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*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*

Parish Priest: Fr Barry Hughes

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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”*

 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT Year A 10 & 11 December 2022

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 17th December 9.00am at Queen of Heaven

 10.00am at St Theresa’s

 11.00am at Mother of God

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th December Mother of God Church, Blanche St., Ardeer 6.00pm

 Queen of Heaven Church, Holt St., Ardeer 8.00pm

 St Theresa’s Church, Drummartin St., Albion 12.00 Midnight

 Mother of God Church, Blanche St., Ardeer ( Polish) 12.00 Midnight

Christmas Day Sunday 25th December Queen of Heaven Church, Holt St., Ardeer 9.00am

 Mother of God Church, Blanche St., Ardeer (Polish) 10.15am

 St Theresa’s Church, Drummartin St., Albion 10.30am

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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 Thursday 6.00pm Friday (Polish)  5.30pm Saturday 10.15am Sunday (Polish)QUEEN OF HEAVENHolt St, Ardeer  8.00am Wednesday 9.00am Sunday |  | 2023 COLUMBAN CALENDAR Available at each church. Cost $10. New design and free online art guide [www.columban.org.au/artguide](http://www.columban.org.au/artguide) MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSIONAnnual Collection will be held today, please give generouslyCOLLECTIONS RECEIVEDThanksgiving $665 Loose Money $200 Presbytery $600COUNTERS 18 December Team 3: M Poulter, A CorreyaFEAST DAYS THIS WEEKSt Lucy, 13 DecemberSt John of the Cross, 14 DecemberREADINGS *Today Next Week**Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 Isaiah 7.10-14**Psalms 146:6-10 Ps 24.1-2,3-4ab,5-6 (R.7c+10b)**James 5:7-10 Romans 1.1-7**Matthew11:2-11 Matthew 1.18-24* |

A VERY BIG THANK YOU From a grateful parishioner for the baby items donated last month it will be a tremendous help and is very much appreciated.

FAREWLL TO JOSEPH FARRUGIA due to ill health he is returning to Malta, we wish him well and we thank him for his many years of support at all our churches.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH – for those who missed out the last social dinner we bring back! Morning Melodies (Elvis) Tuesday 20th December Show 10am, Lunch 11.45 3 Course "Christmas Menu' 'Westend Bistro'- McIntyre Rd $20 Per Person, payment required on booking. RSVP MONDAY 12TH DECEMBER Ann-Maree  0401 192 079

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

The Parish of Ivanhoe has a couple of vacancies for its Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 11th – 28th April 2023. If you are interested please visit our Parish Website [www.melbcatholic.org/ivanhoe](http://www.melbcatholic.org/ivanhoe) and click on the News Page or phone Fr. Bill Edebohls 0427 879 733.

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL-3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

(Matthew 11:2-11) -Veronica Lawson RSM

The third Sunday of Advent used to be called Gaudete (be joyful) Sunday. It provided a mid-term break within a period of austerity or penance in preparation for Christmas. Advent is no longer celebrated as a penitential period, but rather as a reflective time of expectation and hope. The invitation to rejoice nonetheless remains part of the Advent liturgy: it is certainly present in the first reading: “the desert shall rejoice and bloom …” (Isaiah 35:1-6, 10).

Today's gospel passage is full of questions. John sends his disciples to Jesus with a question: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another? Jesus responds by directing them to the evidence: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.” He adds a comment about those who take no offence at him: they are blessed. He then turns to the crowds with a series of rhetorical questions about their motivation for going out to John in the desert. His words to the crowds conclude with an identification of John as God's prophet and messenger, his own precursor. He pays an extraordinary tribute to John, but leaves the reader puzzling about the final statement: the least in the kin-dom is greater than John.

John's imprisonment is a sobering reminder of what can happen to those who are faithful to their mission. As Matthew’s Jesus will attest, John is no reed shaken by the wind. This could well be a subtle reference to Herod Antipas' choice of the reed as a symbol on the coins commemorating the founding of Tiberias. Herod has arrested and imprisoned John and later will have him put to death on specious grounds. John is not a fickle reed like Herod, but steadfast and strong. The reader knows that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah or God’s Anointed One. John is checking it out. He clearly has contact with disciples whom he sends to Jesus with the question about his identity. Is Advent over or not? The answer to John's question is to be found in what they hear and see. The restorative and healing activity of Jesus is realising the Messianic dream of the prophet Isaiah (first reading). In a sense, Advent never ends: the women and children brought into our own cities as sex slaves can attest to this, as can those who remain in the limbo of Nauru and Manus Island. We might well pray: “Strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees” in the face of such challenges. The Christ, the Anointed of God, lives on in the community and the community is called to bring the saving power of God, the joy of the Gospel, to a troubled world.

Matthew 11:2-11 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kin-dom of heaven is greater than he.

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