

ST PAUL'S

ST CLARE'S

Bulletin Highlights



The Ascension of the Lord ~ Year B

13th May 2018

Awareness Mass ~ Saturday 19 May

At the vigil Mass this coming Saturday 19 May, the parish will be hosting an Awareness Mass in which a very caring fraternity from Mater Dei – that includes many people from our own parish – have a special participation in Mass. In recent years these Masses have been a wonderful time of blessing for all who have gathered.

And in keeping with our parish tradition, a little hospitality will be shared afterwards in the meeting room with beverages and finger food. The menu last year served up gourmet pizzas. It will probably be the same again but some consideration could be given to a Backyard Bucket of KFC. All invited and encouraged to come along.

~~ Parish Over 55s ~~

OVER 55'S: The Parish Over 55's Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 10.00am. The meeting is held in the Heritage Hall which is on the parish site and adjacent to Larkin Lane.

The Over 55s is a fellowship gathering over morning tea, and also includes bus outings and special lunch venues. This is a very friendly group. Make new friends and bring some of your own friends along. All welcome. For enquiries please ring Robyn on 0407 162 875.

Mother's Day is a celebration throughout many parts of the world honouring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society.

In acknowledgement of the variety of family structures in 21st Australia, it's also appropriate to celebrate other forms of maternity in the lives and love of stepmothers, grandmothers, God mothers, foster mothers and all those who love and care for children in a deeply maternal way.

May all our mums be blessed today and be acknowledged with affection and gratitude from their daughters and sons. And may we all strengthen our devotion to the BVM



Confirmation Programme

Parents are required to collect a leaflet after Mass that will have assigned the candidates' names to the various workshop groups. If there are extenuating circumstances and it is not possible to attend the assigned group, please email the parish office by lunch time Wednesday. Owing to the cooperation of the overwhelming number of families, the programme is progressing quite well.



Homelessness ~ The SVDP Society

Are you up for the challenge? St Vincent de Paul Society needs the help of local business leaders to change the perception of homelessness and raise funds for much-needed support services across our region.

The annual CEO Sleepout will be held on Thursday 21 June at St Mary Star of the Sea College, Wollongong, and will see leaders come together to spend a night in the cold for a worthy cause. Last year, through funds raised from the CEO Sleepout, Vinnies gave assistance to almost two million people in need across the country, providing more than 1.5 million meals and almost 700,000 nights with a bed.

By taking part in the Vinnies CEO Sleepout, you can help shine a light on homelessness and bring some warmth to the longest night of the year – everyone deserves a safe place to call home.



Catechists ~ An Important Ministry

TAKE A RISK AND GIVE THE GIFT OF FAITH

In our parish, there is a team of volunteers that take a risk and step out in faith. State Government schools do not provide lessons that teach the basic message about Jesus, our faith and the great adventure that life can be with God. We were all given our gift of faith by someone, someone stepped-up for us so that we would know Jesus.

Each week of the school year Catechists present 30-minute lessons using a step-by-step lesson plan that helps Catholic children understand their faith, grow in love and maturity and learn what it means to be Catholic. Take a risk and give the gift of faith. Become a Catechist teacher or helper today! For more information, please call 4222 2416 or ask our parish priest for more information.



Insights into Kneeling

Our parishioners at Mass who sit in the two central blocks of pews in the church will already have noticed the new padding on the kneelers. It's most important as a parish to be people of reverence and humility. In coming months, new kneelers with padding will be added to the whole church. The posture of kneeling has a long history.

From the Old Testament, kneeling was regarded as a position of submission adopted toward a superior person or deity for purposes either of petition or worship. Solomon, son of David, prayed while kneeling, as did Ezra and Daniel. The Hebrew word meaning "to kneel" also means "to bless" suggesting that a person receiving a blessing would assume that position. Accordingly, kneeling was regarded as a particularly appropriate position for making a petition.

This was also the posture taken during prayer by Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Stephen was also kneeling as he was martyred. The Roman soldiers mocked Jesus by kneeling before him.



Parish Pastoral Council

Reminder that the next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 23rd May at 7:00 PM.