

# **St Vincent de Paul Parish Annual Report 2015**

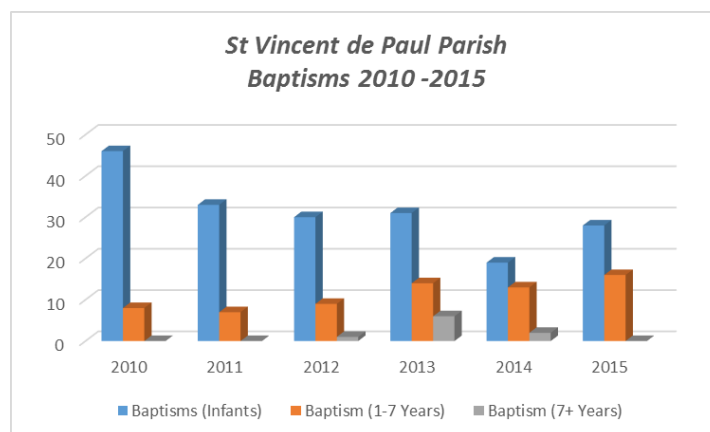
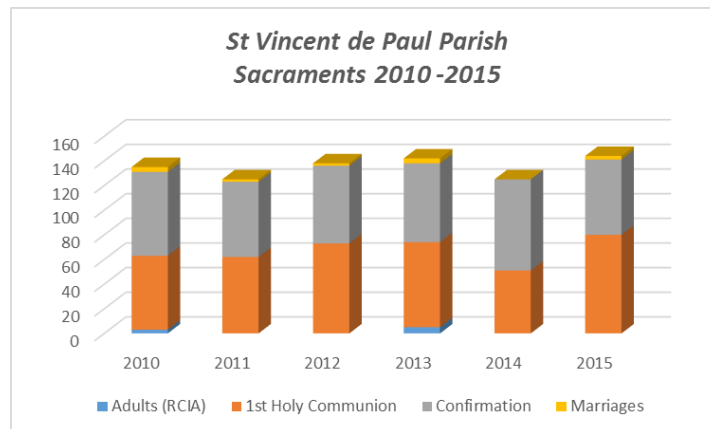
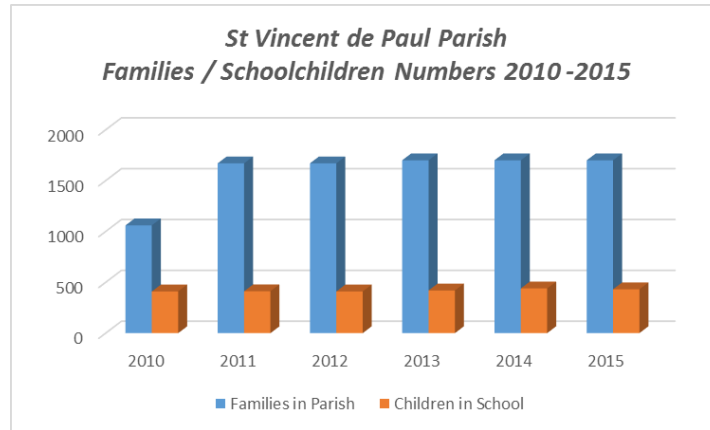


Parish Leadership Team  
May 2016





**Facts & Figures – summary of key statistics and trends in 2015**



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH  
INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2014 / 2015**

	<u>Actual 2014</u>	<u>Actual 2015</u>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Thanksgiving	\$148,914	\$143,823
Donations	156	328
Interest	20,948	13,968
Interest Building & Maintenance	0	2,452
Donations for Capital Purposes	1,100	1,558
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$171,118</b>	<b>\$162,129</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
General Administration	\$53,512	\$51,817
Pastoral Expenses	0	646
Property Costs	23,306	171,976
Thanksgiving Fundraising Cost	550	751
<b>SUB-TOTAL GENERAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$77,368</b>	<b>\$225,190</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$93,750</b>	<b>-\$63,061</b>
<b>OTHER EXPENDITURE</b>		
Purchase of Fixed Assets	0	\$390,114
GST Paid (above ATO Refunds)	0	24,610
<b>SUB-TOTAL OTHER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$414,724</b>
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$77,368</b>	<b>\$639,914</b>
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$93,750</b>	<b>(-\$477,785)</b>

**Explanatory Notes:**

- 1) Property Costs included \$155,475 spent on repair work around the church including replacement of broken water pipes.
- 2) Purchase of Fixed Assets represents the cost of the construction and fitout of the Parish Administrative Centre.



## **Parish Groups & Activities –**

**Parish Leadership Team** - The St Vincent de Paul Parish Leadership Team was a key initiative coming out of the Parish Strategic Plan 2013-2017 with the objective to drive and support the various 'strategic' activities contained in plan aimed at building a stronger parish community. The Pastoral Leadership Team is composed of the Parish Priest, School Principal and six parishioners.

The Parish Leadership Team commenced operation in 2015 and met on 12 occasions during the year, primarily focusing on the Parish Master Plan and associated activities, including formation of the Senior Citizens Social Group, Faith Development and Celebration of Faith Programs, which have all made a good start and hopefully will expand in 2016. The Parish Master Plan, including refurbishment of the church and surrounding gardens, will continue to be a major focus during 2016.

The Parish Leadership Team meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month but may meet at other times to consider any issues or proposals that may arise. Parishioners are encouraged to speak with members of the Leadership Committee or make submissions on any aspects of parish life at any time. All representations and submissions will be promptly considered and responded to in an open and transparent manner.

**Parish Education Board** – The key objective of the Parish Education Board is to act as an advisory body to the parish priest and principal, on matters concerning education in the parish, including both education in the parish primary school and the provision of Catholic education in the broader parish community.

2015 which was very much a transition year for the Board with a number of key membership changes, and development of a longer term planning focus. One area of particular focus for the board has been School Community, with the goal 'To foster genuine opportunities that build community engagement in the life of the school to enhance learning'. Key aspects of this initiative include the involvement of

all families in building parent and community partnerships for more effective learning outcomes.

The year ahead offers the opportunity for the Parish Education Board to further strengthen its support for the new school leadership, and to work together to develop sound plans for the school's ongoing success.

**St Vincent de Paul Primary School** – The 2015 school year was full of many challenges, achievements and highlights, including many changes to staffing with the appointment of a new Principal, Deputy-Principal and five new classroom teachers this year, and commencement of our four year School Improvement Plan.

The 'Levelled Literacy Intervention Program' was introduced across all year levels to target children's learning in literacy. The 'Words Their Way' spelling program was also introduced to support children's understanding of letter sounds, blends and letter patterns within their writing and reading. A highlight of this year's Visual Arts Curriculum was the Art Show in September. This provided an opportunity for the students to showcase their many talents and share these with family and friends.

Parents continued to be very supportive within classes and beyond, helping with the children's learning and supporting the work of the teachers. Overall the 2015 school calendar was full of many opportunities for children, parents and staff to learn, take risks, explore, trial, succeed and to sometimes fail. All these have been done within a supportive and caring environment where we all strive, as a Catholic community, to improve our knowledge and understanding of ourselves, others and the wider world.

**St Vincent de Paul Society** – The Strathmore Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society provides 'person to person' practical assistance to those experiencing social isolation and economic disadvantage through home visits, distributing food and enabling access to 'free of charge' resources such as furniture, clothing and household goods. Support is also provided to households through access to pharmaceutical products, education support and recognition of hardships experienced through rising utility costs.

During the 2014-15 financial year the Strathmore Conference undertook 160 home visits, providing assistance to 306 adults and 268 children in the Strathmore Parish and wider community, including asylum seekers and refugee households. The Conference distributed over \$63,000 in material aid to those in need. The Conference meets monthly and currently has eight Conference members and three Associate members, and enjoys strong support from parishioners through their generous donations of quality clothing, furniture and household goods to people in need.

**Parish Finance Committee** – The Parish Finance Committee was formed in early 2015 to assist Fr Peter in overseeing the finances of the Parish of St Vincent de Paul. The plan was to meet quarterly, but with the Parish Thanksgiving Renewal Program undertaken during the year, it was necessary to have additional meetings to formulate the work needed to be done with this program in mind. The Church renovations and associated financial plan featured prominently in our discussions this year, in conjunction with the Parish Leadership Team.

The Finance Committee is comprised of six members, including Fr Peter and the School Principal, Mr Shane Byrne. At our meetings we review the quarterly accounts of the Parish and of the School, and discuss any other matters which might be pertinent to the finances of the Parish.

**Parish Outreach Group** – The Parish Outreach Group was established to support members of the parish and local community who may be isolated, in terms of not having contact with others, and who would enjoy more regular contact with members of their Parish community.

The group currently has nine members and meets regularly throughout the year to review how activities and visits are going, and to identify anyone else who might be interested in participating in the program. Over the year, outreach volunteers regularly visited individuals and couples in their homes, with a number of new people being added to the list to be visited.

**'Drivers To Mass' Group** – The 'Drivers to Mass' Group transports elderly parishioners who would otherwise have no other, or very limited, transport options to Sunday Mass. This service is greatly

valued by our elderly parishioners and they get great enjoyment chatting to each other, and other parishioners, both before and after Mass.

The group currently has seven drivers and is always on the lookout for any additional volunteers! The eight elderly parishioners currently on the roster are divided into three groups, meaning each volunteer transports parishioners three times a week over a seven week period.

**Parish Maintenance Group** – The Maintenance Group meets approximately every two months to plan small tasks in and around the Church and Presbytery, and provides an opportunity for parishioners to meet and mix with other members on the Parish community in a social environment. Currently there are around six to eight regular members of the Maintenance Group and working bees are scheduled approximately every 2 months, although general garden activities such as mowing and edging are undertaken more frequently.

A 'formal' schedule of maintenance activities for both the school and church was developed during 2015 which will allow a rotating schedule of activities to be undertaken to minimise the need for repairs in the future. This year's highlights included the planting of a new garden on the eastern side of the church following the repair of the storm water drains, and the repair and painting of the walls in the kitchen, hall and main meeting room of the Parish Centre.

**Liturgy & Music Group** – The Liturgy & Music Group meet monthly to discuss and reflect on the upcoming readings and themes, in preparation for the various liturgical seasons of the year. The Group looks to enhance the parish community's spiritual experience through the selection and presentation of appropriate music and song, while providing additional opportunity for individual participation and reflection in ceremonies. The Group is constantly looking for opportunities to enhance how we celebrate our faith together.

**Faith Development Program** – A new program that commenced in 2015 as a result of the Parish Strategic Plan with the objective to offer parishioners an opportunity to deepen, broaden

and personalise their own faith in companionship with fellow parishioners. The program reflects the results of a comprehensive parish survey in July 2014 where it became apparent that there was interest in topics such as social justice, women in the Church, and important personalities in the Catholic Church.

In 2015 three initial 'Encounter' sessions were presented by external speakers covering new directions of Pope Francis, life and influence of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop and the papal encyclical *Laudato Si*. All sessions were well attended and provided a base for expanding the program in 2016.

Work has commenced on the 2016 program with talks on the life and influence of St Vincent de Paul in the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year for the parish, while a Parish Retreat and other interactive programs will be considered to provide a more diverse program in 2016.

**Senior Citizens Group** – The Senior Citizens Group commenced in 2015 with the primary objective of encouraging and supporting the older members of our parish community to identify new ways to enrich their experience and enjoyment of life.

A number of outings were conducted throughout the year to places such as the Creswick Woollen Mills, Cranbourne Botanic Gardens and Shepparton / Nagambie (for SPC Factory Sales and Chateau Tahbilk Winery) in comfortable coaches with the opportunity to eat and shop at each location. Several lunches were also held at Flemington Racecourse and the Pascoe Vale RSL. We typically have around 25-30 people attend each function and we hope to continue the program in 2016 and offer a broader range of opportunities to the seniors in the parish.

The senior citizens meet every Friday morning after the 10:00am mass in the Parish Centre, and anyone is welcome to join the group or any of the activities conducted throughout the year.

**Children's Liturgy of The Word Team** – The 'Children's Liturgy of the Word' team currently has four members and meets bi-monthly to plan the liturgies. The objective of the team is to provide Parish children from Year Prep to Year 6 with the opportunity to listen to, and explore, the gospel in a way that assists them to understand and make

meaning of the message, through stories, pictures and discussion.

Currently, the 'Children's Liturgy of the Word' takes place during the 10:30am Mass on the second Sunday of the month in the Parish Centre. The number of children attending varies from month to month but currently averaging around 12 children.

**Baptism Preparation Team** – The role of the 'Baptism Preparation Team' is to assist Fr Peter by walking with the families as their children receive the sacrament of baptism. Currently there are five members of the team and they meet on the first Wednesday of each month in the Church to greeting the families as they arrive for the baptism information session. Team members start the meeting by welcoming the families and briefly outlining what will be discussed during the session.

During the meeting Fr Peter explains the theology behind the sacramental signs that are used during the Right of Reception and Baptism, while a team member will go through the practical aspects of the Right of Reception and Baptism. On average we have four families and two team members attend each session.

**GodStart Team** - GodStart is a simple way of outreach to the families who have their children baptised in St Vincent de Paul Parish. During the year the GodStart Team delivered birthday cards to the children celebrating their 1st to 4th birthdays. The team meets every two months to prepare the birthday cards, which are hand delivered on or near the birthday of each child, usually 10 to 15 cards per month. We hope that though our visits families feel connected with our community. At the end of the year we invited the children aged between 3 and 5 to come and share Mass together, followed by a gathering at the adventure playground.

**St Vincent's Playgroup** – Playgroup is a great way for small children to practice the fine art of getting along with others and trying new ways to play. The St Vincent's Playgroup meets every Thursday morning from 9 – 11 during the school term in the Parish Centre. During 2015 we had an average of ten families regularly attending playgroup, with the children ranging in age from 1 – 4 years old.

At playgroup the children have a wonderful selection of very generously donated toys, books, puzzles, music and craft activities. The children enjoy playing, dancing and creating before they sit down to share a snack together. Playgroup has resulted in some fantastic friendships being formed by the children from early ages which many have carried into the schoolyard with them.

**Card Group** – The Card Group started around 2000 to provide an opportunity for people to socialise while learning how to play cards. The Group currently has around 15 regular members and meets on the last Monday of every month in the Parish Centre. Solo is mainly played and members enjoy a shared lunch as part of the activities. Members of the group also attend card afternoons at St Monica's and St Theresa's.

**St Vincent's Tennis Club** – St Vincent's Tennis Club members participate in the Northern Suburban Juniors Tennis Association (NSJTA), Northern Suburban Ladies Tennis Association (NSLTA) and Northern Suburban Night Tennis Association (NSNTA) with both ladies and men's team. We currently have five Ladies night teams, five men's night teams, four ladies day teams and four Junior's teams across these associations, while we also run s seniors round robin competition on Tuesday mornings.

Currently the club has 100 financial members which represent approximately 200 people. Coaching is available where trained coaches provide group coaching, private lessons and squad training on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday of each week. These sessions are scheduled around school requirements and competition times.

**St Vincent's Netball Club** – St Vincent's Netball Club welcomes everyone, not just those students that attend St Vincent de Paul Primary School. Our philosophy is to encourage all participants to have fun and enjoy the sport of netball. Players come from many areas including Strathmore Primary School, Maribyrnong Primary, St Columba's, Ave Maria, Essendon Primary and Brunswick Primary.

The club fields teams from U/9 right through to open age. Our youngest participants are 7 years old, and our oldest player is 28. In 2015, we had a total of 104 girls playing in our Winter Competition which is played in the Victorian Baptist Netball Association

League. We also introduced the NET SET GO clinic which is a fun skills based introduction for 7 year olds. We had 20 participants join us every Saturday for 14 weeks.

**St Vincent's Indoor Bowls Club** – The Indoor Bowls Club commenced in October 2003 with equipment provided by the parish, with the objective of providing a 'social activity' mainly for seniors from St Vincent's and other nearby parishes. The club has approximately 10 regular players with a good representation of ladies and men participating every Friday afternoon from 1:30 – 4:30pm for the cost of a gold coin donation, which includes afternoon tea.

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