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*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*

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 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”*

 SIXTH Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A 11 & 12 February 2023

ABBEY SOLO FOUNDATION

Raising money and awareness for families facing Childhood Cancer. T20 Family Cricket Night. Tuesday 14th February, 5.00pm start. Ainsworth Reserve, Sunshine West. There will also be Police Horses, Sausage Sizzle, Ice Cream Van, Face Painting, Music & Raffle

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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 Saturday10.15am Sunday (Polish)QUEEN OF HEAVENHolt St, Ardeer  8.00am Wednesday 9.00am SundayRECONCILIATION(Individual Confession)Saturday 18th February, 10am at St Theresa’s |  | BURNING OF PALMSAfter each Mass next weekend (18th/19th Feb) we will burn the Palms in preparation for Ash WednesdayFUNERAL MASS For Maria Masny (formerly Maria Czapor) on Wednesday 15th February, 11.45am at Mother of God CHRIST’S CATHOLIC COMMUNITYPrayer Group meets every Thursday, 7.00 - 8.30pm, at Queen of Heaven Church. All are welcomeCOLLECTIONS RECEIVEDThanksgiving $999 Loose Money $285 Presbytery $601 COUNTERS 19THFebruary  Team 4: J Camilleri, M Buhagiar, J Zammit FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK St Cyril & Methodius, 14 FebruaryREADINGS *Today Next Week**Sirach 15.15-20 Leviticus 19.1-2,17-18**Ps 119.1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34(R1) Ps 103.1-2,3-4,8+10,12-13 (R8)**1 Corinthians 2.6-10 1 Corinthians 3.16-23**Matthew 5.17-37 Matthew 5.38-48*  |

ANNUAL CHAPLAINCY APPEAL 11th & 12th February

This weekend is the Pastoral Care Appeal. Donations from our parish community will help the Chaplaincy programs to support the most vulnerable people in our community. You can donate using the envelopes available or online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513.

TURKEY AND SYRIA TRAGEDY A special collection will be taken up at all Masses next weekend.



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 PH: 9360 4552.

Reflection on the Gospel

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Matthew 5:17-37)

Veronica Lawson RSM

We sometimes forget that Jesus was a faithful Jew who observed the Law handed down within Israel from generation to generation. Today’s gospel is from Matthew’s Sermon on the Mount in which Jesus, the faithful Jewish teacher, addresses his Jewish disciples and the Jewish crowds who gather to hear his words.

The mission of Jesus is to fulfill the law (“I have come to…”), not to do away with it, and fulfilling the law is a question of “righteousness”. The Greek term for righteousness, dikaiosunē, translates both the Hebrew sedeqah meaning “right relationship” and mishpat meaning “justice”. The righteousness of the official teachers of the Law, the scribes and Pharisees, their manner of relating to others and their notions of justice, are judged to be quite inadequate for those who are part of God’s reign, the kin-dom “of heaven” in Matthew’s terminology. The righteousness of Jesus’ followers is to “exceed” such minimalist interpretations and expressions of the Law.

Jesus, authentic teacher and interpreter of the Law, offers six examples of the righteousness that “fulfils” the Law. Four of these examples are included in today’s reading. What was heard “of old” is contrasted with what Jesus wants to say to his hearers. In the first instance, they all know that the Law forbids murder. They may not have considered the connection between unrestrained anger or murderous thoughts and murder itself. In a series of cascading sentences, Jesus presents a charter for reconciliation and forgiveness. He reminds his audience that true worship demands a forgiving heart expressed in action. He includes a fairly pragmatic reason for settling out of court: you may actually find yourself in prison. There may be an implicit criticism here of the increasingly punitive legal system of the time, a reminder to us of the futility of incarceration for minor crimes.

The second example puts “lustful looking” on a par with adultery. In an age of easy access to internet pornography, this example has a particular resonance: any form of sexual depravity is destructive of right relationship.

The third example on divorce is complicated by the exceptive clause, “except in the case of porneia”. Porneia referred to any illicit sexual activity. Here it probably means marriages within degrees of kinship prohibited by Jews but not prohibited by Gentiles. The question seems to have arisen as to whether couples in such unions could stay together on becoming Christian. While Jesus presents the ideal (no divorce), we have to put this teaching into a broader context. Writing to the people of Corinth on this subject, Paul allows for exceptions, since “God has called us to peace”.

 The fourth example is about swearing on oath. Righteousness calls for honesty and transparency in every day dealings. If the words we use are congruent with the intentions of our heart, we should not have to invoke God as a witness to the veracity of our claims.

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