list of contents is available with the hamper at the Piety Stall in the Narthex of the Church or the Parish Administration Office.



St Vincent de Paul Press

18th & 19th March 2017
 Third Sunday of Lent 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

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Presbytery: 2 The Crossway, Strathmore, Victoria 3041

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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

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.*

Life giving

Imagine being tormented by thirst! It would be a very trying time craving for that life saving drink.

The Scripture this weekend presents to us the wonderful gift our God offers us as life saving. The image of water symbolises Jesus Christ himself as life saving gift. Water we know is the source of life and God uses this as a sign of the life he gives to us. Within the Gospel the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan women is a most powerful and wonderful example of the life giving love of our God to each one of us. Note Jesus reveals himself to the woman (a Samaritan with whom Jews do not associate) at the well. Water sustains life here on earth. The water Jesus offers gives us life for all eternity. So we ask what is this water for eternal life? Jesus is speaking about his Death on the Cross and Resurrection which is preceded by the Last Supper where he gave himself to his friends in the very first Holy Communion. We likewise share in this gift of life when we receive Jesus in Holy Communion.

Entrance Antiphon: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Responsorial Psalm: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon: For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

Recent Deaths: Jack Widdison

Anniversaries: Salvatore Di Natale, Margaret & Joseph McKinley, Anthony McAninly

Thanksgiving: \$1360.50 **Presbytery:** \$900.75

Rosters for next weekend 25th & 26th March:

6.00 pm	8.30am	10.30am
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Lectors: B Duggan	G Cronan	J Pattison
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Special Ministers: F Ferguson, J Mammone	R McGowan, M Gauci	C Picinich, C Johnson
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Offertory: T & S Comerford	B Evans	G Polo
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Counters: K Porter, H Tobin	Transport: M Green, G Dovey, P Waddington
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Flowers: L Harrington & L Shannon	Church Cleaning: Group D	Linen: E Sheppard
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Next week's Readings: 1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

STATIONS OF THE CROSS & SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Each Friday evening during Lent we have the opportunity to ponder the Passion of Christ reflecting in prayer on the Stations of the Cross in our Church. The Stations of the Cross help us to consider the loving sacrifice of Jesus who offered himself to free our sins, the ultimate expression of love. The Stations will commence at 7.00 pm followed by the Sacrament of Penance (Confession/Reconciliation) at 7.30 pm.

FEASTS THIS WEEK

Monday: St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday: The Annunciation of the Lord

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Tuesday: Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist & Lector Training in the Church at 7.30pm

Thursday: Liturgy Team Meeting in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm

Friday: Stations of the Cross & Sacrament of Penance in the Church at 7.00pm

RECENT BAPTISMS

Congratulations to **Liam & Andrea Herman** to who were Baptised last weekend. May we remember them and their family in our prayers.

PARISH THANKSGIVING

If you are not supporting our Parish through Thanksgiving you are invited to support us. A Thanksgiving & Census kit is available on the table in the east transept of the Church.

First reading Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt?’ they said. ‘Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?’ Moses appealed to the Lord. ‘How am I to deal with this people?’ he said. ‘A little more and they will stone me!’ the Lord said to Moses, ‘Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.’ This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, ‘Is the Lord with us, or not?’

Second reading Romans 5:1-2,5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God’s glory. And this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel John 4:5-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink.’ His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?’ – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: ‘If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.’ ‘You have no bucket, sir,’ she answered ‘and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?’ Jesus replied: ‘Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.’ ‘Sir,’ said the woman ‘give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.’ ‘Go and call your husband’ said Jesus to her ‘and come back here.’ The woman answered, ‘I have no husband.’ He said to her, ‘You are right to say, “I have no husband”; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.’ ‘I see you are a prophet, sir’ said the woman. ‘Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.’ Jesus said: ‘Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know: for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.’ The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.’ ‘I who am speaking to you,’ said Jesus ‘I am he.’ At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, ‘What do you want from her?’ or, ‘Why are you talking to her?’ The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people. Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is