*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*



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 Principal: Rob Macklin

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 Principal: Assunta Iacovino

*“Do Small Things Well”*

19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A 12 & 13 August 2023

ANNUAL CATHOLICCARE SUNDAY APPEAL …12/13 August

CatholicCare Victoria works with individuals, families and communities to build strength, resilience, and empowerment to reach their full potential. Your generosity will help the most vulnerable members of our community – those facing unemployment, homelessness, experiencing mental health challenges, families struggling with relationship problems, people in hospitals & prisons, refugees, those experiencing grief and trauma. Please donate to CatholicCare. You can donate using the appeal envelope available or online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513. All gifts of $2 and above are tax deductible

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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 Thurs 6.00pm Friday (Polish) 5.30pm Saturday10.15am Sunday (Polish)QUEEN OF HEAVENHolt St, Ardeer  8.00am Wednesday 9.00am Sunday |  | RECONCILIATION (Individual confession)Saturday 19th August, 10.00am at St Theresa’s.CHRIST’S CATHOLIC COMMUNITYMeeting Thursday, 7.00 - 8.30pm, at Queen of Heaven ChurchCOLLECTIONS RECEIVEDThanksgiving $821 Loose Money $269 Presbytery $862COUNTERS 20th August Team 2: M Azzopardi, M CamenzuliFEAST DAYSSt Maximillian Kolbe, 14 AugustThe Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 15 AugustREADINGS *Today Next Week**1 Kings 19.9,11-13 Isaiah 56.1,6-7**Ps 85,8ab+9,10-11,12-13(R7) Ps 67.1-2,4-5,6-7(R4-5)**Romans 9.1-5 Romans 11.13-15,29-32**Matthew 14.22-33 Matthew 15.21-28* |

## FEAST OF THE ASSSUMTION OF MARY Tuesday 15th August

## Masses:

##  9.15am. Mother of God 10.30am. Mother of God (Polish)

## 11.45am. St Theresa’s Albion 6.00pm. Mother of God (Polish)

##  7.30pm. Queen of Heaven

**AN INVITATION TO CONNECT WITH ABORIGINAL SPIRITUALITY**

Join us at the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in exploring Social Justice and Aboriginal Spirituality, in the light of the Uluru Statement of the Heart and the Voice Referendum. Up to four representatives from Parishes in the Melbourne Archdiocese are invited to spend a day at the **Aboriginal Catholic Ministry,** 434 St Georges Rd, Thornbury on one of the following dates:  Wednesday 13th September 2023, Friday 6th October 2023, Friday 13th October 2023.

If you are interested please inform Father Barry **as soon as possible**, including which date or dates suit you. If more than four people are interested we will find a fair way of choosing who goes.

Have faith, do not be afraid. Matthew 14:22-33

Watching the news on our televisions or reading our newspapers, can sometimes overwhelm us by the amount of bad news and or, negativity we see and read. There are so many countries being torn apart by civil war. Many are suffering because of years of famine; many more are dying daily because of random acts of terrorism. Given the current reality of our world today, we have every reason to be anxious, worried and even more than a little afraid.

In our gospel this Sunday, the disciples find themselves in a small boat in a big storm. They too have every reason to be anxious, worried and afraid. However, they are not alone. Out of the darkness comes Jesus walking on the water towards them. Initially, this makes them even more frightened. They think he looks like a ghost. Knowing how the disciples feel, Jesus encourages them with this phrase from scripture, ‘Do not be afraid’.

We have all experienced pain, difficulties, setbacks or some level of suffering in our daily lives. We might call these experiences ‘stormy moments’. They are part of our daily lives and there is no way of ignoring or avoiding them. It’s during these moments we need to ask ourselves if we are in the storm by ourselves or whether Jesus is invited to be with us. A year ago, I lost my father to cancer. The pain of witnessing a much-loved man deteriorate rapidly and feel helpless in the process, was a time in my life, without the presence of Jesus and prayer, I could not have survived.

Like Peter, we too are asked by Jesus to have courage and not to be afraid in times difficult or challenging times. We are asked not only to have faith in ourselves, but to also reach out and trust that Jesus will hold us and help us through whatever difficulties we are experiencing. Peter started out with great enthusiasm when he stepped out of the boat. He was well on his way to meeting Jesus. But he saw the waves and felt the wind and they got the better of him and he started to sink. As he sinks, he has the courage, wisdom and humility to shout out to Jesus, ‘Lord! Save me!’

When we are struggling and experiencing difficulties, we are asked to do what Peter did and that is, ask for help. We can’t manage on our own. No matter what we are experiencing, Jesus is always with us. He will never abandon us. He has promised to be with us until the end of time,

 

I conclude with the words of Pope Francis “Having faith means keeping your heart turned to God, to His love, to His Fatherly tenderness, amid the storm. Jesus wanted to teach this to Peter and the disciples, and also to us today”.

Marie D’Orazio

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