*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*



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St. Theresa’s Primary School – 9311 9070

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Principal: Rob Macklin

Mother of God Primary School – 9363 1734

Blanche St, Ardeer 3022

Principal: Assunta Iacovino

*“Do Small Things Well”*

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A 29 & 30 July 2023

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| MASSES THIS WEEK  ST THERESA’S  Drummartin St, Albion  9.00am Friday  10.30am Sunday  MOTHER OF GOD  Blanche St, Ardeer  10.00am Wednesday (Pol)  9.00am Thurs  6.00pm Friday (Polish)  5.30pm Saturday  10.15am Sunday (Polish)  QUEEN OF HEAVEN  Holt St, Ardeer  9.30am Wednesday  9.00am Sunday  CHRIST’S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  Meeting Thursday, 7.00 - 8.30pm, at Queen of Heaven Church |  | CUPPA AFTER MASS Join us next weekend after each 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? Please bring a plate to share.  PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM  Meeting on Wednesday 2nd August, 7pm at St Theresa’s School  COLLECTIONS RECEIVED  Thanksgiving $743 Loose Money $354 Presbytery $544  COUNTERS 6th August  Team 4: J Camilleri, M Buhagiar, J Zammit  FEAST DAYS  St Ignatius of Loyola, 31 July  St Alphonsus Mary Liguori, 1 August  St Peter Faber, 2 August  St Dominic, 3 August  St John Mary Vianney, 4 August  READINGS *Today Next Week*  *1 Kings 3.5-12++ Daniel 7:9-10,13-14*  *Ps 119.57+72,76-77, Ps 97:1-2,5-6, 9, 12*  *127-128,129-130(R.97)*  *Romans 8.28-30 2 Peter 1:16-19*  *Matthew 13.44-52 Matthew 17:1-9* |

PARISH MOVIE MORNING Monday 31st July, 9.50am for ‘Red, White & Brass’ at Sunshine Village Cinema, Tickets $9. RSVP Ann-Maree on 0401 192 079 by Sunday 30th July.

ST JOSEPH’S BY THE SEA 16 Esplanade, Williamstown Starting Wednesday 2nd

*Treasuring our later Years* 5 days of reflections over the month of August, Wednesdays 10am-12.30pm Cost $20 per session

*“Treasuring our later years is a focus on how old age enlightens – we come with a wealth of experiences to treasure and to share with others. We are also opened to new opportunities, to come alive in new ways.* RSVP 2 days before on 9397 6012 for all sessions

SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB “Prospects for a synodal church in Australia – and beyond.” Presenters: Janette and Richard Curtain. 2nd August Wednesday, 7.30pm, ST ANDREW’S HOTEL 124 Nicholson St Fitzroy. Meals available from 6.00pm. Book with the hotel on 9417 2817, quoting Spirituality in the Pub to assist with setting out the necessary tables. Support the Pub that supports Spirituality in the Pub! A flyer with more information is on the church noticeboards.

REFLECTION on Matthew 13:44-52 by David Schmitt, professor of practical theology, and chair of the practical department at Concordia seminary, St. Louis, mo.

Parables are prisms. Depending on how you hold them in your imagination, they display different rays of light. This pair of parables is a case in point. In this interpretation, the treasure in the parables is the Gospel and they offer us a glimpse of a pattern we see in the ministry of Jesus. The pattern has three parts to it, that teach three truths.

First, God’s Kingdom comes by grace to those who are searching and to those who are not… As the parables open, they are quite dissimilar. In the first parable, we have a person who is not searching for a treasure. He is merely there in someone else’s field. Suddenly, however, he comes across a treasure, unexpectedly. In the second parable, we have a person who is described as searching for a pearl. He is a merchant who can calculate a pearl’s value and is intent on finding one of great price. For both men, searching and not searching, however, the kingdom comes. It happens to them. They suddenly discover it, regardless of whether they were seeking it or not.

In the ministry of Jesus, God’s Kingdom comes to those who are searching and not searching. Some of the people Jesus encounters are searching for the Kingdom. John the Baptiser, Simeon and Anna, Nicodemus, Zacchaeus, and the rich young ruler to name a few. To these people who are searching for the Kingdom, Jesus comes. Others, however, are not looking at all. Peter, Andrew, James, and John are fishing. Matthew is collecting taxes at his booth. The Widow of Nain is burying her son. To these people who are not searching, the Kingdom also comes. Whether you are searching or not searching, God’s Kingdom comes by grace.

So, it continues today. A child baptised as an infant is not seeking the Kingdom, but an adult convert may have struggled for years to find meaning in life before encountering Jesus. Whether you are seeking or not seeking, God’s Kingdom comes to you in Jesus by grace.

Second, when God’s Kingdom comes, it causes you to value all of life differently. In both parables, once individuals encounter the Kingdom, they sell all they have. There is not one aspect of their life that does not have value in relation to this kingdom.

So, too, in His ministry, Jesus taught His disciples to see their lives differently. Rather than lay up for themselves treasures on earth, they give up all they have and follow him, laying up treasures in Heaven. The call to discipleship involves losing one’s life for the sake of Christ. When a disciple loses one’s life, the disciples find true life in Him.

This continues today. As God’s people, we have a different view on life. With Jesus, our lives are suddenly transformed. The poor in spirit, the mourning, and the meek are blessed and our lives are a witness of God’s work in the world. A child in the womb is a life to be protected. An elderly person, living with dementia, is not someone who God will forget but, rather, one for whom God cares. When the Kingdom comes, all of life is valued differently.

Third, discipleship is learning to live off the grace of God in His kingdom…

Some parables in Scripture are open-ended. They leave you wondering. These two parables in Matthew leave us in a paradoxical situation. How will these people live? They have sold all they have to possess the treasure and yet now they will need to rely on the treasure for the necessities of life. In other words, those who possess the Kingdom are actually possessed by it.

For the disciples, following Christ means living daily off His grace. Like the master Jesus speaks of at the end of these parables, disciples continually return to the treasures of the Kingdom, bringing out what is new and what is old.

In a consumerist culture, Christians can reduce the gospel to a commodity; something they possess like the Bible they keep on their shelf. The reign and rule of Jesus, however, is not a commodity. It is a present experience at work in our lives. In daily repentance, we come before Jesus to receive forgiveness of sins and in daily delight, we walk in His grace. Having sold all we have, we live only in relationship to Him.

These parables invite us to consider the mysterious way of the reign of God. The Kingdom of God comes by grace to those who are seeking and not seeking it. When it comes, it causes you to value all of life differently. Discipleship is learning to live off the grace of God in His kingdom.

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