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*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*

Parish Priest: Fr Barry Hughes

Presbytery: 17 Drummartin St., Albion 3020

Phone: 9311 3091

email: caalbion@netspace.net.au

http://pol.org.au/albion/Home.aspx

Mobile: 0428 533 391

Polish Chaplain: Fr Marian Szeptak

Residence: 185 William St., St Albans 3021

Phosne: 9310 9057

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 9310 905

 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”*

 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A 21 & 22 January 2023

PARISH DAY OUT……The Lume Monet and Friends Exhibition at Convention Centre South Warf….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

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| MASSES THIS WEEK ST THERESA’SDrummartin St, Albion 8.00am 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 29th January, 10.00am at Mother of God |  | CHRIST’S CATHOLIC COMMUNITYPrayer Group meets every Thursday, 7.00 - 8.30pm, at Queen of Heaven Church. All are welcomeCOLUMBAN 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 $738 Loose Money $266 Presbytery $617Christmas Offerings $558COUNTERS 29 January  Team 1: D Catania, M Catania, C XuerebFEAST DAYS THIS WEEKSt Francis de Sales, 24 JanuaryConversion of St Paul the Apostle, 25 January,St Thomas Aquinas, 28 JanuaryREADINGS *Today Next Week**Isaiah 9.1-4 Zephaniah 2.3;3.12-13**Ps 27.1,4,13-14 (R.1a) Ps 146.6c-7,8-9a,9b-10 (R5.3)**1 Corinthians 1.10-13,17-18 1 Corinthians 1.26-31**Matthew 4.12-23 Matthew 5.1-12a* |

POSITIONS VACANT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

         Pastoral Worker – St Andrew’s Parish, Werribee

         Parish Bookkeeper – St Andrew’s Parish, Werribee

         Parish Secretary – St Dominic’s Parish, Melton

         Cook – Bayside Catholic Mission

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

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

CATHOLICS CELEBRATING LUNAR NEW YEAR

Lunar New Year celebrations begin today, Sunday 22nd January 2023, with today’s New Moon. Many Catholics of different Asian heritages celebrate it in an especially Catholic way. Here in an article written for Lunar New Year 2021 Fr Trac Nguyen gives us an insight into this.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

In the Western world, Christmas and New Year are wonderful occasions for celebrating and gathering with family, relatives and friends. Precious moments are often created around the table, over a shared meal and the swapping of stories from the year gone by. It is a similar experience in the Eastern world when families from Chinese, Vietnamese and other Asian backgrounds gather for Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, which marks the first new moon of the lunar calendar.

For the Vietnamese, Lunar New Year, or 'Tet',is one of the most significant events on our calendar for families, for it marks the coming together of generations—both living and deceased. Traditionally (and in non-COVID circumstances!), the Lunar New Year is a time for people to return home to their province or country, to participate in celebrations that often begin days before the actual new year and continue for a few days after. This year the annual Dragon Parade in Melbourne's CBD was cancelled but that didn't stop people celebrating in their own ways with family and friends.

Three days before the New Year

Lunar New Year is a time of great preparation and excitement. Celebrations begin days before the first new moon to allow those who live far from home to return. People who work in the city thus have time to travel to their parents' homes and those living overseas travel home.

The three days in the lead up to the New Year allows us the time to clean our houses in preparation and to throw out old things, mop the floor, fix broken things and buy new items. It also involves cooking traditional food like ‘sticky rice cake’ and decorating the house with flowers and the animal of the year, which in 2021 is the Ox or Buffalo.

During this time people make it a point to visit the cemetery where family members are buried. Tombs or graves are cleaned and decorated with fresh flowers.

The first three days of the New Year

On the first day of the new year, my family goes to church early in the morning and then heads to the cemetery to visit the graves of our family members. Later on the whole family gathers for a meal and to wish one another happiness, prosperity and success for the coming year, accompanied by the traditional handing out of the red envelope from the older generation to the younger. The rest of the day is spent playing cards and eating.

The second day is dedicated to our ancestors and deceased members of the family. We usually attend Mass which is held at the cemetery and again visit our family graves to pray for the deceased. The rest of the day includes more card playing and of course more eating!

On the third day, we go to Mass in the morning to pray for the year ahead and also to pray for vocations. From the cemetery, we visit one another’s homes and naturally, time is spent around the table—eating or playing cards!

Various countries and families will have some different ways of celebrating their Lunar New Year, but the most important aspect of the celebration is the time we makefor family and friends. Sadly, of course, the pandemic has meant that a lot of families could not gather physically. Nonetheless, I wish everyone who celebrates it a happy Lunar New Year, and I hope that this year of the Ox or Buffalo brings happiness and blessings from our merciful God.