



# THE GOOD OIL

## VINCENT DE PAUL AND “CREATIVE LOVE”

**24 SEPTEMBER 2023**  
**PARISH CELEBRATION OF THE**  
**FEAST OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading **Isaiah 52: 7-10**

Psalm **Ps 39 (40):10-11a,**  
**11b-12, 17-18a**

**I HAVE SPOKEN OF**  
**YOUR FAITHFULNESS**  
**AND SAVING HELP**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading **1 Cor 1:26-31**

Gospel **Matthew 5:1-12a**

### Masses This Week

Sat 6pm	<b>Vigil Mass</b>
Sun 9am & 6pm	<b>Mass</b>
Mon 9am	<b>Liturgy of</b> <b>the Word</b>
Tue-Fri 9am	<b>Mass</b>

### Parish Staff & Contacts

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At the beginning of the seventeenth century, society was healing from the wounds that been inflicted on it as a result of the upheavals of the previous century. A prudent king had established order and a Council had restored confidence to the Church. Now all sides attempted to put into practice the principles that had been established and thus applied those principles to new situations.

Vincent had always been very respectful with regard to tradition, rules and the hierarchy. We never see him taking “revolutionary” positions or adopting a provocative tone. He was, however, gifted with a rare ability to adapt to even the most unexpected situations.

Beginning in 1617 Vincent's vision was further clarified and nothing escaped his gaze. He recognized the misery that many families endured as the result of some illness. He saw that many priests had not received an adequate formation that would allow them to fulfill their obligations. He knew the scourges that beggars experienced. In light of those realities and many other realities he discerned the best way to respond to those evils. Those responses needed time to be developed and only then could one begin to see results.

Once Vincent decided on a specific course of action he was tireless in implementing such a solution. He dedicated himself to these new ministries and when necessary also committed the resources of the Congregation.

We are members of a post-conciliar church, a church that must confront new problems and that experiences new forms of poverty. We must also sharpen our power of observation in order to discover these new forms of misery and their causes, in order to minister together with those who are involved in finding solutions to this misery. At the same time we must also be attentive to the signs Providence will reveal to us and when such a sign is given, be ready to act with determination.

We will be able to respond to these present day problems if we reflect on the profound heritage that Vincent de Paul has entrusted to us and if we place ourselves in the same spiritual dynamic as Jesus and proclaim Good News to the poor.

**READ THE FULL REFLECTION AT**

[vincentians.com/en/vincent-paul-and-creative-love/](http://vincentians.com/en/vincent-paul-and-creative-love/)

*The hand of Christ blesses the cup.*



**St Vincent de Paul Society**

*good works*

*The hand of love offers the cup - the hand of suffering receives the cup.*

This challenge-“**You people who boast about being Catholics, what are you doing? Where are the works which demonstrate your Faith and which can make you respected and accepted?**” - by a fellow university student to a young Frenchman, Frederic Ozanam, inspired him, with six others to establish the St. Vincent de Paul Society in April 1833. The Society now operates in over 100 countries worldwide.

Our Marsfield Conference of the Society need new, fresh members. Please consider volunteering some of your time to ‘giving a hand up’ to those who are struggling in our society of today by joining as a member. Our current members will be available after all Masses this weekend to talk about the work of the Vinnies to those who may be interested.



**ROTARY CLUB OF MACQUARIE PARK FUNDRAISING BINGO NIGHT.** Sat 14 Oct 6pm, Holy Spirit School Hall, Cox’s Road, North Ryde. \$25 per person (3 games) extra games \$5 each. BYO nibbles and Drinks, Free Coffee or Tea & Sweet. Reservations by 7 Oct with Roseanna 0418692410; [roseanna@rgmusic.com.au](mailto:roseanna@rgmusic.com.au) or Lydia 0413815830; [lydia.toprydecity@helloworld.com.au](mailto:lydia.toprydecity@helloworld.com.au) Payment details can be found on posters outside church.

## THE VOICE

*A friend of mine who worked for decades among indigenous communities has kindly agreed to write this short article for our parish. He is a committed member of our Church and has much more credibility than me in saying something on this issue. I hope you find it helpful – Fr Greg.*

The date has been set and the noise and chatter are getting louder. The nation has a decision to make about recognising Indigenous Australians in the Constitution, something I suggest that nearly all Australians would agree with. The second clause included in the question is where the decision becomes a little more complicated "by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice". The task at hand that as a nation we must decide is what are the implications and what is the best course of action as we enter the polling booth in October. As good citizens we have to take this question seriously.

As practicing Catholics we have another obligation under Catholic Social Teaching: we must approach the question with an informed conscience. In the recent Social Justice Statement the Australian Bishops remind us that our attitude is to be framed in "justice, love and humility". Not an easy task! Hopefully what I offer below might help us to come to a decision guided by an informed conscience in light of the Bishops'

exhortation. I borrow heavily here from the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius (Papal Approbation, Paul III, 1548) which are as helpful now as they were back then.

One of the key components of making an informed decision is recognising our own prejudices. It's normal for a person to bring such pre-conceptions to an issue or decision and they are not necessarily good nor bad. This is about examining what pre-conceived ideas we bring to this issue. To be free to make an informed decision we must adopt an attitude that is free from all attachments. These attachments can be political, or a disposition to one way of voting or another. By recognising and setting aside these attachments we become more free to address the issue at hand.

Turning to the issue at hand. Any good debater or lawyer will tell you that it is best to look at both sides of the matter. In this case we must look at the Positives and Negatives in the Yes case and likewise the Positives and Negatives in the No case. Here it is probably worth jotting down your thoughts on all four sides.

I am not writing this to offer my opinion on the question but I can offer some thoughts from senior Indigenous elders that I have known and respected for over 20 years from smaller communities in Central and Northern Australia, people who are certainly voiceless.

On the Yes side, an elder from Derby/Fitzroy Crossing in the Northern West Australia said to me that "a Yes vote is a vote for hope, because what we have been doing for the last forty years hasn't worked". Another senior Indigenous leader suggested to me that the prominent indigenous leaders of the Yes campaign should be selling "love of country and welcome to country".

On the No side a senior Kukatja/Walmatjarri woman told me recently "we don't like it, them Noongar mob from Perth will tell us what to do, just like ATSIC days". Another Central Australian elder (Walmatjarri) told me that he doesn't like it because he didn't think all the people running the Yes campaign understand that what works in Melbourne or Brisbane doesn't necessarily work in the desert. Here I should point out that there are over 200 language groups in Indigenous Australia, with differing cultural practices.

Continuing the process of using an informed conscience we now apply the intellect, hopefully free from attachments, to the question of Yes or No. I suggest referring to what you jotted down when assessing the various cases for and against. To take this further ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and give to you the gift of Wisdom. What is it that draws you or repels you about the Yes vote? What is it that draws you or repels you about the No vote?

I suggest setting all this aside and taking time to reflect on it all, especially in light of the Bishops' exhortation to justice, love and humility. As I began so will I finish, there will be a lot of noise, debate and no doubt vitriol, all of which are best ignored so that a decision informed by conscience can be made.

# PRAYER MINISTRY **PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER:**

## Those who are sick

Bee Ho, Angelica Owczarek,  
Moonki Nam, Barbaro family,  
Margaret Cusack, Jac Smits,  
Victoria Cook, Lim Siew Ching,  
Susan Lim Hui Siang,  
Ambrosio "Jing" Feleo,  
Lim Liang Chin.

## The recently deceased

**Frank Brown**  
(husband of Mary Brown)

**Gioacchino Sciancalepore**  
(father and father-in-law of  
Roseanna and Len Gallo)

**Phillipa Davis**  
(aunt of Susanna Gorman)

## Those with anniversaries around this time

**Pauline Rose Bourke**  
(4th Anniversary 28 Sept)

Due to privacy laws, if you would like the name of a family member or friend printed in the Good Oil, please contact the Parish Office.

**FROM 1 SEP-4 OCT 2023**, the Christian family unites worldwide in prayer and action for creation during the Season of Creation. **Pray&act for climate justice:** The climate crisis is growing. We need those in power to act justly. Pray with us and act by sharing your prayers with political leaders. All month long we will be posting on social media how we are praying for ecological justice. Together we can unleash a mighty river of peace and justice on behalf of all Creation. Join the campaign:

[laudatosimovement.org/pray-with-us-for-climate-justice/](https://laudatosimovement.org/pray-with-us-for-climate-justice/)

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS. Mon 25 Sept—Mon 9 Oct. For sick calls or funerals, please ring 02-9888 5222 and leave a message on the voicemail (follow the prompts) when you ring.**

## FUNERAL NOTICE

# Gioacchino Sciancalepore

Funeral Mass at St Charles, Ryde on  
Friday, 29 September at 10.30am

### PASTORAL SESSIONS:

Tuesdays Cenacle 2.30pm • Wednesdays Adoration 9.30am. Meditation 10am • Fridays Adoration 5pm •  
Saturdays (or by appointment): Reconciliation 5.30-5.50pm

## **CAPTAINS, PLEASE REMIND YOUR TEAM: COUNTERS ROSTER SEP & OCT**

**24/9-Team 2; 1/10-Team 3; 8/10-Team 4; 15/10-Team 5; 22/10-Team 6**

**THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY is available in Church. Please put \$2 in the Poor Box.**

**CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IS A CRIME.** The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you or anyone you know have been abused, **please contact the police.** Alternatively, contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org) or at (02) 9390 5810. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police. **Archdiocesan Safeguarding Policy Overview: [sydneycatholic.org/casys/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Overview-of-the-Policy.pdf](https://sydneycatholic.org/casys/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Overview-of-the-Policy.pdf)**