*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*



Parish Priest: Fr Barry Hughes

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 St. Theresa’s Primary School - 93119070

 16 Drummartin St., Albion 3020

 Principal: Rob Macklin

Mother of God Primary School - 93631734

 Blanche St., Ardeer 3022

 Principal: Assunta Iacovino

*“Do Small Things Well”*

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THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT Year B 16 & 17 December 2023

RECONCILIATION Saturday 23rd December

 9am at Queen of Heaven 10am at St Theresa’s 11am at Mother of God

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December Mother of God Church, Blanche St., Ardeer 6.00pm

 Queen of Heaven Church, Holt St., Ardeer 8.00pm

 St Theresa’s Church, Drummartin St., Albion 12.00 Midnight

 Mother of God Church, Blanche St., Ardeer (Pol) 12.00 Midnight

Christmas Day Monday 25th December Queen of Heaven Church, Holt St., Ardeer 9.00am

 Mother of God Church, Blanche St., Ardeer (Polish) 10.15am

 St Theresa’s Church, Drummartin St., Albion 10.30am

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION THANK YOU to all who gave so generously. We raised $646.

ADVENT APPEAL FOR UKRAINE

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli visited Ukraine earlier this year. An advent appeal has been launched to raise funds to provide aid and practical assistance to those who have been displaced and who are without basic supplies, especially the sick and the elderly. Postcards and envelopes are available at each Church.

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| MASSES THIS WEEK ST THERESA’SDrummartin St, Albion 9.00am Friday10.30am SundayMOTHER OF GODBlanche St, Ardeer10.00am Wednesday(Pol) 9.00am Thurs 6.00pm Friday (Polish) 5.30pm Saturday10.15am Sunday (Polish)QUEEN OF HEAVENHolt St, Ardeer  8.00am Wed 9.00am SundayCHRIST’S CATHOLIC COMMUNITYMeeting Thursdays, 7.00 - 8.30pm, at Queen of Heaven Church |  | READERS/COMMENTATORS NEEDEDMother of God’s reader/commentator roster is low on people. Is there anyone who regularly attends Saturday night Mass and is willing to be a part of this service to the parish? Please talk to one of the current readers or call the office on 93113091. 2024 COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR Calendars now on sale - $10 eachCOLLECTIONS RECEIVEDThanksgiving $937 Loose Money $278 Presbytery $567COUNTERS 24th December Team 2: J Meilak, P PaceFEAST DAYSSt Stephen the first Martyr, 26 DecemberSt John, Apostle & Evangerlist, 27 DecemberThe Holy Innocents, Martyrs, 28 DecemberREADINGS Today Next WeekIsaiah 61.1-2a,10-11 2 Samuel 7.1-5,8b-12,14a,16Luke 1.47-48,49-50,53-54 Ps 89.1-2,3-4,26+28,(R.1a)1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 Romans 16.25-27John 1.6-8,19-28 Luke 1.26-38 |

*St Theresa’s Parish is* committed *to the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults*

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate                                                            *Witness to the Light*

St John’s Gospel never calls John, ‘the Baptist’. No, he is John the Witness: ‘a witness to speak for the Light’. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ’s body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb.

We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as ‘Christ our Light’, the Conqueror of Death.

As a baptised people our allegiance to ‘The Light’ is not to be a private matter between ‘me and God’. No, like John, we must bear witness to ‘The Light’ by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people’s lives.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.

This reflection is very apt considering the theme for next year’s Catholic Education Week is - In the light of Christ.

John 8: 12 – Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.’

Matthew 5: 16 – In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

2 Corinthians 4: 6 – For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

‘Our common mission ahead is to form lives of faith, hope and love in the light of Jesus Christ.’

‘By cultivating a maturing of faith and the intellectual life through the modelling of good relationships, Catholic school students are prepared for living fruitfully in the world.’

‘In the light of Jesus Christ – Christ is our inspiration, the very life of our purpose as Catholic educators. Everything we do is illuminated by this.’

‘Our Redeemer is young because he is alive. He radiates life, drawing all other lives into his. But if Jesus Christ is gloriously young, then his Body, the Church, is meant to be young. This is the Church our young people want to discover, one that is vital and alive in Christ. Our task is to rediscover this young Church, as a new gospel fire, not just for the young, but for us all. Our common task is to rediscover the young Church; not to remake the Church for the young. Our own faith needs to lead us out into the world.’

I know that throughout 2024, this theme will be picked up many times, to help the children grow in the ‘Light of Christ’.

I would like to thank Fr. Barry for the opportunity to be part of the team that reflects and scribes their thoughts relating to the Sunday Readings.

In 2024, I will be standing down from my Religious Education Leader role at St. Theresa’s school and commencing some leave before officially retiring later next year. I have loved being part of this parish community and getting to know many of you through the Parish Board, Friday masses, attending Sunday mass, the sacramental program and just generally seeing you around the school and church.

One of the high-lights for me in my time in the parish was the opportunity to gather input from the members of the three churches and two schools relating to the sorts of things they would like to be included in our parish prayer.

After much deliberation, the prayer was written, the wording checked, the content discussed and finally our parish prayer came into being, by being ratified by the Parish Board.. For me this prayer encompassed the essence of what we are about and the way we show our Catholic Faith and Traditions.

Wishing you all a peaceful, happy and holy Christmas. So for now I am signing off 2023. God bless and stay safe!!

Doriana Cooper Religious Education Leader @ St Theresa’s School