

March 2019 Newsletter

Plenary 2020

As you are no doubt aware, the Catholic people of Australia have been in a period of soul searching over a number of years. Individually and as a Church we have been confronted by the deceit and unlawfulness of people and leaders whom we had trusted.

We cannot deny the abuse of power and the terrible harm done to so many.

Despite these travails of the mind and soul, we are called to be a loving, missionary people. There is to be a Plenary Council of the Australian Bishops and Leaders in 2020. The Australian Bishops have called upon all people, Catholic and non-Catholic, to ask what it is that the Holy Spirit is calling us to. Their actual question is:

What do you think God is asking of us in Australia?

All of us have been invited to respond to this question. As far as I am aware, over 2600 individual responses have been received along with many parish and group reflections.

As I look at our Ministry here at the Shopfront, I am also called to ask “what it is that God is asking of us?” Is what we are doing and how it is being done the only way? Are we a loving face of God? What are we doing and could we be responding differently?

Perhaps the more important question is not about The Shopfront – it really is about me as an individual. Why am I here? What is my motivation? What am I hoping for? Can I be different or do things differently or better?

What is your response to the Bishops call?

Damian

Easter & ANZAC Day

The Shopfront will be **CLOSED** on the following dates:

Thursday 18th April

Good Friday 19th April

Easter Monday 22nd April

ANZAC Day Thursday 25th April



Thank you and Vale

Almost 7 years ago, St Vincent de Paul began working from The Shopfront providing a listening ear and tangible support via help with clothing vouchers, utility bill payment support and in so many other ways. Throughout that time Joan has been a constant: coming in twice a week, and when SVDP required it, a relief volunteer. Joan has decided that it is time for her to reluctantly move on from her commitment here with us.

After so many years of heartfelt and generous service to The Shopfront and the many visitors, Joan will be missed.

Volunteers Event

Volunteers, you are the lifeblood of The Shopfront, without you we could not operate. You give so much to our visitors and we would like to give back to you with a get together to say thank you.

Please join us at the **Bayswater Hotel** on **Sunday 14th April** from **3pm until 5pm**. Partners are also very welcome. **RSVP** to Damian or Rosemary before **5th April** if possible please.

Student Placement



In early February we welcomed Ronisha to the team. Ronisha is in her second year studying a Masters of Social Work at UWA and will be with us Monday to Friday until the end of May. She is also helping out on a Tuesday evening on occasion and has already proven herself to be a real asset to The Shopfront.

Ronisha is an international student from Kerala, in the south of India, and along with her family, has called Australia home for the last 2 years. She hopes to get employment as a hospital social worker once she graduates at the end of the year and continue to live in Australia. Thank you for choosing The Shopfront for your placement Ronisha!