*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*



Parish Priest: Fr Barry Hughes

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St. Theresa’s Primary School – 9311 9070

16 Drummartin St, Albion 3020

Principal: Rob Macklin

Mother of God Primary School – 9363 1734

Blanche St, Ardeer 3022

Principal: Assunta Iacovino

*“Do Small Things Well”*

20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A 19 & 20 August 2023

THANK YOU FROM CATHOLICCARE VICTORIA

CatholicCare is deeply grateful for the support of our parish during last week’s CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. Because of the generosity of our parish community, CatholicCare can continue to ensure that vulnerable individuals and families in our community have the opportunity to live life to the full. Thank you for helping those in need!

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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 Wednesday  9.00am Sunday |  | RECONCILIATION (Individual confession)  Saturday 26th August, 10.00am at Mother of God.  COLLECTIONS RECEIVED  Catholic Care Appeal Thank you to everyone we raised $717  Thanksgiving $854 Loose Money $297 Presbytery $620  COUNTERS 27th August Team 3: M, Poulter, A Sanford  FEAST DAYS  St Pius X, 21 August  The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 22 August  St Bartholomew, 24 August  READINGS *Today Next Week*  *Isaiah 56.1,6-7 Isaiah 22.15,19-23*  *Ps 67.1-2,4-5,6-7(R4-5) Ps 138.1-2a,2b-3,6+8b(R.8B)*  *Romans 11.13-15,29-32 Romans 11.33-36*  *Matthew 15.21-28 Matthew 16.13-20* |

PARISH REUNION for the Holt Street part of the Parish that lived in the area from 1950-2000 for more information please email [reunionofholtstreetarea@gmail.com](mailto:reunionofholtstreetarea@gmail.com) or refer to Church Noticeboard. RSVP by 9th September to Ann-Maree 0401 192 079

MONTHLY PARISH MOVIE MORNING Monday 28th August 10.00am meet at Sunshine Village Cinema foyer, Tickets $10. RSVP required to Ann-Maree 0401 192 079.

PARISH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Give the gift of time and volunteer within our Parish, please contact the Parish Office on 9311 3091 for further details.

**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.

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

**REFLECTION**

Scripture Reflection adapted from a commentary by Greg Sunter.

This week’s gospel provides a fascinating illustration of Jesus’ response to those in need. Jesus has travelled to the area of Tyre and Sidon – part of modern day Lebanon. He was physically removing himself from the place of his very active ministry and taking a break. When the Canaanite woman approaches Jesus and his disciples, she is an interruption; a nuisance. Jesus is very abrupt with her. He tells her simply that his ministry is to the house of Israel – the Jews – and is not for her. But the woman is persistent and again asks Jesus to help her. Jesus is even more abrupt and tells her that it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs. Through this use of metaphor, Jesus refers to the children of Israel (the Jews) and to the gentiles and pagans – sometimes referred to as ‘dogs’ to reflect their lowly status in the eyes of the Jewish tradition. Still the woman persists and turns Jesus’ metaphor back on him, saying that even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table.

The woman’s persistence and faith pay off. Jesus is moved by her faith and through that faith heals the woman’s daughter. Despite his initial abruptness and reluctance, Jesus responds with compassion to the woman’s request. It is as though she needed to demonstrate that she was really serious and that she did in fact believe that Jesus could make a difference in her life and the life of her daughter. This is an important story in Matthew’s gospel. This gospel was written predominantly for Jewish Christians but this story reveals that the ministry of Jesus and the reign of God is open to anyone who believes…

Scriptural Context

This passage sits in the middle of a group of three stories that make up Chapter 15 of Matthew’s Gospel. The first story deals with Jesus challenging traditional views of cleanliness and uncleanliness – one of the great separators between Jews and Gentiles. The story of this week’s gospel follows with its account of the Canaanite woman’s great faith being recognised. Finally, Matthew’s gospel relates the story of the feeding of the four thousand – a dramatic sign by Jesus of the open invitation to receive his message and ministry. The three stories, taken together, form a powerful chapter that makes clear that the message of Jesus is not exclusively for the Jews.

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**Greg Sunter** has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team. He has extensive experience of praying with young people and forming others to lead prayer with young people. He is the author of books on adolescent faith, is a regular speaker at youth and evangelisation conferences, and is a retreat and reflection facilitator and presenter. His areas of interest include religious education, theology, scripture, spirituality, Catholic ethos, prayer, and ministry with young people.