



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*good works*

# ParraMattas CONFERENCE



**DECEMBER 2019**

## **Parramatta Central Council**

**St Vincent de Paul Society NSW**

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## **THIS ISSUE**

**President's Message**

**Spiritual Reflection**

**Social Justice Rep's Message**

**Schools/Youth Updates**

**Membership**

**We Care**

**Conference Good Works**

**SVdP Housing**

**Community Programs**

Recently I attended the Mass to remember Charles O'Neill who introduced Vinnies in NSW. While he dies 119 years ago his life as a Vincentian still inspires us today – his commitment to helping people in need continues to be a part of our Vincentian lives.

New Ways of Working is being implemented by SVDP (NSW). A change such as this has many impacts – some staff have made the decision to leave, we'll get to know others in new roles and new people will join us. Janice Stokes has been appointed Manager, Membership and Community Engagement, and Lauraine Steward Member Support and Community Engagement Coordinator for Metropolitan Region. In PCC we have worked hard and been successful building relationships so members and employees work together using the skills and gifts of both; we continue to take the time to build these relationships with new employees.

Members in our regions continue to do wonderful work for members and people we serve such as

- the Blue Mountains Region hosting a Mass to celebrate the Feast of St Vincent de Paul
- the Emerton Hub is giving locals more of a hand-up with conference members supported in their learning by hub employees
- conference members who pray the prayer for the canonisation of Charles O'Neill at every meeting hoping for a miracle for the health of a member's son
- the Ermington Social Engagement project – residents are becoming more of a community and feeling safer, at the recent Christmas Party Geoff Lee, Member for Parramatta announced a grant for garden beds to be created
- a funeral arranged and paid for by the Society for a woman who died in childbirth
- conference members willing and able to do home visits visiting in new suburbs

Membership has decreased by about 85 this year, members have left for a variety of reasons often related to age and health. Certificates of appreciation and Christmas cards will be sent to retiring members. We need new members to continue this work; and we need to think about which areas can support the formation of new members. How should we plan and start recruiting in 2020? The central council members will devote our first meeting next year in February to reflect on our Vincentian Spirituality, what opportunities are there for new members to serve and how do we recruit new members

The Society continues to support people in need, the effects of the ongoing drought and bush fires have been devastating for so many communities across the state. Members, volunteers and employees of the Society continue to assist people who have lost loved ones, homes and animals. We will include them in our prayers; Vinnies has well supported ongoing appeals for funds;

I encourage members to consider buying Christmas gifts from country businesses this year.

Father Greg Jacobs our Spiritual Advisor has enriched our meetings and given us reflections that challenged us to think about how we maintain our Vincentian spirituality, however, due to growing commitments in his parish he has resigned but will be with us in spirit. I hope to announce our new Spiritual Advisor in the next few weeks.

It's hard to find the words to thank all our members, volunteers, employees and supporters for their commitment to achieving our mission to "live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society".

I hope everyone has a holy, happy and safe Christmas with family and loved ones; has a rest and is ready for 2020!

**Anne Stanfield**

**President Parramatta Central Council**

## AN ADVENT SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

### Simple reflection from Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ

**Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 121(122):1-2, 4-5, 6-9; Romans 13: 11-14; Matthew 24: 37-44**

When I was a student, our college looked out over the city of Melbourne. Towering over the city were the spires of St Patrick's Cathedral. Now, the Cathedral is like a shed in front of the skyscrapers, a toy house. This is an image of the place of religious observance in Australian life.

Once the weekly and yearly rhythms of the church corresponded to the seasons of Australian public life – Sundays, Easter and Christmas were recognisably, for some tiresomely, linked to Church practice. Now, the activities of churches are like a children's playground between high rise buildings – it has a place but is not the life of the city.

The same change has affected the celebration of Advent. When the Church calendar was the State calendar, Advent was naturally seen as a public season. It was about public events. The season when the Son of God came to us as a baby laid in a manger, naturally was modelled on the visitation, the Advent, of the Roman Emperor to outlying parts of his empire.

The imperial advent was designed to be fear-inspiring. The people were given long notice, officials would come to examine the books, and then the Emperor accompanied by battle-trying troops would come, preceded by the sound of drums, long lines of troops marching silently, and finally the Emperor sitting impassively with unmoving face gazing straight ahead in his chariot. On his arrival, rewards and punishments would be announced and implemented. It was an event to be prepared prudently for.

In this context, preparing for the coming of Christ at Christmas was marked out as a time of reflection and preparation. It recalled the humble coming of the Son of God at Bethlehem, and looked ahead to the awe-inspiring coming of the Son of Man at the end of time. It was also a time for personal preparation and reflection about how well one was prepared.

The Gospel of the first Sunday of Advent spells out the urgency of our time of preparation. Jesus describes it as a time when one person will be spared, another taken. It echoes the Australian experience of the bushfire season and times of drought for our farmers. It is a time for preparation and for reflection, a time of seriousness.

The public celebration of Advent in the early church was correspondingly serious. It involved rigorous fasting and times of prayer, which we can best imagine today by looking at the Muslim observance of Ramadan.

Today, however, the Australian context of Advent is the rush towards Christmas in which work presses hard, preparing for family celebrations and perhaps vacation afterwards occupies the mind. It is a time when the ringing of cash registers is heard throughout the land. Advent offers us a time to find a moment of space in a busy world.

Perhaps for us, the best image of Advent is that of pregnancy, which after all was the initial experience of Mary and Joseph as it is described in the Gospel stories. That pregnancy also was a time of waiting, no doubt anxious given the high mortality rate of children and the risks of childbirth, not to mention the trek described in Luke's Gospel to a crowded town of Bethlehem. Mary's pregnancy, as is the first pregnancy of any woman, was a time of preparation for a new life which brought changing patterns of relationships and adjustment to a new and all-demanding arrival in the family.

Advent is a time for waiting through old and tired ways of living and for pondering new possibilities.

**NORTHERN NSW VINNIES**  
**BUSHFIRE**  
**APPEAL**

**CALL 13 18 12 OR DONATE IN-STORE NOW**



St Vincent de Paul Society  
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**YOU CAN HELP A FAMILY  
PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE  
THIS CHRISTMAS**

**DONATE NOW ►**



Vinnies  
*Christmas Appeal*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE SOCIAL JUSTICE REPRESENTATIVE

The ***Build Homes Build Hope*** campaign was launched at the Social Justice Forum and is gaining momentum as members and volunteers plan to visit state MPs to discuss the need for ***more social housing*** and to urge state MPs to take the matter to the Minister for Housing. There are 13 electorates in the Parramatta Diocese area, 13 state MPs to visit. The plan is to develop a good working relationship with the MP to progress meaningful, long term, positive change to the lives of the people we assist and to our communities as a whole.

Want more information on the campaign? Interested in contributing to the campaign? Would you like advocacy training? Contact [social.justice@vinnies.org.au](mailto:social.justice@vinnies.org.au)

Sign the ***petition for more social housing!*** We need 10000 signatures by May 2020.

There will be a social justice meeting in mid -February next year, date TBC. All interested in social justice matters are welcome to attend.

Caterina Tribbia SJ rep Parramatta  
[ctribbia@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ctribbia@bigpond.net.au)

### Petition for Social Housing and Meeting with MP's

At the Parramatta Social Justice meeting on 30 October, Mark Ludbrooke, Vinnies Senior Policy and Advocacy Advisor from the Social Justice team, walked through the Vinnies 'Build Homes, Build Hope' campaign which is asking for more Social Housing. More than 50,000 social housing applicants (which equates to more than 100,000 people) are waiting for social housing in NSW, with a wait time in excess of 10 years.



The campaign is made up of four actions:

1. Collect 15,000 signatures on the Social Housing Petition, which is asking for the NSW Government to build 5,000 new social housing dwellings each year for the next 10 years, to reduce homelessness and housing stress in NSW. As soon as we have 10,000 signatures on the petition, it will be eligible to be tabled before government.
2. Gather 50 personal stories – the good stories of people in social housing, and the not-so-good stories of those on the wait list.
3. Engage with state MPs 150 times – by meeting with our state MPs and asking them to write to the Minister for Housing, we'll be raising the profile of this issue.
4. Host 15 local forums.

*For a campaign kit, or for more information, please contact the Social Justice team by email [social.justice@vinnies.org.au](mailto:social.justice@vinnies.org.au).*



### Springwood High School Vinnies store excursion.

On 4 September, several students from Springwood High School attended the Vinnies Springwood store. Vinnies Blue Mountains area manager, Sergio Foernges and Springwood Conference President, Margaret Smith, took the students for a tour of the store and the donation sorting area, and talked about the process of receiving, sorting and selling donated items, including the amount



SPRINGWOOD HIGH POP UP STALL

of land-fill and recycling that results from some donations. The students also learnt about the work Vinnies Conferences do and future volunteering opportunities they may want to take up.

The store tour was part of a JobQuest program within the school, to give the students an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about retail and Vinnies programs.

The students then took this information back to their school, where they did a great job of promoting the 'right' kind of donations from the school students through a marketing campaign. After sorting the donations, they setup pop-up stalls in the school ground – a gazebo, multiple racks and even a change room! During lunch at school, about half of the donated clothes were sold and they raised a total of \$210 which they then donated to Vinnies, along with the remaining donations.

The feedback from Springwood High School was that it was a great experience for the students and the JobQuest staff. Many thanks to Sergio and Margaret for taking on this activity and making it such an interesting experience for the High School students.

### ST CANICE SCHOOL KATOOMBA



#### ST CANICE SCHOOL KATOOMBA PRESENTATION AND DONATIONS

Alison Mortley, Teacher and Mini Vinnies Co-ordinator at St Canice's receives a certificate of appreciation award from St Vincent de Paul Society for her dedication and support of the Society and her continued direction of the Mini Vinnies programme within the school. The presentation was made by Katoomba Conference President, Andrew Giesajitis and Vice President, Maurie Rasmussen who also received a donation of \$2800 from money raised during the year through activities by Mini Vinnies. Thanks to the support from teachers, other students, parents and friends.

Donations totaling in excess of \$20,000 have been received by Katoomba Conference over the last five years.

**TRULY A REMARKABLE EFFORT FROM A  
RELATIVELY SMALL BUT DEDICATED SCHOOL  
GROUP !**

### YOUTH CONNECT NIGHT



On October 9, Zoe Grant, the PCC Youth Coordinator, hosted the next Youth Connect Social Justice night for young adults at Parramatta. The topic for this event was Mental Health in Western Sydney. It was wonderful having so many passionate young adults join to learn more about mental health, how to support themselves and their friends. It was great being able to shine a light on the

issue, particularly as it was held on World Mental Health Day. A huge thank you to our guest speakers Faith Lam (Vinnies PCC Youth Rep) and Cecile (from Beyond Blue) for sharing your wisdom and experience with us. And thanks to Sarah Boyle, Vinnies Policy and Advocacy Advisor from the Social Justice team, for her ongoing support of the Social Justice Nights and being such a great help!



Faith Lam addressing Youth Connect Audience

### CATHOLIC YOUTH PARRA LIFTED LIFE

On Saturday 26 October, Zoe Grant, the PCC Youth Coordinator and Faith Lam, the PCC Youth Rep, hosted a Vinnies stall at the Catholic Youth Parramatta Lifted Live event. Bishop Vincent Long shared with them that when he arrived in Australia the first shop he went to was Vinnies and that he loved how friendly and kind everyone was. They also met a man who visits the Vinnies Van and said a big thanks to all of Vinnies for how much they have helped him over the years. It was very special to hear how much Vinnies has been a part of so many peoples' lives for the better.



### VINNIES VAN TALK AND ITS IMPACT



Since August this year we have run workshops at eight schools and Vinnies Van Incursions at four schools. Students and teachers have said how insightful it has been to learn about the important work Vinnies does but also to see it themselves in person by having the Vinnies Van visit their school. This is a program that we started this year and has been great to see the positive response from schools.

Zoe Grant



## Emerton Hub

The Emerton hub is off and running.

We had our official blessing on 17 September 2019 by Fr Greg Jacobs, Holy Family Parish priest and our Central Council spiritual director. It was a wonderful event, even though the weather was wet and windy. It was a great opportunity to show our club grant contributors, St Marys Rugby League Club, how their grant of \$10,000 through the Parish enabled the building to be fitted out for the Hub. They were also impressed at how the hub will fit in with the other services already present at Holy Family to assist and empower our local community.

A huge thank you to Fr Greg, Tameka, Kate, Anne and Mel for their support and efforts in getting us going and our conference members for the working bees to clean the hub ready for opening. I never knew you could have so much blu-tac on walls.



**Fr Greg Jacobs, Kate Whitely and Anne Stanfield**

We opened the following Tuesday 24 September. Good news must spread fast. We had at least 15 people come in for assistance on our first day! We are definitely learning on the job and can't thank Tameka, Robyn, Penny, Nikki and the teams at the Blacktown, Penrith and Harris Park hubs enough for their time, immense knowledge and caring support. We are learning so much which is a great blessing to us and our community.

We are building connections with the other services on site including Jesuit Social Service, Catholic Care, the Men's Shed, our Parish Community, ACS and Baabayn, which is great. Having the Ignite store next door work

well as they have a ready supply of food for those that need it.

Things have settled a bit now but we have already had about 70 appointments in the time we have been open. Which is quite a lot as we are only open Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 10am and 3pm. This shows the great need for services in our local community. Fortunately our home visits have dropped significantly to balance the workload.

We are getting quite a few walk ins including from other service providers and the broader area beyond our conference. We do ask people to make appointments as we need to manage the work load especially when it gets busy.

The intention is that this centre will be a conference run project. As we are a small conference, we will need support in recruiting more volunteers and members to keep this great service to the community viable and hopefully expand it over time if possible. We are thankful for the support received to date but encourage anyone who may be able to spare half a day or day on a regular basis to get in touch. If you are in the neighbourhood on a Tuesday and Wednesday, please feel free to pop in and say hello.

**Georg Eberl**  
**Holy Family Emerton Conference President**

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## ASSIST A STUDENT

The Assist a Student program reflects the Mission Statement of the St Vincent de Paul Society – serve the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy.

We do this by sharing some of ourselves – what we have with those in need in our neighbouring countries.

The Assist a Student program gives you the opportunity to provide funding to educate an overseas student for one year. Your donation of only \$70 will be matched with a student from one of our partner countries.

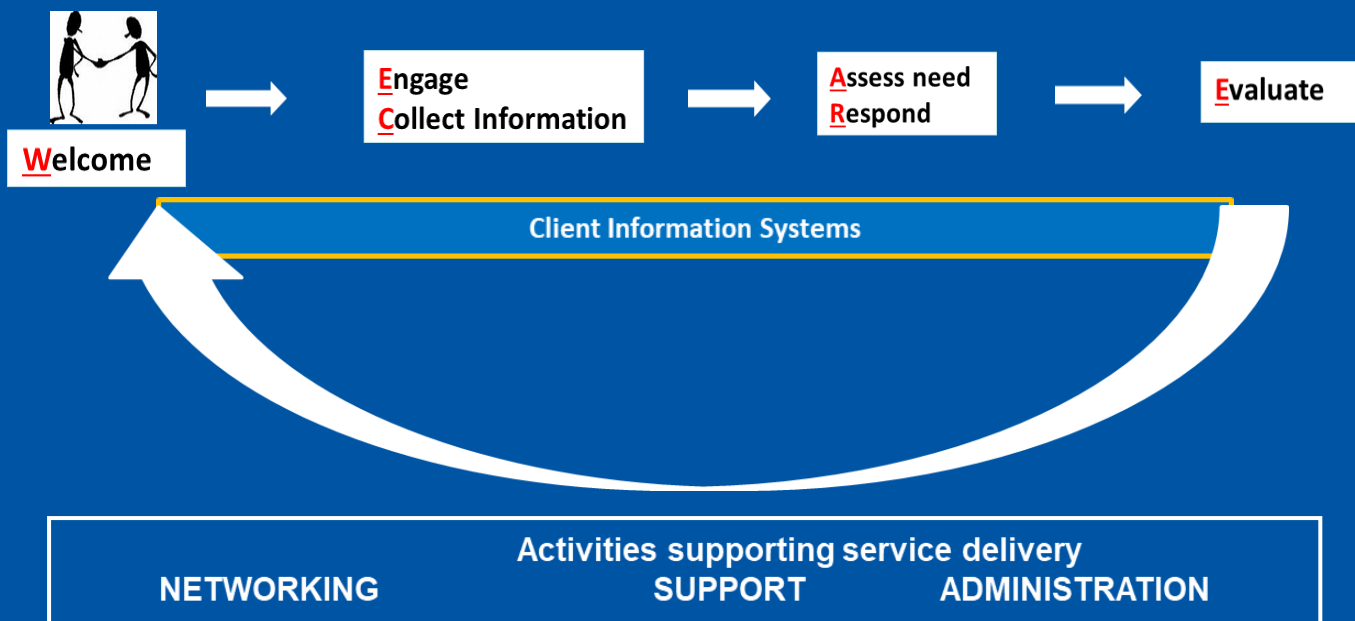
Donations from Australia are used to provide education funds for students across partner countries in Asia and the Pacific.



WE CARE framework which aims to create One Society model of care for people that we serve is continuing to be rolled out across the Parramatta Central Council and other Diocese.

Parramatta Central Council is expected to achieve its 5 Conference target before the end of FY2020. Conferences such as St Andrews in Maryong, St Clair Holy Spirit in St Mary's(50%) , Christ the King in North Rocks and Holy Family in Emerton have all completed the training preparation. Greatly appreciate all the feedback provided by members who have already attended the training. Some of the feedback received relates to how members value on-going education, good technique's given to improve hand-up during their conversations with the people they serve on home visits, affirmation of some of the good practices already happening within the Conference and feedback on the evaluation with some members requesting to review the survey questions being asked from 1 in 10 people we serve per Conference. These feedback will assist to continually evolve and improve practices and the way we roll-out trainings. The Membership Support team are providing on-going post training support and assistance to Conferences that have been trained to fully implement WE CARE up to the evaluation section. Conference Presidents/members are encouraged to reach out to their Regional Council President/ Central Council President and or State Support Office for further assistance required.

Kellyville Our Lady of the Rosary is scheduled to attend the training preparation on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Other Conferences that wishes to attend the WE CARE training and preparation are encouraged to speak to their Regional President and coordinate with Lauraine Steward ([Lauraine.Steward@vinnies.org.au](mailto:Lauraine.Steward@vinnies.org.au)) to arrange and set the training dates. Training schedules are accommodated based on Conference's preferred dates.



### Bartlett Street Social Engagement Christmas Lunch

The Bartlett Street Engagement Project came about as an initiative between PCC, Amelie Housing, and Rydalmere Conference. The aim was to engage with the residents in order to have them communicate, share ideas and develop community spirit.

To date Rydalmere Conference have held 19 sausage sizzles, 7 hot dog days, one Christmas Dinner, total of 26 events. It was perplexing to find that some residents watched from a far for some 10-15 gatherings before they had the confidence and trust to join the group.

#### WHAT A CHRISTMAS DINNER YOU MAY SAY!

Yes this was our year's grand finale before a break over Christmas and New Year; members felt that residents deserved a special and memorable end to the 2019 activity. This Christmas lunch was held on Monday 18th November and it was a full sit down affair with decorated tables, bon-bons, party hats. A veritable feast!

**Starters:** Nibbles chips, nuts, sweets

**Main:** Roast chicken, sliced ham, hot chips, and a variety of salads and bread rolls. One salad made by a resident!

**Desserts:** Plum pudding, mince pies, custard, Christmas cake

**Drinks:** Tea, coffee, cordial and a choice of soft drinks.



About 35 residents enjoyed their Christmas dinner with plenty of food being available for seconds. Each resident was given a gift bag contained various items of personal hygiene/grooming, calendar, along with a generous amount of baked treats ( thanks to some new volunteers!) Dr Geoff Lee State Member for Parramatta (Minister for Skills & Education ) joined the party and announced that our application for a grant for a Community Garden for Bartlett Street was approved by



Geoff Lee State Member for Parramatta and Ron Della Vedova

the Premier. Many thanks to our sponsors and supporters namely Woolworth (chickens) Lee Malkoun (ham) Brian Hackney who for 10 months drove the Vinnies Van to the event.

Rydalmere Conference will resume the Bartlett Street engagement in February 2020.

Rydalmere conference members are chuffed by the level of appreciation expressed by the residents and their willingness to continue to walk down this path of mutual respect and understanding. They feel that at last people do care for them.

*Ron Della Vedova*

**Thanks to Ron and his team of members and volunteers, the activities would not have happened without their compassion and commitment.**



### FUNERAL ASSISTANCE

I am sure every so often we as conference members are asked about what we do to help the people we visit. Most times our response is 'we help with food, electricity or furniture'.

Our conference recently was faced with a much larger challenge. We received a request for help from a client (that we had helped previously) for help with food and an EAPA. This client is an overseas student (from the Congo) with a wife and young family of four aged 9, 8, 6 and 3. When we arrived, we discovered that his wife had passed away a few days before and was at the time 25 weeks into her pregnancy with their fifth child. Efforts at the were taken to save his wife by undertaking an emergency C section which resulted in the baby being resuscitated for a few minutes but she too along with her mother passed away.

The client was obviously distraught and faced with not only the death of wife and child but with the care of his other four children. Whilst the client is on a scholarship that helps to cover the rent and some food as well as the cost of his degree it does not allow him a great deal of additional funds. On previous visits we had always observed that the children were always well cared for, neatly dressed and well mannered.

When we discussed with him how he was going to deal with the recent death of his wife it came out that he did not have the means to cover the cost of the funeral and burial. It should be noted the cultural beliefs of his country is that deceased should be buried and not cremated. The family are very strong Catholics and attend a church in the Hills area.

After many phone calls, emails, and more phone calls to the society and

others we were able to arrange for not only the cost of the funeral to be covered by the Society, but the plot was also donated to the family by Catholic Cemeteries at Kemps Creek.

Through the generosity of the Society, Catholic Cemeteries and Kenneally's Funerals any other money raised will now be able to be directed to the care of his children, in particular his three-year-old son.

As a conference we would like to thank those people who took the time to listen to our story and then respond in such a positive understanding way.

The funeral for his wife and baby took place at Kemps Creek on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of November this year.

Our conference will continue to monitor and support the family

**Gary Grills**

**St Michaels Conference Baulkham Hills**

### St Marys Remarkable Pharmacist



**ST Mary's Conference Member Deirdre Miles & Mujtaba Kazime of Priceline Pharmacy St Mary's**

The St Marys Conference has a remarkable local pharmacist who dispenses PBS scripts for free to the people that we visit. His name is Mujtaba Kazime, he is the business executive for the Priceline Pharmacy at St Marys.

The Conference issues a chemist voucher to the client who then registers with the pharmacy. The pharmacy continually assists our clients with their PBS medications at no charge and will include delivery if required. He is also prepared to make a part contribution to any non PBS medications if need be.

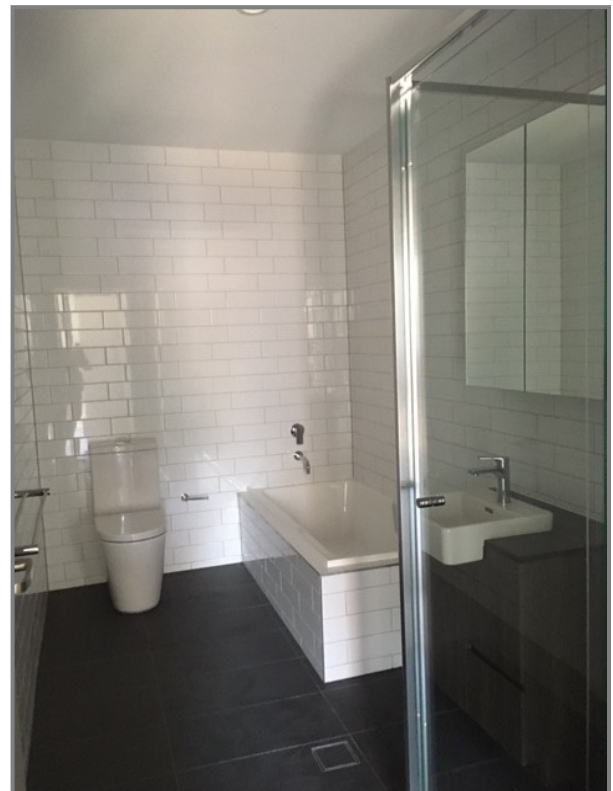
***The St Marys Conference would like to acknowledge the generosity of Mujtaba and his business partner, Negina Sadr for their charitable support of the conference and to those that we assist.***

As many members know Vinnies via SVDP Housing is building 502 social and affordable housing units in NSW under the SAFH program with NSW government. 300 are in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains; the Penrith units have had residents for 12 months now.

The next property to be available for residents is expected to have people start moving in late February 2020 is the Merrylands development on Centenary Rd; the site of a centre, shop, distribution centre and PCC office in its past use. The Blue Mountains and Jordan Springs properties are expected to be occupied by end June.

On 5<sup>th</sup> December members of the Cumberland Regional Council, housing officers, and tailored support staff had a tour of the site, its still a building site but everyone was excited by the look and fitout of the units we visited. There are 78 , 1,2,and 3 bedrooms units with great kitchens, secure access, ceiling fans, window screens, etc. The gardens, BBQ play area and other amenities will give residents plenty of out door space to help build a community. All residents will have access to a tailored support plan. Ideally conference members will be able to help build the community.

Do conferences have an opportunity to refer people they assist to be interviewed for residency? Yes but all prospective residents MUST be on the housing waiting list. More information will be circulated about referral to conferences in mid January."



### SVDP HOUSING UNDER CONSTRUCTION





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## Holiday Flats information for St Vincent de Paul Staff and Conference Members

**The Wollongong Central Council operate two sets of holiday flats in the Shoalhaven**

- Gerroa Tom McGee Flats
- Mollymook Holiday Flats

The flats currently sit under the Homelessness and Mental Health division of the Central Council as they are primarily used for clients experiencing hardship or significant stress and are in need of respite for their mental wellbeing.

**Priority use of the flats will go to clients referred by conferences or Vinnies services**

- Conferences covers the fee for their clients stay
- Vinnies services covers the fee under Client Support or Brokerage funds

External agencies referring clients are to cover the cost of their clients stay and will be invoiced by Wollongong Central Council.

- Where an agency cannot cover the full rate, we ask the agency to cover 40% of the cost and a referral to the nearest conference to assess if they can cover the remaining.

**Volunteers and Conference Members are able to book the flats for their own break or holiday.**

**Staff who are not receiving a fringe benefit scheme\* are also able to book for a stay.**

\*Fringe Benefit Scheme includes Salary sacrificing, Company vehicle or vehicle allowance, CSB b-package or entertainment package

### Holiday bookings are for week-long stays

Booking for	Cost
<b>Clients (internal and external)</b>	\$170 per week
Conference members or Volunteers	\$190 per week
Staff (non FBS)	\$210 per week

### Booking Offices

Bookings can be made via the following offices **Mon-Fri between 10am – 1.30pm**

Gerroa Flats	9820 8223	Wollongong Central Council Office (Kathy)
Mollymook Flats	4455 5666	Ulladulla Centre (Betty)

**General enquiries** [holidayflats@vinnies.org.au](mailto:holidayflats@vinnies.org.au)

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

### Make Healthy Normal campaign

During September, community members in need of a healthy meal could access a free food hamper and health coaching at Vinnies community hubs in Blacktown, Harris Park and Penrith. Vinnies, in partnership with the Western Sydney (WSLHD) and Nepean Blue Mountains (NBMLHD) local health districts, provided food ingredients to encourage people to cook healthy, simple and affordable meals.

The community hubs and other local Vinnies stores also offered sign-ups to the NSW Get Healthy Information and Coaching Service, which provides free, phone-based health coaching.

Vinnies community hubs have also changed their food donation appeal lists to encourage people to donate healthy food with a Health Star Rating of 3.5 stars and above. The 'Make Healthy Normal' displays at the hubs provided information and suggestions on healthy, yet simple recipes.

Health Promotion volunteers in four Vinnies stores at Castle Hill, Greystanes, Springwood or Blacktown Mega Centre, encouraged shoppers to look out for Health Star Ratings and to 'try and swap when they next shop; the more stars the healthier'.



Penrith Hub Display



Harris Park Hub Volunteers



Blacktown Hub Recipe Ingredients



Make Healthy Normal Display at Springwood Store



### CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY WITH PARRAMATTA MISSION

Contact Bianca Ferrari at [christmas@parramattamission.org.au](mailto:christmas@parramattamission.org.au)

#### Details:

- All volunteers must be over the age of 18 years
- No client who receives services from Parramatta Mission program will be appointed as a volunteer to ensure client's well being is not compromised
- A compulsory induction will take place. Exact time and date will be provided nearer the date
- All volunteers need to have Working With Children Check and Police Check completed

Action	Where	When	Volunteers Required
Collections	16 Masons Drive	13th December, 10am-2pm	3
		18th, 19th, 20th December, 10am-2pm	3
		23rd December, 10am-1pm   1pm-4pm	5
Christmas Eve Preparations	119 Macquarie St	24th December, 1:30-4pm	20
Christmas AM	119 Macquarie St	25th December, 8am-10:30pm	20
Christmas PM	119 Macquarie St	25th December, 10:30am-3pm	60  * This group includes entertainers and clean up crew

#### Entertainers and Interpreters

We are looking for approximately 5-8 people who can assist with entertainment. If you have experience with creative entertainment such as face painting or balloon twisting, please let us know !

We are also looking to cover – Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Farsi and Korean.

**PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU ARE ABLE TO ASSIST !**



**Vinnies**  
good works

 **We're on Facebook!**

'Like' or 'Follow' us to keep up-to-date on what's happening across the Vinnies Parramatta Central Council region – from Parramatta to the Blue Mountains, and Richmond to Warragamba



**FB.com/vinnieswesternsydney**

#### Have your say!

If you would like to contribute to the next edition of ParraMattas Conference, email us at [lauraine.steward@vinnies.org.au](mailto:lauraine.steward@vinnies.org.au)

### Parramatta Festival Mass

'A Festival Mass to celebrate the Feast Day of St. Vincent de Paul was held on Friday 27th September 2019 at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Blackheath. Prior to Mass Aboriginal Elder Graham King performed a smoking ceremony as a welcome to country. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Bob Sheridan OA with Fr. Paul Hanna and Deacon Tony Hoban ably supported by the Blackheath Parish Choir and Members from all 6 Blue Mountains Region Conferences. The focus of the Mass was on social justice and charity. Members were requested to bring cans of food which were donated to the Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre for distribution to the poor. As a reflection after Communion Pat Drummond sang his composition 'Who is that Refugee?'. Members appreciated the opportunity to pray and socialise together.'

Pamela




Smoking Ceremony at Parramatta Festival Mass

### Parramatta Street Feast

In the spirit of friendship and community, the Diocese of Parramatta hosted a lunch in Prince Alfred Square Parramatta for marginalised people from across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains and on Wednesday 20 November, more than 200 people gathered for the inaugural Parramatta Street Feast.




Volunteers from multiple organisations, including Parramatta Mission, CatholicCare, Catholic high schools, the Diocese of Parramatta, and Vinnies served food and drinks and shared conversations with the attendees. Vinnies volunteers, made up of members and various Vinnies services, were a strong presence on the day. It was a wonderful day, with entertainment by Sydney Street Choir and a lovely lunch served by Saint Merkorious. Thank you to those who gave up their time to attend.



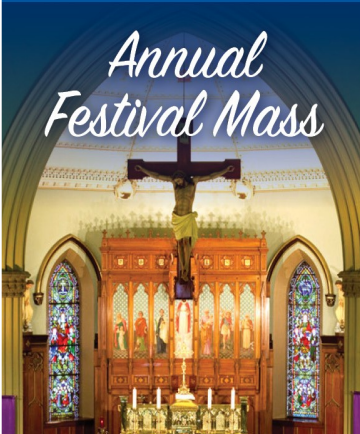
**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
NSW *good works*

invites our valued members, volunteers,  
supporters and staff to join us for our

Prayer for the Canonisation of



*Charles Gordon O'Neill*



Annual  
Festival Mass

Bishop Terence J Brady DD VG,  
Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney,  
will celebrate Mass at St Patrick's Church Hill  
141 Harrington Street, Sydney

Lord,

*Charles Gordon O'Neill was your faithful witness of the Gospel in giving profound compassionate service to those experiencing great hardship.*

*You inspired him to alleviate poverty and injustice and endowed him with untiring generosity in the service of all in need.*

*He envisioned a network of charity encircling this country and instilling Blessed Frederic Ozanam's spirit of love, humility and courage.*

*His prophetic social vision for struggling people reflects his heroic virtues of charity, prayer and love of the Eucharist.*

*We thank you Lord, for those many gifts and we ask, if it is your will, that the holiness of your faithful servant Charles soon be recognised by your Church.*

*We pray especially for*

.....  
(name or special petition)

*through the intercession of Charles Gordon O'Neill*

*We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*


*Amen.*

**Friday 13 December 2019 at 10.30am**  
Mass will be followed by a light lunch

RSVP by Thursday 28 November 2019  
Ph (02) 9568 0211 or email [Olivia.Andrews@vinnies.org.au](mailto:Olivia.Andrews@vinnies.org.au)

RSVPs are essential due to limited seating.  
Please also indicate if you will be attending the luncheon.  
If you are unable to join us at the Mass, please join us in prayer.

With Ecclesiastical approval Archbishop of Sydney 2015



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
NSW *good works*

We are proud to acknowledge the  
Gadigal People of the Eora Nation,  
the traditional custodians of this country.