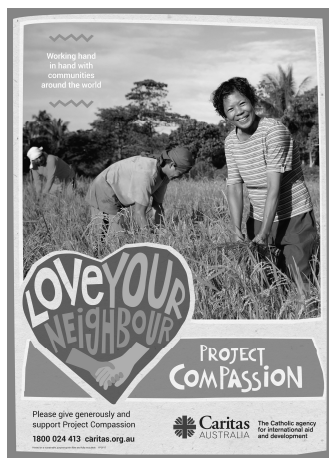


## SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

The children who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Penance for the first time will be remembered during this weekend Masses. We are asked to think of them in our prayers over the coming weeks as they acknowledge their need to be forgiven by God and receive the grace and strength from our God to start again. The Lenten season is a wonderful opportunity for us all to consider being reconciled by our God and with each other by going to Reconciliation.

## PROJECT COMPASSION



Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed "Love your neighbour".

As Pope Francis said, "Love of God and love of our neighbour is one and the same thing."

You will be helping to empower our world's most vulnerable neighbours to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to build a better future for our common home.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL PLAYGROUP

Thursdays between 9.00am and 11.00am in the Parish Centre for play, fun and conversation. For further details contact Fiona McIlDowney 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

## **MISSIONARY SISTERS of ST PETER CLAVER**

The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver will hold their annual Mission Concert on Sunday 26 March at the St Peter Claver Hall, 154 Hotham Road, Kew commencing 2.00pm. Admission is free, a collection will be taken during the concert. Proceeds will assist a community of 22 families affected by leprosy in the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, Busanda, Tanzania, Africa.



## **St Vincent de Paul Press**

25th & 26th February 2017

8th 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

**Parish Administration:** Mrs. Patricia McNicholl

**Parish Office Email:** 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.*

## **Has the Lord abandoned you?**

We note in the first reading this week the words, 'The Lord has abandoned me, the Lord has forgotten me.' Yes, sometimes you may even have felt like using these same words. Then Isaiah the prophet offers a wonderful gem of a thought to reflect upon - the child in the womb of its mother.

***'Yet even if these forget, I will never forget you.'***

Pondering these thoughts helps us to refocus our lives for we are never alone, even if we may sometimes feel alone and abandoned. Let's turn to the Gospel of Matthew where Jesus shares a reflection on the beauty of the earth and it's richness in the flowers and birds. Jesus invites us to focus on the importance of our lives and not to be caught up in things that do not last. Look to today, he says and don't worry about tomorrow. 'Does a woman forget her baby at the breast .... Yet even if these forget I will never forget you.'

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Rest in God alone, my soul.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The word of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.

**Recent Deaths:**

**Anniversaries:**

**Thanksgiving:** \$2169.00      **Presbytery:** \$1103.05

**Rosters for next weekend 4th & 5th March:**

<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>8.30am</b>	<b>10.30am</b>
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**Lectors:**

J Harris	G Delaney	M Sullivan
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**Special Ministers:**

J Mammone, F Ferguson	M Gauci, R McGowan	L Anderson, N Zanko
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**Offertory:**

A Timmins	G Cronan	S La Vita
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**Counters:**

P Hill, G Cook	P Fox, G Johnson, G Dovey
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**Flowers:**

A Henshall	<b>Church Cleaning:</b> Group A	<b>Linen:</b> M Hitchcock
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**Next week's Readings:** Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

On Wednesday we start the season of Lent, 40 days of penance, prayer and self denial in preparation for the celebration of the Institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper, the Death and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**We commence on Ash Wednesday with the distribution of ashes during the 10.00 am & 7.00 pm Masses.**

### **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.

### **FRIDAY MASS WITH THE SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING**

This Friday you are invited to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the sick and elderly during our 10.00 am Mass followed by morning tea in the Parish Centre. All Welcome.

### **FRIDAY SENIORS FILM**

On Friday 10th March after the 10.00am Mass the film 'Me Before You' will be screened in the Parish Centre. All welcome to attend the movie and morning tea.

### **MEETINGS THIS WEEK**

**Monday:** Card Group in the Parish Centre at 12.15pm

**Tuesday:** Baptism Preparation Meeting in the Church at 7.00pm

**Wednesday:** Craft Group in the Parish Centre after 10.00am Mass

### **First reading**      **Isaiah 49:14-15**

Zion was saying, 'The Lord has abandoned me, the Lord has forgotten me. 'Does a woman forget her baby at the breast, or fail to cherish the son of her womb? Yet even if these forget, I will never forget you.

### **Second reading**      **1 Corinthians 4:1-5**

People must think of us as Christ's servants, stewards entrusted with the mysteries of God. What is expected of stewards is that each one should be found worthy of his trust. Not that it makes the slightest difference to me whether you, or indeed any human tribunal, find me worthy or not. I will not even pass judgement on myself. True, my conscience does not reproach me at all, but that does not prove that I am acquitted: the Lord alone is my judge. There must be no passing of premature judgement. Leave that until the Lord comes; he will light up all that is hidden in the dark and reveal the secret intentions of men's hearts. Then will be the time for each one to have whatever praise he deserves, from God.

### **Gospel**      **Matthew 6:24-34**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money. 'That is why I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and how you are to clothe it. Surely life means more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you, for all his worrying, add one single cubit to his span of life? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the grass in the field which is there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you men of little faith? So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? How are we to be clothed?" It is the pagans who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on his righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.'

### **RECENT BAPTISMS**

Congratulations to **Connor Cronin** and **Victoria Liistro** who were Baptised last weekend. May we remember them and their family in our prayers.

### **MINISTER ROSTERS**

The Minister roster for the next 3 months and 2017 contact list is now available and has been emailed out to all who have provided email addresses. For those without an email the roster and contact list are in alphabetical order on the small table in the east transept in the church. Please be aware that in keeping with the Parish's privacy policy the contact list is confidential and is to be only used to swap your ministry.

Thank you to those who have undertaken to support our various weekend ministries. If you would like to support us there are forms available on the table in the east transept which you are welcome to take and return.

### **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.