*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*



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Principal: Rob Macklin

Mother of God Primary School – 9363 1734

Blanche St, Ardeer 3022

Principal: Assunta Iacovino

*“Do Small Things Well”*

29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A 21 & 22 OCTOBER 2023

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY APPEAL.

This week Catholic Mission Appeal will support a life-changing program which aims to address gaps in medical care, and provide families with essential health care and knowledge. The Maria Auxilia Dora Clinic is a vital project for the Salesian Sisters and the Church in Venilale, Timor-Leste. Since its establishment, the clinic has provided life-saving treatment for families in need, like Petrolina’s, whose daughter Vitoria was found to have tuberculosis. But, with an increase in the demand for treatment, the Sisters resources can only carry them so far. Please give generously today to help continue this life-giving program. Appeal envelopes available. Your gift will also help many other similar Church-run mission programs around the world

JOSEPH’S CORNER FREE COUNSELLING WORKSHOP

You are welcome to join Joseph’s corner FREE 4-week Program to improve Psychological Flexibility

* new skills to cope more effectively with difficult thoughts and feelings
* skills to take effective actions towards our values

Thursday starting 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th November from 10am to 12pm at Joseph’s Corner 3 Birmingham St, Yarraville. RSVP by 2nd November on Ph: 9315 2680 or contact@josephscorner.org.au

Catholic Theological College Online Information Session

Monday 3th October, 7.30pm Register via our website: ctc.edu.au/information-session to learn more about study options.

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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 Thurs  6.00pm Friday (Polish)  5.30pm Saturday  10.15am Sunday (Polish)  QUEEN OF HEAVEN  Holt St, Ardeer  8.00am Wed  9.00am Sunday  CHRIST’S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  Meeting Thursday, 7.00 - 8.30pm, at Queen of Heaven Church |  | MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK  Friday 3rd November, 12 noon at St Theresa’s Church, will be followed by lunch in the school. All welcome! If you know of  anybody who needs a lift please help out or hopefully  we can arrange transport.  RECONCILIATION (Individual confession)  Saturday 28th October, 10.00am at Mother of God or at other times  or places by request  COLLECTIONS RECEIVED  Thanksgiving $781 Loose Money $230 Presbytery $494  COUNTERS 29th October  Team 4: M Poulter, A Sanford  FEAST DAYS  Sts Simon & Jude, Apostles, 28 October  READINGS Today Next Week  Isaiah 45.1,4-6 Exodus 22.21-27  Ps 96.1+3,4-5,7-8,9+10ac (R.7b) Ps 18.1-2,3+6b,46+50ab (R.1)  1 Thessalonians 1.1-5ab 1 Thessalonians 1.5c-10  Matthew 22.15-21 Matthew 22.34-10 |

Gospel Reflection

The emergence of a common enemy is often the catalyst for sworn enemies to unite. In first century Palestine, Pharisees were the respected religious teachers of the law and Herodians represented secular Jewish power and wealth. They despised each other on both religious and political grounds. When faced with a perceived threat to their authority, however, they united in opposition. Jesus of Nazareth becomes the threat that unites them. His teaching and healing draw the crowds and threaten their authority. They come together and try to set a trap for him. In attempting to set him up, they ironically pay him the greatest of tributes: addressing him as “teacher”, they acknowledge his sincerity and admit that he teaches the way of God in accordance with the truth. They witness to his lack of concern with status and hierarchical division.

The question of these traditional enemies is intended to put Jesus in a “no win” position: “Is it lawful to pay tribute to the emperor or not?” Jesus turns the question back upon them. He lets them know that he is aware of their malicious intent and asks them to produce the coin used for the tax. He thus makes the issue one of images, a sensitive issue for all Jews, rather than of tribute. The Roman denarius that they produce bears the bust of the Roman emperor and the Latin inscription, “Tiberius Caesar, son of the divine Augustus, High Priest”.

Jesus’ response, “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God”, can be interpreted in several ways. Is Jesus simply exposing their hypocrisy as bearers of images? From a Jewish perspective, everything belongs to God, the earth and all its riches. The disciples of the Pharisees and the Herodians are Jews, even if the sympathies of the latter lean towards the Roman occupiers. Is he telling them to pay the tax while still recognising God’s prior claim? Is he telling them not to pay the tax precisely because the emperor has no claim on what belongs to God? Is he critiquing the Roman occupation or legitimizing it? Or is he saying something else? They are left to interpret his response as they wish.

One thing is clear: Jesus’ words have nothing to do with the modern distinction between Church and secular state. There are good reasons for paying taxes in a secular state and for contributing financially to the life of the Church, something we may need to revisit in the light of decreased post-pandemic participation. It is quite anachronistic, however, to invoke this text in support of paying state taxes or of supporting the Church financially. The story is more about sincerity and truth in our relationships with each other and with the God of all truth. That is the key criterion for any personal or global alliance.

S*r Veronica Lawson rsm*

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