*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”*

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A 26 & 27 August 2023

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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 |  | FATHERS’ DAY COLLECTION Next week a special collection will be taken up for the support of sick or retired priests of the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Please respond generously.CUPPA AFTER MASS Join us next weekend after each Mass for a cuppa and a chat. Why not take this opportunity to enjoy the company of your fellow parishioners, and get to know one another better? Please bring a plate to share.COLLECTIONS RECEIVEDThanksgiving $660 Loose Money $279 Presbytery $576COUNTERS 3rd September Team 4: J Camilleri M Buhagiar  J Zammit FEAST DAYS Monday 28th, St Augustine. Tuesday 29th, Death of St John the Baptist.READINGS *Today Next Week**Isaiah 22.15,19-23 Jeremiah 20:7-9**Ps 138.1-2a,2b-3,6+8b(R.8B) Psalm 63:1-5, 78**Romans 11.33-36 Romans 12:1-2**Matthew 16.13-20 Matthew 16:21-27* |

PARISH REUNION for Holt Street part of parish for those who lived in the area from 1950-2000 for more information please email 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 9.30am. Meet at Sunshine Village Cinema foyer, Tickets $10. RSVP required to Ann-Maree 0401 192 079.

**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. Wed 13th September, or Friday 6th or 13th October. 10.00am to 2.30pm. Bookings through Father Barry.

**AUSTRAIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT.** *Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples****.*** Free copies available today. Pick one up to take home and read.

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

LISTEN, LEARN, LOVE

Chapter 1 of the Australian Bishop’s Social Justice Statement 2023

In 1997 the Australian people took a momentous step in the long journey towards healing the wounds suffered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people since the arrival of the British in 1788.

Over 90 per cent of Australians voted to change the constitution to allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to be counted in the census, formally recognising them as part of the Australian population, making it one of the most successful national campaigns in Australian history. The Yes case was supported by Australia’s Catholic bishops.

Most of us know some of the history of injustice and mistreatment of the First Peoples of this country, but no-one knows the depths of the pain and humiliation endured by the original inhabitants of this continent better than they themselves do.

The wounds are many and there is still a need for much healing despite the significant achievement that was the overwhelming support by Australians for the 1967 referendum proposals.

By the end of 2023, all Australians will be given the chance to vote on a referendum question to formally recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of this country and to enshrine in the Constitution the establishment of an Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference welcomes the referendum as a blessed opportunity for the Church and, indeed, all Australians to embark on a new engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the hope that there can be healing and justice in our land.

We have come to this understanding through much listening to what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have been saying and calling for over many years. This has included the powerful call of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders for the Voice, Treaty and Truth Telling in the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart, but also the concerns and hopes of the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in communities in our dioceses across Australia.

Through that listening, we have learned much about their struggle for justice and dignity. Our prayerful reflection on what we have heard and learned from them in the light of the Gospel has convinced us to make a commitment to renew our relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and to accompany them in their struggle for justice.

That commitment begins with more listening in humility to them about the injustices they have suffered at the hands of those who colonised their lands and seas many years ago. It is not just historical injustices, but includes injustice that continues today. It is not just injustice at the hands of colonial and Government authorities. It is also injustice for which we in the Church are responsible.

In a spirit of love and of humility, we have chosen to take the unusual step of inviting the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) to speak directly in this Statement to Catholics in Australia and, indeed, to all Australians.

As representatives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics, they know much better than any of us their story of injustice and humiliation. They are in a better position than any of us to share their hopes and dreams for healing and justice in this land. As Bishops, we will respond to what we hear from NATSICC later in this Statement. Finally, we will make a joint call with NATSICC for action.

In this time of renewal in the Church and in our country, we invite everyone to join us in walking with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on this journey of healing. Let us as the people of God, Bishops and people together, listen with humility and love to what they have to say to us.