*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

Mobile: 0428 533 391

Polish Chaplain: Fr Marian Szeptak

Residence: 185 William St, St Albans 3021

Phone: 9310 9057

 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”*

PENTECOST SUNDAY Year A 27 & 28 May 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 Wed 9.00am SundayFUNERAL MASS for Gerard Lehane Tuesday 30th May 11am at St Theresa’s |  | CUPPA AFTER MASSJoin us next weekend June 3/4 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.CHRIST’S CATHOLIC COMMUNITYPrayer Group meets every Thursday, 7pm - 8.30pm at Queen of Heaven Church. All are welcomeCOLLECTIONS RECEIVEDThanksgiving $702 Loose Money $247 Presbytery $533 COUNTERS 4th June Team 3: M Poulter, A CorreyaFEAST DAYSMary, Mother of the Church, 29 MayThe visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 31 MaySt Charles Lwanga & Companions, 3 JuneREADINGS *Today Next Week**Acts 2.1-11 Exodus 34.4b-6,8-9**Ps 104.1ab+24ac,29b-30,31+34 Daniel 3.52,53,54,55,56 R.52**1 Corinthians 12.3b-7,12-13 2 Corinthians 13.11-13**John 20.19-23 John 3.16-18* |

PARISH MOVIE Monday 29th May 9.45am movie to be confirmed, Sunshine Village Cinema, Tickets $9. RSVP Ann-Maree Ph: 0401 192 079 by Sunday 28th May

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL

With Timor-Leste’s fragile infrastructure, reliance on local health practices, and limited access to medical care, many health conditions only worsen, and sadly can result in death.

Next week Catholic Mission will offer you the opportunity to partner with the Sr Carolina and the Salesian Sisters in Venilale, Timor-Leste, where your gift can help continue a life-saving program to help address this reality.

We hope you will take next week’s opportunity to make an incredible impact for those in need.

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

Reflection on the Gospel- Pentecost Sunday Year A

 (Acts 2:1-11; John 20:19-23) -Veronica Lawson RSM

Pentecost Sunday is often called the birthday of the Church. The earth itself features powerfully in the imagery associated with this feast: harvest, mountain, earthquake, thunder, fire. For the ancient Israelites, Pentecost (meaning ‘fiftieth’) was a harvest festival celebrated fifty days after the opening of the harvest. When the Jerusalem Temple was built, this harvest festival was transformed into a pilgrimage feast to celebrate the covenant that Israel had made with God on Mt Sinai. Several decades after the death of Jesus, the early Christians reflected on their origins and chose this feast to mark the birth of God’s new covenant with God’s people. In today’s first reading (Acts 2:1-11), Luke tells the new Pentecost story in symbolic language that evokes the story of Moses and the people of Israel receiving God’s Law on Mt. Sinai. Just as God’s presence to Israel was marked by earthquake and thunder and fire, so God’s Spirit enveloping the people of the new covenant in the upper room appears in a mighty rush of wind and tongues of fire. Luke’s account also evokes early rabbinic teaching that the voice of God on Sinai divided into seventy tongues and all the nations received God’s Law in their own tongue.

 For the teaching at the heart of the new covenant, we turn to the gospel reading from John 20:19-23. The resurrected Christ appears to the disciples who are huddled behind locked doors. He offers the simple greeting: “Peace be with you,” the greeting we have been in the practice of offering each other with a simple gesture at every Eucharistic celebration-until Covid-19 challenged us to find other ways of communicating the peace of Christ. Jesus sends his disciples on a mission of peace in continuity with his own God inspired mission. He breathes on them the gift of the Holy Spirit and tells them that God will forgive those whom they forgive, and will “retain” or “seize hold of” the transgressions of those whose sins or transgressions they “retain”. To seize hold of wrong-doing is to expose it and deal with it. Sometimes it is best to forgive and simply allow everyone to move on. In other situations, an easy amnesty only exacerbates the problem.

Much of the enduring conflict in our world derives from the inability of ordinary people and of both church and civic leaders to know how to deal with transgression. The Holy Spirit is the unique source of our capacity to deal with the perpetrators of violence. The Holy Spirit is likewise the source of our power to forgive, of our power to refrain from vengeance and our power to ensure restoration and healing. In our times, the earth itself cries out for forgiveness, for restoration and for healing. As we celebrate this feast of the Holy Spirit in a time of pandemic, we might consider engaging in a “values inventory” by looking at how much of our personal and collective resources we invest in the things that make for peace.