



St Vincent de Paul Society
NSW
good works

Vinnies Newsletter Christmas Edition – 2020 North West Region



Merry Christmas to All

To all the wonderful Members, Volunteers and Employees across the North West. The past twelve months will have been a most memorable year for many of us, whether it was the restructure, bushfires, drought and more recently Covid-19. While these have given us many challenges to be able to properly help and support those in need, this was achieved despite the difficulties. Whether it was the slow emergency of the drought or the rapid responses required by bushfire, you reacted by going above and beyond with extra hours, travelling and giving of yourselves in order to provide help for those that were impacted by these tragedies. Your passion and dedication was inspiring and I proudly spoke of your efforts at a number of opportunities with senior management.

Thank you for your loyal service this year. I appreciate that you have greatly contributed to the Society's work and made a positive impact to the individuals and communities in which you live. Your desire to help people is the heart beat of the Society and I will ensure this is supported and encouraged into the future wherever you need it.

On behalf of the St Vincent de Paul Society I would like to extend to you a resounding thank you for all your work this year and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. May your time spent with your family, friends and faith communities be filled with joy and blessings for all.

Please enjoy a well-deserved break and I look forward to seeing you in 2021.

Yours Faithfully - Phil Donnan (Regional Director - North West)

News from around the Armidale Central Council

Dear Volunteers, Staff and Fellow Vincentians

I wish to take the opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation for the incredible and selfless display of commitment shown to all aspects of our Society's mission during an exceptionally difficult year. The demands, and the call to meet those demands, I regard as unprecedented.

At this late stage in 2020 the Society is maintaining its commitment to the previous year's involvement in drought, bushfire, flood assistance and recovery, as well as coping with the effects of COVID 19. This commitment will continue into 2021.

So much of the envisaged progress and structural development within our diocese has been adversely affected by COVID 19 and the associated restrictions and statutory compliance. We all look forward to a much more fruitful 2021. However, as well as challenges, 2020 has produced a myriad of opportunities and notable results, too many to list but some require a specific mention.

- The community contingency established in Walgett and Mungindi following the fires which destroyed their supermarkets.
- The prompt attention rendered after house fires at Warialda and Walgett.
- The ongoing support to Fr. Paul Aguilar and Fr Roel Llave in their work at South Tamworth and Armidale in addressing the needs of temporary visa holders ineligible for governmental COVID 19 financial assistance.
- Renovations completed at our Peel St, Tamworth retail outlet.
- Ongoing sponsorship and scholarships to schools and colleges.
- Establishment of a youth conference and recruitment structure.
- The appointment of a Social Justice Representative on the Armidale Diocesan Central Council.
- The re-establishment of the Society's Armidale Regional Council.
- The re-establishment of St Andrews Conference at Wee Waa and renovations to the Society's premises.
- Maintaining a constant, relative and accurate local media profile.
- A successful result achieved in our Community Sleepout 2020.

Unfortunately during 2020 we were to say goodbye to our much valued and diligent staff members Michael O'Kane, Gary Bennett and Liz Steele, we pray their future endeavours are satisfying, fruitful and especially blessed.



To Phil Donnan and the team at Central Council administration, the Regional Presidents in their respective districts, Bishop Michael Kennedy and staff at the Armidale chancery and all Volunteers, Members, Office bearers and Staff, thank you so much. May God bless you all this coming Christmas, and I am looking forward to 2021, there is much to be done!

Yours in the Spirit of Frederic Ozanam.
Paul Burton - Armidale Central Council President

North Eastern Regional Council President - Kerry Muir

After the initial shut down of conference activities by the Society in the face of Covid-19, the four Care and Support Conferences in the North Eastern Region re-opened under Covid-19 safe conditions to support people in need in Tenterfield, Glen Innes, Inverell and Warialda. St Mary's Conference Members continued to support the residents of St Mary's Residential Units in Inverell.

While the Conference offices were closed to meeting people in need, Tenterfield, Glen Innes and Inverell Conferences set up emergency phone arrangements whereby people seeking assistance, especially for food needs, could contact the Conference and have food safely delivered to homes. Alternatively, parcels could be picked up outside the conference rooms avoiding close physical contact between conference personnel and those receiving the food parcels.

Older members of Sacred Heart Conference in Inverell undertook phone contacts with people in need where they have established a rapport through more regular assistance, to ensure those people were safe and managing the lockdown.

Members in Glen Innes and Tenterfield were active participants in parish support mechanisms to ensure anyone in their respective parishes were on the 'end-of-a-phone-line', if people needed to talk to fellow parishioners or who needed practical support.

Face to face interviewing using an appointment system is now operating in Tenterfield, Glen Innes and Inverell in their conference rooms and to great success.

Although the return to face-to-face interviews with people in need was initially slowly taken up, with the reductions in Jobseeker allowances, more people are coming to conferences for assistance.



Following a period of shut down and closure of shops, Vinnies Centres have subsequently received a massive amount of clothing, bric-a-brac and furniture donations. Photo left, 83 year old Vinnies Volunteer Betty Wilson, has attended the Vinnies Shop regularly each week to help sort and clear the donations. The unsorted stock around Betty is just one weekend's donations. To acknowledge Betty's commitment, and to her being a superior sorter over the 15 years of her volunteering, at its recent Annual General Meeting of the Centre personnel, Betty was presented with a gift to say THANK YOU.

Conference members are vital to the operation of the Vinnies Shop in Glen Innes as the men of St Patrick's Conference collect furniture donations and deliver purchased furniture to buyers and deliver furniture that the conference has provided to people in need. In this photo right: Glen Innes St Patrick's Conference Member, John McPhee, is preparing to take a lounge to a person in need, who is being supported by the conference.



Food support in all four Care and Support Conferences in the North Eastern Region draws upon supplies in the food stores of each Centre. Photo left: shows Glen Innes St Patrick's Conference Member, John Adams, checking the food store. Since joining St Patrick's Conference, John has made it his regular commitment to ensure the food store is well stocked and makes the necessary purchases both locally and from the Society's Sydney Food Bank.

In addition to his conference work, John was recently appointed Social Justice Representative for the Armidale Diocesan Central Council.

Thank you to all our Members & Volunteers over the past year and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year 2021.

Kindest regards
Kerry Muir



A message from the new Armidale Regional Council President - Kerry Steller

It is with much pleasure that I take up the role as Armidale Regional Council President and write this end of year greeting to all of our Armidale Region Conferences – St Louise, St Joseph's, St Mary's, St Mary of the Angels and St Augustine's Conference (of which I am a member). Your work is one of great love and commitment as you continue to help to alleviate suffering and to bring about justice in our world. In the words of Frederic Ozanam:

Yours must be a work of love, of kindness, you must give your time, your talents, yourselves. The poor person is a unique person of God's fashioning with an inalienable right to respect. You must not be content with tiding the poor over the poverty crisis; you must study their condition and the injustices which brought about such poverty, with the aim of a long term improvement.

As we reach the end of the Church Year with the Feast of Christ the King the words of Matthew's gospel, I believe reflect our mission as Vincentians.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Matt 24:35-37

The Year Past

2020 has been a particularly difficult year with the bushfires after the drought, followed by COVID-19 as it put a stop to a lot of our volunteering and help for those who were so much in need. The Retail shops and the bulky goods outlet were closed, goods were not able to be donated, collected or sorted, visitation to homes ceased, Care and Concern meetings were limited, Conference meetings ceased or had to adapt for communication, Freeman House was in lockdown, Masses were suspended and we all had to adjust to a new way of sanitising and signing in. Our recruitment drive for 2020 was put on hold and many of our older, more vulnerable Members were unable to volunteer. We must continue to look to the future and take on the learnings that have come from this year particularly.

Charity must never look to the past, but always to the future, because the number of its past works is still very small and the present and future miseries that it must alleviate are infinite.

Frederic Ozanam

As we start the new Church Year with the season of Advent it is good to reflect over the positive aspects of this past year as we wait and prepare for the coming of the Lord Jesus.



So what about the good news that came out of COVID-19 for the future work of our Conferences.

St Louise Care and Support had less demand on welfare services due to the doubling of the Centrelink Jobseeker payment. Finally those on welfare could finally 'catch up' on their bills and payments. The Christmas hampers this year will be very different and mainly consist of food vouchers plus a Christmas cake and a tin of ham.

Saints Mary and Joseph's Cathedral Parish and Diocesan Funds of \$30,000 were used to assist many of our local International students who suddenly found themselves out of part-time work and with no funds. Fr Roel and Fr Samson provided 10kg bags of rice, grocery items and food vouchers to over 300 students in the Armidale area.

St Joseph's Conference worked with our priests and helped distribute further food vouchers to students over the later stages of this program.

How to train future Vinnies Members. The Stephen family grandchildren on visiting locally and from Wagga Wagga were keen to cook some goodies. They were challenged by grandparents Maurie and Chrissie to set up an exercise where each of them had a role, and for it become an educational exercise, not just a gastronomic one. The selection of recipes, the determining of ingredients, the quantities required, the shopping, the budget, and an agreement on who would meet the costs? were all tasks that the grandchildren were asked to undertake.

Once the cooking had been completed, there were more 'goodies' than even five hungry little stomachs could consume. And that is when grandpa's marketing and retail skills came to the fore. Not only was there a street stall, with appropriate signage set into place, but a list of grandpa's business contacts who were unlikely to reject an approach from one of his grandchildren was compiled. So the children's nascent marketing skills were encouraged. With a little help from the immediate family, the funds raised, rounded to a total of \$400, donated to the local Society of St Vincent de Paul, where grandpa Maurie is a committed member of **St Joseph's Conference**.

Photo above right: Stephen grandchildren raising funds from their cooking for the Society.



St Mary of the Angels Conference in Guyra decided to help the 457 Visa holder workers who were stranded in the town after their six months employment was up due to COVID 19. With reduced hours and little income the conference is providing them all with hampers.



St Augustine's Conference members managed to hold fortnightly ZOOM meetings when Freeman House was in lockdown and this allowed staff from Freeman House, and also Sydney Special Works staff to attend and take part in decision-making. Coffee and Cake afternoons have thankfully resumed and we have taken part in some great outings with some of the residents. Ezidi refugees seeking help with English are now accommodated on ZOOM three nights a week for English Conversation in conjunction with Settlement Services in Coffs Harbour in a joint Vinnies effort.

Naidoc Week was celebrated recently and the residents and staff joined in a Naidoc Week cake and activities.

Photo left: Freeman House staff celebrate NAIDOC Week.

The virtual Vinnies Community Sleepout raised over \$17,000 for Armidale with a total of over \$150,000 raised state-wide.

All funds raised from the Armidale Vinnies Community Sleepout will go towards the 'Starting Fresh' program which aims to support and empower those engaged with Freeman House to achieve their recovery goals. People will be supported through engagement with local community activities such as sport, exercise and art and be provided with essential household items to establish a safe, secure and stable living environment for them and their families. Our goal of raising \$10,000 was far exceeded, so we are certainly able to continue helping those who need it the most. We had over 100 sleeping rough on the night of 23rd October with Members, Supporters and School students taking part in this virtual Sleepout, where participants slept on their couch, in their car or in their backyard. School students from TAS, O'Connor and St Joseph's Uralla joined in the virtual Sleepout and raised much needed funds. TAS boarders slept in the quad and were moved on by security twice and also by rain overnight and felt what it was really like to be homeless. We thank Fr Roel and the Cathedral Parish, The Ex-Services Club and Best Employment as well as many individual sponsors for their amazing effort in raising this money for local needs.

Photo right: Phil Donnan (Regional Director - North West), Nick Hanson (Member St Joseph's Armidale Conference) receive a cheque for \$2,500 from Scott Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer, Armidale Ex-Services Memorial Club, for the Sleepout.



Photo left: David Steller from St Augustine's Conference all rugged up for the Sleepout in his back yard.



Photo left: Gerard 'Moose' Stephen and Garry Swanson sleeping out in their swag for the Community Sleepout.

Channel Nine and 2GB personality Deborah Knight recorded a livestream for two hours on the night and she did cross to Freeman House in Armidale. You can watch this on this link:

<https://fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/nsw-vinnies-community-sleepout/>



Feel Good Story:

Due to overwhelming support from St Mary's College and St Xavier's School in Gunnedah, and very generous donations from St Finbar's Church at Glenbrook, Gunnedah had excess hampers and donations over from last Christmas. It was decided to deliver several to Moree, where Colleen Nash does amazing work visiting farming communities within a hundred mile radius of Moree. Colleen does regular runs to the farmers who have and are still struggling because of the drought. She truly exhibits the true mission of Vincentians.

Photo left: Colleen Nash (left) taking delivery of same from Jacinta Stanley (right) from Gunnedah, outside the Moree Vinnies.

I would like to wish you all the best for the Advent and Christmas season and hope that we can see clearly a strong commitment and way ahead for our Society in the New Year. Keep trusting in God and the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

We are here on this earth to accomplish the will of Providence.
Frederic Ozanam

Kind regards
Kerry Stellar





News from around the Bathurst Central Council

Hello to all my fellow Vincentians.

I am grateful we only have a few weeks of 2020 left before we welcome in 2021.

What a horrible experience we have had over the past 12 months. Continuing drought, bushfires, some flooding and the worst of all the Coronavirus. 2021 can hopefully be more favourable for you all. Vinnies are in recovery mode with bushfires and are continuing DCSI funding for drought affected areas. 2020 has seen many changes within the Bathurst Central Council. We said our goodbyes to several Conference Presidents and a Regional President, plus many long serving Members and Volunteers.

I thank you all for your time and effort that you have given to the organisation over a stressful period.

Finally, have a pleasant break and a very merry Christmas and above all a prosperous 2021.

God bless you and stay safe.

Kind regards

Neil Rabbett - Bathurst Central Council President

Castlereagh Regional President – Helen Naef

Merry Christmas Everyone

I have just completed my first quarter as the new Castlereagh Regional President. We held our quarterly meeting in Coonabarabran on Wednesday, 2nd December 2020, and it was wonderful to have Kathleen Thickett (Vice President for Members, Volunteers & Youth) join us for this meeting. Kathleen commented on how great it is to meet members face to face to appreciate the unique work of "Country" Conferences.



Kathleen presented a certificate of appreciation to Lois Sutton retiring (Conference & Shop President) Coonabarabran.

Farewell and Thank you Lois from us all.

A stand out feature this year has been COVID-19. Conferences and Shop staff have been kept busy adhering to COVID-19 guidelines and premises metre rules, and our general public is now very cooperative and compliant in store and conference.

Photo L to R: Lois & Kathleen

With Financial Covid 19 supplements and payments winding back we will be expecting WE CARE requests for assistance to become more active again in 2021. The Vinnies footprint in our communities cannot be underestimated. Along with financial assistance requests, we know how important it is that clients also have someone to talk to. We can make effective referrals for our clients when we are aware of situations that are impacting on the complexities of their lives.

Vinnies Training is ongoing with Code of Conduct at the forefront. Some Members and Volunteers have already been online to complete this whilst others will do this in groups.

Some Shops/Conferences have already enjoyed their Christmas luncheons - which is in appreciation and a thankyou from Vinnies in 2020.

Dubbo Volunteers and Members celebrated their Christmas gathering on 5th December at St Brigid's Hall. During the course of the lunch Pat Thornton (Shop President), who is retiring from this position at the end of the year was presented with a 20 year Certificate of Appreciation by Pat Yeo, past Castlereagh Regional President & Day Coordinator Carmel Carolan. Photo L to R: Pat Thornton, Carmel Carolan & Pat Yeo



Pat has held many positions within her 20 years - starting as a Volunteer, Day Coordinator, Shop President, Member of St Jude's Conference (no longer functioning) & currently Member of St Brigid's Care & Support & Conference Secretary.

Pat is looking forward to still being a Volunteer but without the responsibility of being the President.

A big thank you to all Conferences who have been working on Christmas Hampers/and or vouchers. Some Conferences have received generous donations from schools and businesses, this is fantastic kindness at Christmas and very Vincentian.

On behalf of all Vinnies Members and Volunteers in the Castlereagh Region, I would like to thank Neil Rabbett our Central Council President, the lovely staff at the Vinnies Orange office and Phil Donnan for their support to our region throughout 2020.

I trust the spirit and good will of all our Vinnies Members and Volunteers has made a positive difference to those we have supported in 2020.

..... "Love and hospitality are not abstract. To have Christ in our lives, to put him back into Christmas, involves something much more than protesting commercialism. It involves creating time for him, time for the those in need, time for hospitality, time for celebration, time for prayer, time for the itinerant couple who show up unannounced on a busy night. To make a holiday is to, ultimately, make a holy day. We must create some room in the inn!"

Fr Ron Rolheiser OMI



God Bless
Helen Naef

Cudgegong Regional Council President - Carol Jones

Hi Everyone

Just a little newsy letter from the Cudgegong region. We recently farewelled St Mary's Conference Member Brian McCarney. Brian had been with the Society for 63 years in his varied roles as a Member, Conference & Regional President, and more recently Bathurst Central Council Social Justice Representative. We wish Brian and his lovely wife Marjorie all the best for the future.



A massive thank you goes to the Mudgee High School year 12 students for their awesome donation to the Vinnies Drought appeal. They raised these funds (\$17,251.20) by having a Rainbow day, BBQ's and Raffles. A job WELL DONE!! The Society is sincerely grateful and very appreciative of all the hard work that produced such a huge donation.



Photo left: L to R: Members Margaret Colley, Keith Baker, Students Mudgee High School, Carol Jones & member Leonie Burns.



Photo left: L to R: Wayne Eade Principle, Teacher Adrian Couch & North West Regional Director Phil Donnan.

This wonderful town of Mudgee just keeps giving and giving.

St Matthew's school students along with their teacher Mr Ross McKeown have put together 40 hampers to be delivered to our Senior citizens in December. A very thoughtful gesture.

The Mudgee Annual Toyrun and Muster has once again helped out with food and toys, they are associated with S&S Meats, Aldi and the Globe Hotel Rylstone.

The Centennial Hotel Gulgong is accepting gifts for their wishing tree which is displayed at their premises, this is on behalf of the Toyrun for Vinnies Mudgee and Barnardos.

Joy Shawe (photo right) from "Share the Dignity" dropped off an incredible amount of bags which contain personal items for women in need. For her tireless efforts Joy was presented with an Appreciation Certificate from Vinnies.



Club Mudgee for their grocery only cards and Ulan Coal for their donation of 300 toys for our Mudgee community and the surrounding areas. We are truly blessed.



Mudgee Conference Members and Carol Jones (President) were very surprised to receive a visit from Bushfire client - Pamela Chadwick who is pictured left. Pamela dropped off some flowers and a letter of appreciation as a thank you for all the help and assistance that she received from the Society during the bushfires. The Conference was overwhelmed by her thoughtfulness.

On behalf of St Mary's Conference/Retail, Coolah/Dunedoo and Gulgong, we would like to extend best wishes to Phil Donnan, Neil Rabbett and all the Staff at the Orange office, Retail management, and all Staff in the North West region, a safe, happy and a blessed Christmas.

Looking forward to a much brighter, happier and healthier 2021 for all.

God Bless
Carol Jones

Evans Regional Council President - Marina Gray

The biggest thank you to the Members and Volunteers for what I think would have been one of the hardest years on record for us all.

Evans region in 2020 covered Kandos, Lithgow, Bathurst, Wallerawang, Portland and Bathurst.

Things have been different this year, in many ways we have had to change the way we do things. I social distance and it's hard for a hugger, I find now that I have second thoughts and hesitations to what was a natural thing for me. We have gone from face to face to virtual team meetings and phone hook-ups. I bet we all have stories on technology or lack of. This year has brought to Vinnies different people in need.

Drought - after many years of people just hanging on, we have seen people who would never ask for assistance, farmers, contractors, workers it has had a domino effect of people requesting assistance. They are still recovering and will take some time even though we have had rain. The Conferences set up where they could, and relayed information of where Vinnies may be able to assist.

Bushfires - I am so proud of the Evans Region banding together to assist where needed with the fires. There were many sleepless nights for Members and Volunteers helping out. They assisted in many places and to name a few Fire Control Centres, Evacuation centres, and on the ground. Then we had many long days and nights assisting with the ERF and Vinnies grants to help so many people in need, where they lost homes, their pets, stock, their livelihood and so much more. I have gone to places I had never heard of before and we all travelled many, many extra miles. The Vinnies team did so many extra miles during the bushfires, and Thank you for giving up your Christmas 2020 and further time assisting people in need. Now that thing called COVID 19 - well haven't we learnt many new ways of doing things. Vinnies has taken on a whole new approach of assisting, and it just shows at the grassroots how resilient they are, taking on anything thrown at them.

Bathurst St Therese Conference participated in the Vinnies virtual Community Sleepout, they raised funds for John Therry House, which is a new Women's refugee and Homeless shelter in Kelso Bathurst, which will be opening soon, 100% of funds raised by Bathurst stay in Bathurst. They raised an incredible amount of \$12,331.05 what an achievement especially joining in later and during COVID, as they weren't able to get out there and fundraise like normal.

Our Members and Volunteers are Vinnies strength and are at the grass roots, I thank you.

Well done Team Vinnies.

Remember a smile is infectious, smile and people smile back.

Merry Christmas - Marina Gray

Orange Regional Council President - Jill Messenger

To say we have had a tumultuous year would be an understatement but with the faithful Volunteers and Members of the SVDP Society we have prevailed. I cannot thank them enough for their dedication and love of the Society.

We have two Conferences operating “normally” once again, Orange and Cowra. Molong, Canowindra and Blayney are still doing phone conference work due to the Covid-19 restrictions on distancing. It was hoped this restriction would be relaxed soon & they could get back to face to face interviews, but this has not happened up to this point in time.

A few milestones have occurred with the loss of members such as Dr. Lawrence Sherwin from St Mary's Conference in Orange. Lawrie's sudden death left a hole in our hearts and our heartfelt sympathy went out to his wife Katie. A plaque and bouquet of flowers was presented to Katie in honour of Lawrie.

We have also had a number of retirements from the Society, namely Mary McCloskey from St Raphael's Conference in Cowra and Peter Sutton (pictured left with Jill Messenger) from St James Conference in Blayney. Both of these long serving members were presented with certificates of service for their time spent with us. It was a sad loss for the Society to lose these two active members, but we wish them well for the future.



Towards the end of October we had a meeting with the three (3) Orange Conferences, Holy Family, St Mary's & St Joseph's to discuss having these three (3) Conferences uniting as one. This was achieved with a majority vote at the meeting and the new Conference will be St Mary's & St Joseph's Conference operating out of 88 Bathurst Road, Orange. Early in the New Year a formal committee will be appointed, at the moment five (5) members are in charge of activities. I would like to personally thank them for their time regarding this new Conference.

This year we have been introduced to a new form of technology, it is called Microsoft Teams Meetings or Zoom. This has proved to be an essential part of our work with the Society as face to face meetings were not possible. It was hilarious to see Regional Presidents with pink fluffy slippers & beanies on at a meeting! I can assure everyone that the work does get done & decisions are made even with this frivolity.



On Thursday, 10th December Mini Vinnies students and their teacher in charge Mrs Kate Wright presented to Orange Conference Members Chris Worley, Ros & Dudley Brander, Tony Davidson, Bill Kelly and Staff member Denise Martin about 50 bags of food and toys for people in need this Christmas. This is something the entire school community of Catherine McAuley organises each Christmas for Vinnies.

The school community of James Sheahan Catholic High School in Orange also donates yearly to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal by organising toys for children less fortunate. These were presented to Conference Members Chris Worley & Tony Davidson on Friday, 11th December.



On Tuesday, 8th December Chris Worley (President St Joseph's Conference Orange) presented an Appreciation Certificate to Millthorpe school student Olivia Eltham at the Vinnies office in Orange. Olivia who is just 6 years old raised \$58 for the Vinnies Christmas Appeal by selling lemonade from her own lemonade stand. What a great initiative from someone so young. Might be an up and coming Vincentian in the future. Well Done Olivia!!

Photo L to R: Chris Worley, Olivia Eltham and Angela Eltham (Olivia's Mum).

As our year comes to a close & Christmas hampers are on our minds, I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all our members and volunteers a Blessed Christmas for 2020.

It may not be a normal one as we have known in the past, but I know that as Vincentians you will make your Christmas a memorable one.

Thank you all for your support throughout this year. I will leave you with the following:

Eight points from Blessed Mother Teresa regarding doing good works:

- People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered. **Forgive them.**
- If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. **Be kind anyway.**
- If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies. **Succeed anyway.**
- If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you. **Be honest and frank anyway.**
- What you spend years building, someone may destroy overnight. **Build anyway.**
- If you find serenity and happiness, people may be jealous. **Be happy anyway.**
- The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow. **Do good anyway.**
- Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough. **Give the world the best you've got anyway.**

Merry Christmas - Jill Messenger



Central Council Offices
Christmas Closing and Re-opening dates for 2021

Armidale

Closing - Thursday, 24th December 2020

Re-opening - Monday, 4th January 2021

Bathurst

Closing - Thursday, 24th December 2020

Re-opening - Monday, 4th January 2021

The Office staff of the North West Region would like to wish
all our incredible and hardworking Volunteers and Members
a wonderful and joyous Christmas with your family and friends
and a happy, healthy and safe
New Year 2021.

May God Bless you all this coming year as
you do his work as Vincentians.

