*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”*

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33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A 18 & 19 November 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  RECONCILIATION (Individual Confession)  Saturday 25th November, 10.00am at Mother of God or other times on request |  | AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS MAGAZINE  Summer Edition is out now, FREE at each Church a Music theme – A Journey Through the Gospels, Medieval Music, and more.  CHRIST’S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  Prayer Group meets every Thursday, 7.00 - 8.30pm, at Queen of Heaven Church. All are welcome  COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC DEAF  We raised $451 last weekend. Thank you.  COLLECTIONS RECEIVED  Thanksgiving $722 Loose Money $397 Presbytery $626  COUNTERS 26th November  Team 3: M Azzopardi, M Camenzuli  FEAST DAYS  The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 21 November  St Cecilia, 22 November  St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions, 24 November  READINGS Today Next Week  Proverbs31.10-13,16-18,20,26,28-31 Ezekiel 34.11-12,15-17  Ps 128.1-2,3,4-5(R.1) Ps 23.1-3a,3b-4,5,6(R1)  1 Thessalonians 5.1-6 1 Corinthians 15.20-26,28  Matthew 24.36;25.14-30++ Matthew 25:31-46 |

2024 COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR

Calendars are on sale this weekend - $10each. The first Columban Calendar was published in 1923. Be part of History! The Columban Art Calendar is an iconic Catholic Calendar, well-known for its traditional religious paintings and liturgical information and is a major fundraiser for Columban Missionaries. Buy one today.

PARISH MOVIE MORNING Last Parish Movie for the Year!

Mon 27th November 10.00am, Sunshine Village Cinema, RSVP required to Ann-Maree 0401 192 079 by Sunday 26th November.

LAST PARISH SOCIAL DINNER FOR 2023 Tuesday 28TH November, 6pm at Braybrook Hotel, Ballarat Rd, Braybrook. Buffet style meal.…RSVP Ann-Maree by Monday 27th November on 0401 192 079

PARISH CARAVAN, Safety Beach / Dromana

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. Great opportunity to get away during the summer holidays. Days available from 7th to 19th January, 28th January onwards. Please contact us.

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

A reflection on Universal Children’s Day and the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children - November 20th, 2023. By Assunta Iacovino, Principal of Mother of God School.

Universal Children’s Day and the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children is a deeply meaningful day for me. My whole working life as an educator has been dedicated to helping children (and their families)  to thrive and live life to the full.  In addition, in a few days my daughter will give birth to her baby, our first grandchild. For months now we have waited for this gift to arrive. We have loved her since the moment she was conceived and will love her and protect her till we draw our last breath. It is very painful for me to think about one child, anywhere in the world, who may not be loved and cherished to this degree. I am sure that you all feel this way about your own children and grandchildren.

Jesus also had a special love for children:

“People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.” Mark 10:13-16

United Nations Universal Children’s Day was established in 1954 and is celebrated on November 20th each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children’s welfare. At this time, we are invited to renew our commitment to building a world where every child is in school, safe from harm and can fulfil their potential.

Let us give thanks for the gift of children in our lives – those in our families, our places of ministry and our neighbourhoods. Let us pray on Universal Children’s Day for the millions of children living and waiting in refugee camps for the chance of a safe and secure life without violence or threat and for the countless children vulnerable to being exploited, trafficked or forced into an early marriage.

Universal Children’s Day and the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children envisions a world in which all children have a joyous childhood: where they can play, learn and grow, where they are loved and cared for, where their health and safety are protected and where their gender is not a liability – a world in which their human rights are protected and fulfilled.

The well- being of children is at the heart of all religious traditions and teachings. Therefore, we pray to the Lord to help us to bless and safeguard their present and future – which will also protect humanity. As an African proverb says, “Children are the elders of tomorrow.”

By working with the world‘s diverse faith communities, governments and non-governmental organisations can accelerate and magnify their efforts to help children worldwide. All of the world‘s major faith traditions share a common concern for the welfare of children. In many places, faith-based organisations are the best way to reach the most vulnerable populations. On this day, let us reflect on the teachings of our religious traditions concerning children. This can take the form of prayer, worship, silence or meditation.

Prayer for all the children of the world:                                                                                                                                                                                               *Lord of Life, may our children be as You wish! May our faith be of help in the quest for more dignity and quality of life for the children of the world. Lord, the idolatry of wealth is a threat to peace in many places. Our planet is exploited and polluted ever more, and the children are the first to suffer when selfishness takes over people’s hearts. Give us courage to change this story!*

*Help us fight against the causes of poverty, injustice and oppression of children and their families.*

*Give us strength to prevent girls and boys today from being exploited and forced to work, getting involved with drugs, sleeping and awaking with hunger and thirst, not having a school in which to study and a safe space in which to play, and dying for preventable reasons.*

*We want the well-being of children and respect for their rights.  We will protect them during their entire life, which is sacred.  May Your spirit enlighten us to care for children, beginning in their mother’s womb, and to guarantee their rights of citizenship.  May they receive vaccines and breast milk, adequate nourishment, clean water and opportunities to develop fully.*

*Lord of Life, together with our children, with a single voice, we are grateful for all the good that has come from so many people of good will.  Our strength is in You, who takes us to action to build a world in which children may have life, and have it abundantly! Amen!*