

St. Theresa's Parish Community Newsletter

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St. Theresa's Primary School - 93119070
16 Drummartin St., Albion 3020
Principal: Rob Macklin

Mother of God Primary School - 93631734
Blanche St., Ardeer 3022
Principal: Assunta Iacovino

"Do Small Things Well"

THE HOLY FAMILY

Year B 30 & 31 2023

MASSES THIS WEEK

ST THERESA'S
Drummartin St, Albion
10.30am Monday
9.00am Friday
10.30am Sunday

MOTHER OF GOD
Blanche St, Ardeer
9.00am Monday (Polish)
10.00am Wednesday(Pol)
9.00am Thursday
6.00pm Friday (Polish)
5.30pm Saturday
10.15am Sunday (Polish)

QUEEN OF HEAVEN
Holt St, Ardeer
9.00am Monday
8.00am Wednesday
9.00am Sunday

CHRIST'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Prayer Group meets every Thursday, 7.00 - 8.30pm, at Queen of Heaven Church. All are welcome

RECONCILIATION

(Individual Confession)
Saturday 13th January,
10.00am at Queen of Heaven or other times and places on request

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (New Year's Day)

Monday 1st January.
Mother of God (Polish) 9.00am
Queen of Heaven 9.00am
St Theresa's 10.30am

CUPPA AFTER MASS Join us next weekend (6 & 7 Jan) after each Mass for a cuppa and a chat. Why not take this opportunity to enjoy the company of your fellow parishioners, and find out how we celebrated New Year. Please bring a plate to share.

COLLECTIONS RECEIVED

Thanksgiving \$1214 Loose Money \$414
Presbytery \$605 Christmas Offering and collection \$775
Thanks to all who contributed to the special collection for St Vincent de Paul \$2053.

COUNTERS 7th January

Team 4: M Poulter, AM Sanford

FEAST DAYS

The Holy Family, 31 December
Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of the Lord, 1 January
St Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, 2 January

READINGS Today

Genesis 15.1-6;17.3b-5,15-16;21.1-7
Ps 105.1-2,3-4,5-6,8-9
Hebrews 11.8,11-12,17-19
Luke 2.22-40

Next Week

Isaiah 60.1-6
Ps 72.1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13
Ephesians 3.2-3a,5-6
Matthew 2.1-12

CARAVAN, Safety Beach / Dromana

If you would like to use our Caravan please call the Parish Office on 9311 3091 to book. It sleeps up to six (very cosy) and costs \$60 per night. Great opportunity to get away during the summer holidays. Days available from 7th to 19th January, 28th January onwards. Please contact us.

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS

Sister Veronica Lawson rsm

The time between Christmas and New Year is often family time, a time to think about what family means, to reflect on the successes and struggles of the past year and to consider the inevitable challenges of the year to come. It can be a difficult time for families facing financial or other concerns. It can be a time to connect with those who are alone or struggling in some way. Few families are exempt from the "sword" that pierces the soul.

The first and second readings for today engage the family story of Sarah and Abraham, of God's promise to give them a child, and of the fulfilment of that promise in the most unlikely of circumstances. The wonder of God's ways and the need to trust in God are at the heart of their story. At the same time, there is humour reflected in Abraham's choice of name for their son: "Isaac" means "he laughed". Does Abraham detect God's humour in providing a son for an elderly couple? Does he laugh for sheer joy at the birth of the child who will hold the traditions of the past and the hopes of the future? Whatever about this, the family story of Sarah, Abraham and Isaac foreshadows the even more extraordinary family story to be found in today's gospel.

Luke depicts Mary and Joseph as observant Jews bringing their child to the Jerusalem Temple in accordance with the ritual requirements of the Law, even if the Law applied only to the woman who had given birth and not to the man. Two prophetic figures, Anna and Simeon, recognise God's saving and redemptive purpose at work in this child who is presented in the Temple. Mary and Joseph listen in wonderment at what is said of their child. When they have "fulfilled the demands of the Law", they return to their hometown of Nazareth.

In the care of Mary and Joseph, the child Jesus grows to maturity, is filled with wisdom and God's favour is with him. Luke's summary statement introduces us to the wonderful world of a grace-filled family home. It invites us to ponder the wisdom that both Mary and Joseph had to share with their child. They taught him to pray and told him the stories of his people. They filled him with wonder at the goodness of God and of God's creation. They mediated the grace and favour of God and watched him grow and gain the strength he needed for life. They allowed him the freedom to develop his own personality and to find his own Spirit-filled way on the earth. Finally, they had to let him go so that he might follow a path that was beyond their imagining when they came to the Temple in fulfilment of the Law. In other words, while they did what so many parents would want to do for their children, they knew the pain involved even in the best of parenting.