

ST PAUL'S

ST CLARE'S

Bulletin Highlights

Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year B

1st July 2018

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Sunday

Across our nation this weekend on the 1st July, NATSICC (National Aboriginal Torres Strait Island Catholic Council) invites us to remember the first owners of our nation. Indeed, the site of every parish church was once owned by our nation's first custodians.

It was in July almost exactly 10 years ago during World Youth Day in Sydney that the Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote:



For thousands of years before the arrival of Western settlers (in Australia), the sole inhabitants of the land were indigenous peoples, the Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. Their ancient heritage forms an essential part of the cultural landscape of modern Australia.

Thanks to the Australian Government's courageous decision to acknowledge the injustices committed against the indigenous peoples in the past, concrete steps are now being taken to achieve reconciliation based on mutual respect. Rightly, you are seeking to close the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians regarding life expectancy, educational achievement and economic opportunity!

This example of reconciliation offers hope to peoples all over the world who long to see their rights affirmed and their contribution to society acknowledged and promoted.

May we always remain deeply mindful, and sensitive to the needs of our nation's first inhabitants.



Parish Website

If ever away on weekends, it's always possible to keep in touch by looking to our parish website which contains weekly updates. Our *Parish Mission Statement* is a recent addition.

Saint Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal



This winter, the St Vincent de Paul Society is already seeing an increase in calls for help from families that have fallen on tough times. That's why the 2018 Winter Appeal has been launched and is focusing on homelessness caused by Domestic Violence. It's hard to believe that Nationwide, there are single mum's fleeing dangerous situations for themselves and their children, and they are homeless, sometimes for several weeks while they get the help they need to set up a safe and secure home for their children.

The Camden Branch of the Society is trying to 'do its bit' but as always funds are low. The 2018/2019 budget is due for release soon but we have been advised that this will not be much more than last year's budget which we found to be a shortfall for the last three months of the financial year.

On the weekend of Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th July, we are asking you to give generously for this worthwhile cause. We thank you very much as every little bit helps. Also, we would like anyone interested in joining the Camden Conference of the Society, to give their name to any Elizabeth at the Parish Office, and we will contact you regarding interest in the Society.



Confirmation Programme

The ceremonies over the weekend of 23rd/24th June were among the best in recent times. The preparation, organization, administration and sacred music were all of the highest quality. It was a great compliment to the many people involved. Sincere thanks to all.

But there's better news still – with four ceremonies and an aggregate attendance of over 2,500 people, the prayerfulness and reverence of all who had assembled was absolutely exceptional. It was a wonderful tribute to the people who had gathered. The newly confirmed boys and girls most certainly enjoyed a deeply sacred experience.



Book Sale: On the weekend of 14th/15th July, a large display of books in the chapel will be available for purchase. The big variety of books will almost certainly have a topic of interest for everyone.