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*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*

Parish Priest: Fr Barry Hughes

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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”*

 33rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR C 12 & 13 November 2022

INVITE VOLUNTEERS FOR COUNTING

Our parish is seeking volunteers to help counting the collections. Usually this happens after Sunday mass or Monday morning at the Presbytery Office if interested please contact Fr. Barry or our Parish Office on 9311 3091.

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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 Saturday 10.15am Sunday (Polish)QUEEN OF HEAVENHolt St, Ardeer  8.00am Wednesday 9.00am Sunday RECONCILIATION (individual Confession) 10.00am Saturday 19th November. ST Theresa’s |  | FOOD BANK COLLECTIONThank you to everyone for the wonderful effort in donating food for our Parish food bank we are now well stocked. We appreciate your generosity for those in need.2023 COLUMBAN CALENDAR Available this week at each church. Cost $10. New design and free online art guide [www.columban.org.au/artguide](http://www.columban.org.au/artguide) There will be a collection for the Catholic Deaf this weekendCOLLECTIONS RECEIVEDThanksgiving $765.50 Loose Money $361 Presbytery $427COUNTERS 20 November Team 3: ?FEAST DAYS THIS WEEKSt Elizabeth of Hungary, 17 NovemberChrist the King, 20 NovemberREADINGS *Today Next Week**2 Maccabees 7.1-2,9-14++ 2 Samuel 5.1-3**Ps 17.1,5-6,8+15 (R.15b) Ps 122.1-2,3-4a,4b-5,6-7,8-9 R.1**2 Thessalonians 2.16-3.5 Colossians 1.12-20**Luke 20.27-38 Luke 23.35-43* |

FINAL 'PARISH DINNER' FOR THE YEAR *CHRISTMAS THEME* Thursday night 24th November, 6PM @ Westend Bistro, McIntyre Road. 3 Course Set Menu plus 1 drink $25 per person.

RSVP & enquiries to Ann-Maree by 21st November PH: 0401 192 079.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION FOR ST JOSEPH’S PRIMARY SCHOOL IN ROCHESTER**

Our School is aiming to help St Joseph’s Primary School in Rochester. If you could donate some items, it would be greatly appreciated. Suggestions are - pencil cases, colour pencils, lead pencils, playing cards, small notebooks, some lollipops, or anything else you think a child would appreciate.

Many thanks for your generous support. Items may be left in the baskets at the back of the Church or dropped in to St Theresa’s School or the Parish Presbytery during the week.

Regards Doriana Cooper REL St Theresa’s School

MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK

A special Mass which will include opportunity for Anointing of the Sick will be held Thursday 17th November 12noon at Mother of God Church, followed by a lunch at Mother of God School. Come along to receive the Sacrament of Anointing if you feel the need for it, or if you don’t, to pray with those who do. Please think of those who might need help or a lift to get there.

33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time - Gospel Reflection

Today’s Gospel is difficult to understand, and making some sense of it for our lives as followers of Jesus in our times is challenging. The challenge is worth taking up, and. the following commentary from Sister Mary Coloe can help us to do that. I encourage all to read it carefully and thoughtfully, thinking about how it might guide our Christian living today.

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY by Mary Coloe PBVM

What sign will there be?

**2 Thessalonians 3:7-12; Luke 21:5-19**

There is humour and also great insight in Paul’s words today. Remember, this community is living about twenty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Paul has been teaching them that Jesus will soon return and some have taken his words so seriously that they have given up work. At Corinth, people wonder whether they should marry or not, because they are so convinced that Jesus is returning to them any day. In Thessalonica, they have ‘downed tools!’ Such is the conviction and joyful expectation of these early communities. They live as if today is their last day. Wow! What would I do if today was my last day? What would you do? Readings like this are a challenge to us to look at our priorities and make sure that we are living with the sense that each day is precious, and that each day God is drawing closer to us.

In the Gospel, Jesus has now reached the end of his journey and is in Jerusalem, within its magnificent Temple. Here, other questions are raised.

What do we do when things go wrong? How do we find faith in God when life collapses around us? These are questions all Christians face and today’s gospel gives us a brief insight into the pain and struggle of Luke’s small community who had such faith and hope in Jesus, but life did not appear to be blessed. God wasn’t intervening to save them from conflict within families and persecution from governments. Luke tries to reassure his community that such discord and trouble is part of a living Christianity and can be expected. Faith in Jesus doesn’t take us out of the world, or permit us to live as some sort of aliens in the world. We are part of a struggling humanity.

Jesus lived at a time when the Jerusalem temple existed and had recently been greatly renovated and made even grander by King Herod the Great. But by the time the Gospel is written, the magnificent Temple was utterly destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE. Many Jews saw this event as the ‘end of the world’ and took this destruction as a sign that God was coming soon. Luke cautions against such false ideas. The end has not yet come and Luke’s community must learn to live in an extended time of waiting. Through Jesus’ words, Luke teaches his community that in this time of waiting there will be hardship and struggle; these are not incompatible with Christian faith and are not to be taken as signs that God is absent. Endurance is required.

The concerns of Luke’s community and Paul’s seem very distant to the concerns of our own time. We need to exercise some historical imagination to try to get a sense of real people, living with their real questions and struggling with faith. There are no simple answers to most of the really important questions of life. Our faith was never meant to be an easy escape from really living. We cannot, like the Thessalonians, drop our tools, give up work and just wait for Jesus; but nor can we settle for simplistic answers when difficult times come. A robust faith will engage the world and wrestle with the questions life poses. But in all this, faith in Jesus should make a difference. Paul advises the Thessalonians, ‘imitate me’. Living faith should be visible. G K Chesterton once said, ‘Christianity hasn't been tried and found wanting – but it has been found hard, and it hasn't been tried!’ It was the living witness of the early believers that attracted others to join them, even in the midst of misunderstanding and persecution from the surrounding society. Each of us should be able to say as Paul did – ‘imitate me’. What a challenge!

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