*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*



Parish Priest: Fr Barry Hughes

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St. Theresa’s Primary School – 9311 9070

16 Drummartin St, Albion 3020

Principal: Rob Macklin

Mother of God Primary School – 9363 1734

Blanche St., Ardeer 3022

Principal: Assunta Iacovino

*“Do Small Things Well”*

12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A 24 & 25 JUNE 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 Thursday  6.00pm Friday (Polish)  5.30pm Saturday  10.15am Sunday (Polish)  QUEEN OF HEAVEN  Holt St, Ardeer  8.00am 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.  READERS & COMMENTATORS ROSTER  The new roster is out now, you should receive a copy by email or a copy will be at the back of the church for you to collect.  COLLECTIONS RECEIVED  Thanksgiving $777 Loose Money $322 Presbytery $556  COUNTERS 2nd July  Team 3: M Poulter, A Correya  FEAST DAYS  St Irenaeus, 28 June  Sts Peter & Paul, Apostles, 29 June  READINGS *Today Next Week*  *Jeremiah 20.7,10-13++ 2 Kings 4.8-12a,14-17++*  *Ps 69.7-9,13+16,32-33,35ab+36 Ps 89.1-2,15-16m,17-18 R1a*  *Romans 5.12-15 Romans 6.3-4,8-11*  *Matthew 10.26-33 Matthew 10.37-42* |

CANCELLED PARISH MOVIE MORNING Unfortunately Monday 26th June, 10.00am at Sunshine Village Cinema, Tickets $9. Will NOT be going ahead this time.

PARISH WEBSITE If you think you could be the right person to volunteer maintaining the Parish Website please contact the Parish Office on 9311 3091, we look forward to hear from you.

POSITIONS VACANT

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

* Parish Secretary – St Dominic’s Parish, Melton
* Evangelisation Coordinator - Corio & Lara Catholic Parish
* Parish Secretary - Parishes in Partnership, Thornbury

**Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**

* Safeguarding Officer

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

PARISH CARAVAN, Safety Beach / Dromana SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

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. An online QR Booking Form is required.

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

Reflection on the Gospel-

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Matthew 10:26-33) –

Veronica Lawson RSM

Many of those who once looked through the barbed-wire fences of Australia’s detention centres carry personal stories of fear of persecution. One such story, the story of Najaf Mazari, is beautifully narrated by Najaf and Robert Hillman in their joint work, The Rugmaker of Mazar-e-Sharif. Najaf is an Afghani Hazara who suffered persecution and torture at the hands of the Taliban. He escaped to Australia via Indonesia in 2002. After some time in detention, he established a rug making business in suburban Melbourne. He was reunited with his wife Hakeema and daughter Maria in 2008 and became an Australian citizen in June 2014.

Some first century Christian groups, including Matthew’s community, were a bit like the Afghani Hazaras and Syrian or Iraqi Christians in that they are persecuted simply on account of who they are vis-à-vis those who seek exclusive political and cultural power. They have every reason to fear bodily harm and even death, as suffered by Jesus and his followers. Jesus himself experienced fear in the face of his impending suffering and political execution. Yet Jesus tells his disciples, not once but three times, not to fear those who kill the body.

How are these words to be understood? To return to the story of Najif: the Taliban had power to destroy his body, but no power over his spirit. A man of deep faith, supported by a family who sacrificed their own comfort and placed their trust in God (Allah), he survived against the most incredible odds. Even if he had died in the effort to find freedom, his faith in the fullness of life with God would remain, in contrast with the bullying power of the Taliban who could kill the body but not an indomitable spirit.

Trust in God is at the heart of Jesus’ response to suffering. The disciples are sent to proclaim in the marketplace or from the “housetops” the gospel they have received in the security of the household. If they proclaim the gospel and acknowledge Jesus, he will in turn “acknowledge” them before God “in heaven”. They can expect rejection and humiliation. This is not to deter them from their mission. They are not to give up the struggle or capitulate in the face of persecution. Like all of God’s creatures, including the sparrows, they are precious in God’s eyes and will not be abandoned. On the contrary, even the hairs on their heads are numbered by God. Trust in God is the appropriate response to suffering endured for the sake of God’s empire as opposed to the empire of Rome. Trust in God does not take away the pain. As we move into this most extraordinary of Ordinary Times, we join with asylum seekers, refugees, the unemployed and the underemployed, with African American communities and especially, in this context, with the First Peoples of this country, for the justice that is their right. They are precious in God’s eyes. They are precious in our eyes and must not be abandoned