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*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*

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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”*

 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A 14 & 15 January 2023

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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 Thursday 6.00pm Friday (Polish)  5.30pm Saturday10.15am Sunday (Polish)QUEEN OF HEAVENHolt St, Ardeer  8.00am Wednesday 9.00am SundayRECONCILIATION(Individual confession)Saturday 21st January, 10.00am at St Theresa’s.CHRIST’S CATHOLIC COMMUNITYPrayer Group meets every Thursday, 7.00 - 8.30pm, at Queen of Heaven Church. All are welcome. |  | CUPPA AFTER MASSJoin us after Mass for a cuppa and a chat. Why not take this opportunity to enjoy the company of your fellow parishioners, and get to know one another better. Share your Christmas, New Year’s and summer holiday stories. The Cuppa after Mass will be scheduled each month on the first Sunday of the month and the previous Saturday evening.COLUMBAN CALANDER Still available at St Theresa’s Church CLEANING ROSTER AT ST THERESA’S New roster being prepared anyone wishing to help out in this or any other roster please contact the Parish Office. COLLECTIONS RECEIVEDThanksgiving $859 Loose Money $334 Presbytery $558Christmas Offerings $531COUNTERS 22 January  Team 4: J Camilleri, M Buhagiar, J ZammitFEAST DAYS THIS WEEKSt Anthony, 17 JanuarySt Agnes, 21 JanuaryREADINGS *Today Next Week**Isaiah 49.3,5-6 Isaiah 9.1-4**Ps 40.1+3a,7-9,9 (R.7-8) Ps 27.1,4,13-14 (R.1a)**1 Corinthians 1.1-3 1 Corinthians 1.10-13,17-18**John 1.29-34 Matthew 4.12-23* |

PARISH DAY OUT……The Lume Monet and Friends Exhibition at Convention Centre South Wharf….Monday 6th February Cost: $36-45 (Group of 10 people of more), easy access via Public transport leaving from Sunshine Train Station. Payment required on booking please contact Ann Maree 0401 192 079 RSVP 30th January

PARISH CARAVAN, Safety Beach / Dromana If you would like to use our Caravan please call the Parish Office on 9311 3091 to book. It sleeps up to six (very cosy) and costs $60 per night. The Caravan Park is up and running! You need to fill out an online QR Booking Form. There are some spots available over the next weeks or from February onwards.

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

THE PASSING OF CARDINAL GEORGE PELL

I have been hesitating to write anything about the death of Cardinal Pell. His passing has reignited so much controversy. Most commentary has been either highly in praise of him, or highly in condemnation, with little in between. What can be said without throwing more fuel on the fire? It seems that anything that is said will be upsetting to some.

A person who some see as having done much good, and some see as having done much evil, or not having done enough to stamp out evil, has passed from this life. From a faith point of view my hope and prayer is that whatever good this person has done will go with him, and that whatever wrong he has done and whatever good he has failed to do will be forgiven.

It is incontrovertible that great hurt has been done to many people by sexual abuse committed by priests and other church personnel. For many victims/survivors the pain lasts for a very long time, even a lifetime. Clearly, it would be very difficult, if not impossible, for those who know that pain to pray or wish for those who have caused or contributed to it, or failed to respond adequately to their pain, to be forgiven. The late cardinal is seen by many as fitting into those categories. Cardinal Pell strongly denied any guilt on his part.

Sadly, the news of the death of George Pell, and all the publicity surrounding it has reawakened painful memories for victims/survivors of church abuse. The decision of Premier Daniel Andrews to not hold a state memorial service which would have aggravated the pain is clearly wise. Andrews offered condolences to family and friends of George and then went on to say to victims of sexual abuse, “We see you, we believe you, we support you.”

While much has been done by the Church to guard against further abuse happening, and some steps have been taken to support victims of abuse, there is still much more to be done.

I was close to completing this reflection when the news of Cardinal Pell’s severe criticism of Pope Francis broke. Because of that, and in the light of what I wrote at the beginning of this reflection, I am prepared to say that I have never been one to be in praise of George Pell. In an article originally published under a pseudonym and now attributed to him, Pell said amongst other criticisms that Pope Francis’ papacy, including his efforts to make the Church more inclusive and welcoming, is a catastrophe for the Church. If Pell was prepared to criticize Pope Francis in such terms then I believe I am justified in saying that I see Pell’s rise to a position of such prominence in the Church as a catastrophe. Despite what I have said above, I don’t find it easy to pray for his forgiveness.

Father Barry