



VINCENTIAN WEEKLY NEWS WOLLONGONG CENTRAL COUNCIL

First Edition: Monday 8th February 2021.

Newsletter for 2021

Hello Vincentians,

Fellow Vincentians, welcome to the new year and our first fortnightly newsletter. Following the success of last year's newsletter, the format will remain the same..... a paragraph or two of Wollongong Diocesan Central Council news and information and a spiritual reading from Peter Gormly. We have extended our reading platform to anyone who has a Vinnies email address (in the Wollongong Central Council area) and personal email addresses as requested through Kathy Ferriff at the Dio office. All of us hope to make more personal contacts, there are plans for retreats, information lunches around the diocese and regional masses.....one can only hope there is a return of some sort of normality.

On behalf of the Wollongong Diocesan Central Council

Peter Houweling
President
Wollongong Central Council

We prayer for

We prayer for those who have recently died.

- Peter Lindwall
- Peter Quarmby
- Natalie Prentice
- Stephen Harding

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

On behalf of Wollongong Diocesan Central Council, Congratulations to Wollongong St Francis Xavier's Conference President Larry Jennett OAM on his Australia Day award: Senior Citizen. Congratulations and well done. Larry has contributed significantly to St Vincent De Paul Society and contributed over many years to the Surf Life Saving Club, an amazing achievement.

COMING UP FOR THE ULLADULLA CONFERENCE- PASTORAL CARE FORUM

In March of this year, the Mission Team- Joy Bowen and Peter Gormly will be facilitating a Pastoral Care Forum for the Ulladulla Conference.

REFLECTIONS



We are now well into new year; the school term has now begun. When 2020 was ending, many of us were please to say goodbye to the year, and to see a new year having hopes and dreams for a different year and maybe even with less of an impact from coronavirus on our lives.

Even before the year ended COVID-19, was alive with the need to introduce restrictions, we are now just starting to live a life with less restrictions again in NSW. This brought about reflections of how lucky and hopeful Australians have been. We have been inconvenienced but overall, we are relatively healthy. We must remember that there were 820 people who died in Victoria, 54 people in NSW and all the other states and territories had between 4-9 people who died. Their families and communities do need our continued prayers at this time.

As we stop and think of Australia it is a land of great diversity full of richness and culture. We all learn from different cultures, food, and customs. We do have a history of calling people out who are different to our own. With all that has happened across the globe I wonder what we can do in small ways to show and express love and tolerance, and appreciation of all people.

This week I have being listening to a Podcast by Brene Brown called Dehumanising Accountability. We hear in the press, and maybe in our own lives where we find ways to make people feel less than human. We use language that demonises them to do harm to a group of people, finding ways to silence people or put them down. (David Smith)

Accountability is what unites us all, shame gets in the way or is a blockage to accountability. It is easier to put someone down as opposed finding out how our behaviour has caused harm to someone. We all have and do cause harm, in our own families, in communities, in organisations, and across Nations. We can focus on US and THEM never thinking of ways we can unite as shaming someone is easier and enticing.

Accountability requires effort, self-awareness, and reflection. I know for myself I can be guilty of all the above at different times, self-awareness takes courage, and to see that we can be the healing hand of Jesus. It is easy to forget what we are called to do, for me it is about listening and finding opportunities to provide a healing space. We can find language to dehumanise a person such as saying they are a drug addict this strong language reinforce the stigmatisation of a person and viewing a person in one single story though we are al multi-layer of stories.

In this week's gospel the healing took place in a simple home where Jesus healed, "He came and took her hand and lifted her up. (Marks 1:29)

We can help by listening and stay in the present moment, and find ways to enhance accountability, accountability gives light and hope, both to the people we serve and ourselves. The connection with other people gives us the healing power of Jesus love, accountability helps us to find new ways and meaning in our life.

A QUESTION TO PONDER

1. In what ways have I handed out my healing hand to others, what difference do you think it made on the individual and your life.

I do hope you all have a wonderful week and look forward to meeting you over the coming weeks and months ahead.

Kindest Regards

Peter

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START *By* **going**
what **is** *Necessary,*
THEN *what is* **possible,**
AND **Suddenly**
YOU ARE *going*
IMPOSSIBLE.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI