*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*



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*“Do Small Things Well”*

PARISH REFLECTION SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER

As we come along to our parish Masses this weekend, the referendum polling places will be closed and Australians will have made the decision as to whether to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

During the last few weeks, the debate on both the Yes and No sides has been passionate. It is ironic that the main point of the Voice is listening, yet, sometimes we have not listened to each other and sometimes we have not been respectful towards those who think differently to ourselves.

Whatever the decision of the Australian people, we should always remember that, as Christian people, all are welcomed around the table of the Lord, even those we don’t agree with. To honour the sacred dignity of every person is to show respect by understanding difference.

When looking through the ‘One Journey, Together’ website created by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council, I found these two prayers. One is a prayer asking God to help us appreciate harmony, peace and being one in the love of God. The other reminds us that it is easy to show understanding to those we agree with, but much more is asked of us when we don’t agree.

Assunta Iacovino, Principal of Mother of God School

Dear Lord  
We pray for a bright and just shared future for all who call Australia home.  
We ask that Your grace of acceptance and compassion will guide us.  
Let the Creator Spirit lead our journey with the  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of this land.  
May we share Your Spirit more deeply; celebrate the gifts You have given us.  
Help us appreciate true harmony and peace just as our Old People did;  
Keep us strong, make us resilient and remember us in this time.  
Now is an opportunity to change our Nation’s history for the better.  
Walk with us as we write a new chapter together and  
may we be one in Your love.  
Amen.

Please understand me…

If I do not want what you want, please try not to tell me that my want is wrong.

Or if I believe other than you, at least pause before you correct my view.

Or if my emotion is less than yours, or more, given the same circumstances, try not to ask me to feel more strongly or weakly.

Or yet if I act, or fail to act, in the manner of your design for action, let me be.

I do not, for the moment at least, ask you to understand me.

That will only come when you are willing to give up changing me into a copy of you.

I may be your spouse, your parent, your offspring, your friend, or your colleague.

If you will allow me any of my own wants, or emotions, or beliefs, or actions, then you open yourself, so that someday these ways of mine might not seem so wrong, and might finally appear to you as right- for me!

This is the first step to understanding me. And in understanding me you might come to prize my differences from you, and far from seeking to change me, preserve and even nurture those differences. *By Assunta Iacovino Principal MOG School*

28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A 14 & 15 OCTOBER 2023

The Leadership Team would like to thank everyone who responded to our questionnaire: What do you value about our Parish? What do you not want to lose when changes come?

We began this year by reflecting on why we gather as a Leadership Team, what our individual roles in the team are, what our Vision for the Parish is, what our aspirations for the Parish are, what our Mission is. We read, reflected and discussed our Parish prayer, looking at what it meant for each of us.

From there we spent a couple of meetings reflecting and discussing what the future of our Parish might look like. We did this by responding to the question - what is important to us about our Parish, what do we not want to forgo when changes are made?

At our last meeting we compared your responses with ours, and not surprisingly, the responses were very similar. This is a summary of what was said:

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| * Keeping our identity is important. * Remembering to do small things well. * We are important to each other. * Our patron Saint embodies who we are. * Sense of belonging. * Celebrating our faith. * Our community wants to stay, worship and support together | * We connect, we belong to our parish. * Community social gatherings. * The importance of each of our Churches. * Inclusion of parishioners in “parish work” and Liturgy, e.g preparing the Liturgy etc. * A priest who is available to parishioners. * Parishioners who care for one another. |

Our intention now is to use what we have said is important for us and write a Vision for our Parish and then how we might enact that Vision, i.e. what our Mission will be.

Thank you once again for your contribution to the questionnaire, we look forward to sharing the “what next” as we continue to think about the future of our Parish. Please keep us in your prayers.

Muriel, on behalf of the Leadership Team

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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)  NO MASS 9.00am Thurs  6.00pm Friday (Polish)  5.30pm Saturday  10.15am Sunday (Polish)  QUEEN OF HEAVEN  Holt St, Ardeer  NO MASS 8.00am Wed  9.00am Sunday  CHRIST’S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  Meeting Thursday, 7.00 - 8.30pm, at Queen of Heaven Church |  | RECONCILIATION (Individual confession)  Saturday 21st October, 10.00am at St Theresa’s or at other times or  places by request  PARISH FOOD BANK  We are low in food at the moment particularly in Pasta Sauce and or  stir fry sauce, please donate in the Church baskets.  COLLECTIONS RECEIVED  Thanksgiving $843 Loose Money $284 Presbytery $582  COUNTERS 22nd October  Team 3: M Camenzuli, M Azzopardi  FEAST DAYS  St Teresa of Jesus, 15 October  St Ignatius of Antioch, 17 October  St Luke, Evangelist, 18 October  READINGS Today Next Week  Isaiah 25.6-10a Isaiah 45.1,4-6  Ps 23.1-3a,3b-4,5,6, (R6cd) Ps 96.1+3,4-5,7-8,9+10ac (R.7b)  Philippians 4.10-14,19-20++ 1 Thessalonians 1.1-5ab  Matthew 22.1-14 Matthew 22.15-21 |

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 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*