

The St. Thomas More Parish, Mt Eliza Social Justice Group

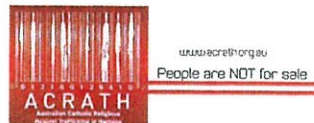
meets every 2nd month on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Parish Community Centre.

**We discuss and share information on a range of issues including-
Homelessness
Newstart Allowance
Asylum Seekers
Human Trafficking and Slavery**

Some of us write letters to local MP's and newspapers, visit families, raise awareness, fundraise, join the Palm Sunday march, or we just come to listen and learn.

This flyer includes some of the groups running in the Parish. Feel free to contact anyone named, or the Parish Office to offer support, or to find out more about our meetings.

**All are welcome
Jacinta Griffin
Bernard Dobson**



Members of the St Thomas More Parish Social Justice Group work with ACRATH. Its vision is of a world free of human trafficking. It sees its purpose as being to stop human trafficking, and the harm it causes, in Australia, the Asia Pacific region and globally, in collaboration with others. It values the dignity of each human person as being made in the image and likeness of God. It values justice and human rights and the rights of women.

It is committed to the elimination of human trafficking in sexual exploitation and in forced labour in domestic servitude, agriculture, hospitals and in the sex industry. It aims to eliminate forced marriage and to ensure that all people who have been trafficked access their rights and it promotes slavery-free supply chains for the supply of chocolate, coffee, tea, cotton, clothing, seafood and electronics.

It works in collaboration with other groups to raise awareness leading to action that will result in systemic change, locally and globally. It advocates with governments and collaborates with counter trafficking networks, including the Federal police. It provides educational programs for schools and adult groups, training for marriage celebrants and provides companionship and support for persons who have been trafficked or who are victims/survivors/or families affected by forced marriage.

**Contact Bernard Dobson 0409 943 854 or
Mary Cameron 0418 625 623**



Brosnan Social Services - Peninsula Support Group

We are a group of over 100 families who support the work of Brosnan Social Services and have been doing so for 35 years. Brosnan Services was named after Fr. John Brosnan, prison chaplain at Pentridge for many years. He always claimed that young people being released from youth training centres and prisons, needed three things - a decent place to live, a friend, and meaningful work.

At the inaugural Easter Vigil Mass in the new St Thomas More Church it was decided to ask families to contribute \$25 annually.

We have continued to do that do that for 35 years. Rather than increasing the donation, we ask each family to invite one other family each year to join the Peninsula Support Group.

Please contact Maree Shelton 0418337950 or Max Kufer 0407873612 for further information

Our Schools -

St. Thomas More Primary School are always working towards Social Justice. This year they are collecting milk bottle tops for Envision, a local charity that is collecting bottle top lids to make prosthetic arms for underprivileged children in India. Please support this initiative
Padua College- various Social Justice activities occur throughout the year across all levels, in particular the senior CAP (Catholic Action Program) involves students in a range of ways including the annual St. Vinnies Trivia Night. Run and organised by the students this year they raised over \$7000. Please support the students when possible



The Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project (BASP) is a Melbourne based project that supports asylum seekers in our community in a variety of ways. The aim is to provide hospitality and practical support for people seeking asylum as well as advocacy and education. This can occur through weekly visits to an asylum seeker or family to sit and talk. Two people are paired, background information is shared, a meeting with the asylum seeker, volunteers and a BASP representative takes place where an arrangement to meet weekly is agreed upon.

A typical visit may involve helping an asylum seeker read and understand an official document, or a school newsletter, a trip to the shops, or simply sitting and listening. We've shared recipes, helped decipher school reports, explained what parent/teacher interviews are, sort assistance in getting a television to work. Things that we might take for granted but can be difficult for people with limited English.

BASP organises regular gatherings for volunteers, provide resources to help with English and encourage networking between volunteers.

Contact Jacinta Griffin- via Parish Office 9787 7777 or Bernard Dobson -0409 943 854



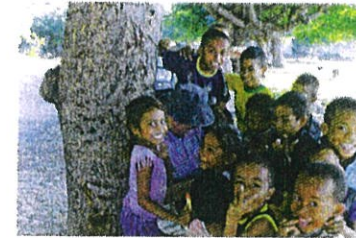
St Vincent de Paul are people of faith. A Christian/Catholic volunteer organisation founded in 1833 who are committed to sharing who we are and what we have with our neighbours.

We are local people who meet together on a regular basis and are committed to person to person care by meeting people in their own homes.

We care for people who are disadvantaged, homeless, victims of drug abuse and domestic violence.

We aim to encourage people to take control of their own destinies.

The St. Thomas More group meet every 2nd Monday at 7.30pm in the Parish Community Centre. Contact Barry Hanson (President) via the Parish Office 9787 7777 for further details



Friends of Timor Leste/ East Timor

The Friends of East Timor group is part of the Deanery of Catholic Churches of the Mornington Peninsula, working with the Salesians in East Timor in the Laga sub district, some 150 Kms east of Dili.

St. Thomas More Parish has supported this group since 2002 when Salesian priest Fr. Trans visited. Coordinated here by Les Harper, we have contributed to the building or refurbishment of 8 schools, a church and to the feeding and clothing of children on a daily basis.

We have helped fill 38 containers containing donated goods, including school desk top computers, writing materials, school backpacks and Baby Boxes.

We also support the sponsorship of students unable to pay school or university fees.

Each weekend at masses during the Offertory Procession, rice and lentils are taken to the altar as we pray for and remember the people of East Timor. There is a donation box in the church foyer. Les Harper is the driving force who regularly speaks to school groups and other parish groups to share the work that is being done.

For more information contact Les Harper via the Parish Office 9787 7777, or view website lesharper.org