*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”*

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD Year A 5 & 6 August 2023

ANNUAL CATHOLICCARE SUNDAY APPEAL …12/13 August

Next weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. As our parish community’s social service agency, CatholicCare delivers programs and services to support families, children, young people and individuals to help everyone reach their full potential. The services include counselling and mental health services, specialised support for children and teens, refugee and asylum seeker help, pastoral care in hospitals and prisons, support for separating families, social housing and homelessness support.

Donations from our parish community help CatholicCare support the most vulnerable individuals and families in our community and empower everyone to live life to the full. Please donate next weekend. Your support and generosity will help provide caring and compassionate support for struggling individuals and families in our community. You can donate using the appeal envelope available in our parish or donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au

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| MASSES THIS WEEK ST THERESA’SDrummartin St, Albion 9.00am Friday10.30am SundayMOTHER OF GODBlanche St, Ardeer2.15pm TuesdayFeast of St Mary McKillop10.00am 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 |  | CUPPA AFTER MASS Join us today after each Mass for a cuppa and a chat. RECONCILIATION (Individual confession)Saturday 12th August, 10.00am at Queen of Heaven.CHRIST’S CATHOLIC COMMUNITYMeeting Thursday, 7.00 - 8.30pm, at Queen of Heaven ChurchCOLLECTIONS RECEIVEDThanksgiving $947 Loose Money $244 Presbytery $561COUNTERS 13th August Team 1: D Catania, E Catania, C XuerebFEAST DAYSThe Transfiguration of the Lord, 6 AugustSt Mary of the Cross, 8 AugustSt Lawrence, 10 AugustSt Clare, 11 AugustREADINGS *Today Next Week**Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 1 Kings 19.9,11-13**Ps 9:1-2, 5-6, 9 Ps 84:9-14**2 Peter 1:16-19 Romans 9.1-5**Matthew 17:1-9 Matthew 14.22-33* |

ESTIA HEALTH Do you need some respite Aged Care?

Estia Health Ardeer has current availability for respite, please call me to set up a time to have a look at our lovely home, Gabrielle 0419 336 841, 30 North St, Ardeer 9360 4552.

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

## Reflection on the Gospel-2nd Sunday of Lent Year A (Matthew 17:1-9) -Veronica Lawson RSM

Last week’s gospel invited us into a confronting habitat, namely the wilderness. This week, we follow Jesus and three of his companions to a high mountain, eventually a cloud-covered mountain. Both wilderness and mountain link Matthew’s story of Jesus with the story of the Israelites of old and, in particular, of Moses’ and Elijah’s encounters with God. Wilderness and mountain also remind us that God’s creation is the locus of wonder and mystery. The world we inhabit has an integrity of its own. It is, in a very real sense, God’s dwelling place. It is, in addition, the place of human-divine encounter and the place of human encounter with the other-than-human material world. Attention to habitat can lead us to a clearer understanding of our own place in the scheme of things and to ever deeper understandings of our relationship with God

The “transfiguration” seems to point to a time in Jesus’ ministry when he comes to terms with the fate he is likely to meet: if he confronts the forces of oppression and injustice, he is certain to encounter opposition, even death. Jesus has struggled with that realisation in the wilderness, at the outset of his ministry. On the mountain top, he comes to terms with what that involves. The disciples see Moses and Elijah, the key prophetic figures of Israel, speaking with Jesus, God’s new and definitive prophet. Peter wants to hold on to the experience of glory, to “make tents” for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. He prefers not to face the difficulties involved in fidelity to a mission that elicits hostility. That is not, however, the way of discipleship. Rather, Peter and his companions are called to “listen” to Jesus, the beloved of God. In his 2023 Lenten message, Pope Francis draws attention to the upcoming Synod on Synodality. He calls for mutual listening as a focus of our faith journey: “mutual listening…remains always indispensable in the method and style of a synodal Church.”

Matthew’s account of the “transfiguration” is followed by a reminder that Jesus is soon to meet a violent death (17:23). Jesus’ companions get a glimpse of God’s glory shining on his face and penetrating even his clothing, a hint that God’s grace is more life-giving than the forces of violence that oppose God’s reign. Like Jesus and his companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of final victory. We need the good sense to listen and to follow through on the path that brings life, despite the pain. We can feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing us and by the opposition we experience from the most unexpected quarters. If we are to sustain the struggle for a healthy, safe, and peace-filled world, we have to resist the temptation to hold on to the moments of glory and come to terms with the personal cost of being faithful to the gospel mission of justice and compassion with all its painful demands.

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