



## DEAR PARISHIONERS,

Throughout this past year, we have continued to provide a wonderful academic and faith educational opportunity for our school students and their families. The children were prepared for the Sacraments together with their families, celebrating them in our newly renovated Church.

We have gathered in our Church to worship and give thanks for all that is part of our life and at the same time seeking the guiding strength from our God.

We have also farewelled those who either died or moved to other places – all who have shared in the life of our Parish.

Our community has also provided an opportunity to explore our faith and welcomed many families as they presented their children for the Sacrament of Baptism. Likewise we have provided important pastoral care and outreach to those in need, providing financial and practical support.

May we all remember in our prayers those who have gone before us. May their sacrifice, generosity and commitment serve as an inspiration for us to ensure a lasting legacy for those who follow us into the future.

To cover our usual running costs and maintain and develop our Parish facilities we need your support through our Thanksgiving contributions. Like all of us, our Parish cannot exist without your financial assistance.

As we begin another year may we be blessed and nourished by our faith and the guiding love of St Vincent de Paul, who cared for those who were in need in many different ways.

Thank you for your encouragement and support.

My blessing,

  
Fr Peter Ray  
Parish Priest



## OUR PARISH TEAM

- Fr Peter Ray – Parish Priest
- Patricia McNicholl – Parish Secretary
- Shane Byrne – Principal of St Vincent's Parish Primary School

## WHO WE ARE

- "Go Make Disciples" – three simple words that guide us in everything we do, acting as a template for all parish activity
- We are a community that strives to be welcoming, inclusive and hospitable
- We are blessed with a wonderful heritage and strive to honour it by all that we do
- We invite everyone to join in and contribute to building our parish family. We are all enriched by sharing our faith, energy and talents with and for one another

## REASONS FOR CELEBRATION

- Last year we celebrated 38 Baptisms, 71 First Holy Communions and 75 Confirmations and farewelled 14 parishioners
- We welcome over 450 parishioners each week to Mass and the Sacraments
- We have an RCIA Program to welcome adults into the Catholic faith, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Baptismal Preparation and GodStart and opportunities for adult faith education
- We continue to provide a wonderful academic and faith education for our parish children – 434 children in 2017
- We provide pastoral care and outreach to the disadvantaged, sick and elderly through our support ministries



## OUR FUTURE

We have achieved a great deal in recent times:

- Added school classrooms and refurbished school facilities
- Built and established the Parish Administration Building
- Completed a comprehensive renovation of the Church

We have prioritised the following for the next three years:

- Landscaping around the Church and construction of a Memorial Garden
- Civil works to the school ground and car park
- Replacement of the wall on Woodlands Street
- Pastoral developments
- Social Justice and Faith Development initiatives
- Encouraging more parishioners to be involved in parish groups and ministries



## STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARD

Present Envelope Number (if known)

**RETURN TO:**  
St Vincent de Paul Parish  
2 The Crossway  
STRATHMORE VIC 3041

Please Use Block Letters

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

My age group is:  under 30  30-39  40-49  50-59  60-69  70+

### Credit Card

Please debit my Credit Card with the sum of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Every:  month  quarter  half-year  year

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Please only tick one  MasterCard  VISA Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS AUTHORITY MAY BE CANCELLED IN WRITING AT MY OPTION

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

### Direct Debit from a nominated bank account

(Forms available from the Parish Office)

My Pledge will be: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Every:  fortnight  month  quarter  half-year  year

### Envelopes

My Pledge will be: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Every:  week  month  quarter  half-year  year

Produced by the DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



## POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR PARISHES

Parishes must be in contact with homes, with people's lives, with the life of society.

They have to be houses where the door is always open so as to go forth toward others.

And it is important that this going-forth follows a clear proposal of faith.

The doors must be opened so that Jesus can go out with all the joy of his message.

Let us pray for our parishes, that they not be simple offices, but that animated by a missionary spirit, may be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen.

POPE FRANCIS – September 2017



Produced by the Parish Development Office of the Archdiocese of Melbourne based on information supplied by the Parish.



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

## WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

### FAITH

- Come together to celebrate the Eucharist
- Commit to learning and growing in faith

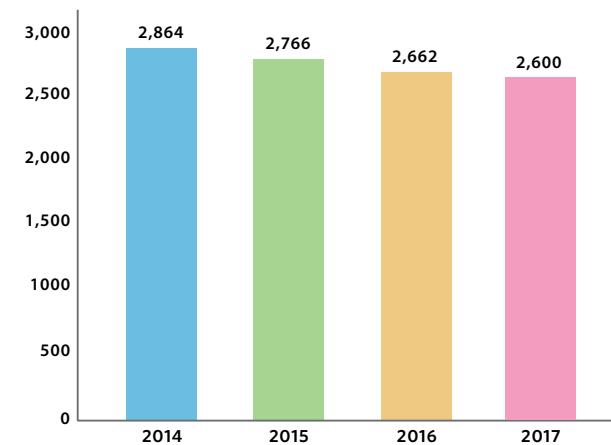
### COMMUNITY

- Help grow our sense of community
- Be involved in at least one parish ministry

### FUTURE

- Support our parish generously
- Make your meaningful financial pledge to the Thanksgiving Program

## OUR WEEKLY FINANCES



- Whilst we have received wonderful support from many parish families, our Thanksgiving Income has steadily declined in recent years
- We must renew – welcoming new contributors and reviewing our own individual levels of support

### OUR THANKSGIVING INCOME CHALLENGE

To increase Thanksgiving Income from \$2,600 per week to a min. \$3,400 per week



*The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.* – MICHELANGELO



*From everyone to whom much has been given, even more will be demanded.*

– LUKE 15:1-2

## YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

### WHERE WILL MY CONTRIBUTIONS GO?

- *Your Stewardship Pledge* will help meet basic operating needs – insurance, utility bills, staff wages etc.
- It will help maintain our church and parish facilities
- It will support programs of faith education, pastoral care & outreach
- *Your Presbytery Pledge* will help support Father Peter, as well as other priests of the Archdiocese in less fortunate circumstances, and contribute to care for the growing number of retired priests

### WHO SHOULD GIVE AND HOW MUCH?

- Every parish family – no one is excluded
- There is no set amount because everyone is different
- Give generously in proportion to what you have received
- Those that have less give less – those that have more give more

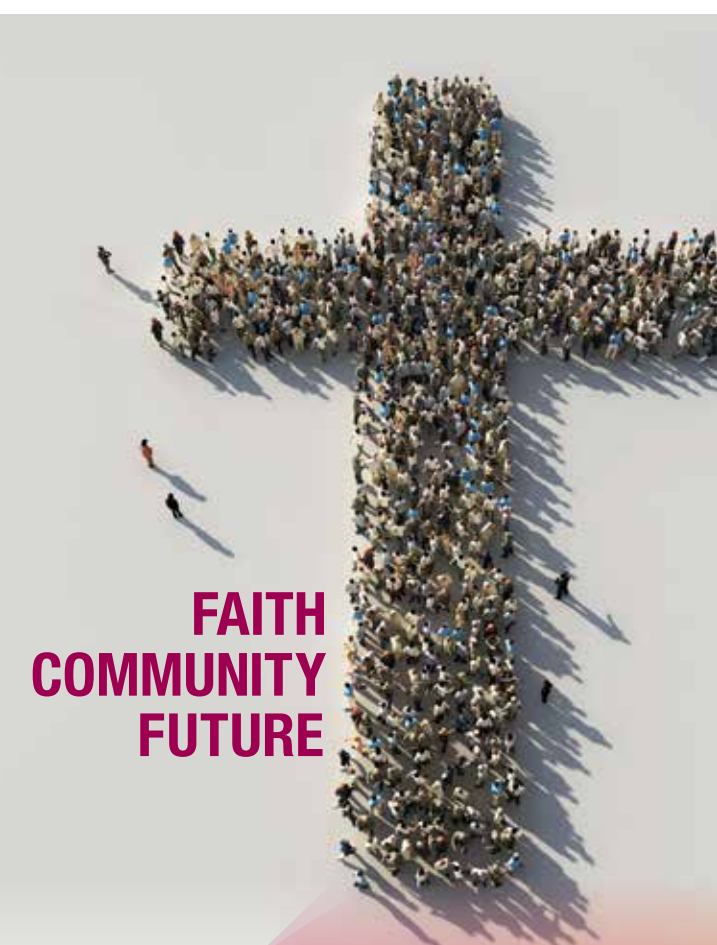
### WHY SHOULD I GIVE?

- Out of gratitude for our many blessings
- The more the parish receives, the more we can do, the more outreach we can provide
- The more we can be a parish "... animated by a missionary spirit, a place where faith is communicated and charity is seen" – Pope Francis

## YOUR LASTING LEGACY

- Have you considered St Vincent de Paul Parish or the Archdiocese of Melbourne in your Will?
- Your bequest could be a lasting legacy to our parish community
- For information please contact Fr Peter or the Parish Office

# PARISH.LIFE.



## FAITH COMMUNITY FUTURE

St Vincent  
De Paul Parish  
Strathmore  
Stewardship 2018