*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”*

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FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT Year B 17 & 18 February 2024

Fr BARRY’S FAREWELL

The Leadership team invites you to farewell Fr Barry after 39 years of service to our parish. This weekend will be Fr Barry’s last masses as our Parish Priest and lunch will be shared after the 10.30am Mass.

Date: Sunday 25th February, Location: St Theresa’s School Multipurpose Room, Time: Midday. Please RSVP to your local parish contact (in person at Mass or see below for phone numbers) advising of numbers attending and the dish you are bringing either (main finger food/dessert). Mary Azzopardi 0418 308 843, Mary Poulter 0404 101 632, Ann-Maree 0401 192 079 and Jadzia 0417 776 427 or in person at Mass.

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| MASSES THIS WEEK  ST THERESA’S  Drummartin St, Albion  9.00am Friday  10.30am Sunday  MOTHER OF GOD  Blanche St, Ardeer  10.00am Wednesday (Pol)  9.00am Thursday  6.00pm Friday (Polish)  5.30pm Saturday  10.15am Sunday (Polish)  QUEEN OF HEAVEN  Holt St, Ardeer  8.00am Wednesday  9.00am Sunday |  | RECONCILIATION (Individual Confession)  Saturday 24th February, 10.00am at Mother of God or other times and places on request  CHRIST’S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  Prayer Group meets every Thursday, 7.00 - 8.30pm, at Queen of Heaven Church. All are welcome  COLLECTIONS RECEIVED  Thanksgiving $892 Loose Money $303 Presbytery $527  COUNTERS 25th February  Team 1: D Catania, E Catania, C Xuereb  FEAST DAYS The Chair of St Peter the Apostle, 22 February  READINGS Today Next Week  Genesis 9.8-15 Genesis 22.1-2,9-13,15-18  Ps 25,4-5a,6+7b,8-9(R.10) Ps 116.10+15,16-17,18-19(R9)  1 Peter 3.18-22 Romans 8.3lb-35,37++  Mark 1.12-15 Mark 9.2-10 |

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world for all future generations.Please donate to Project Compassion.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS MAGAZINE Autumn edition is out now free at each Church.

Various articles, from Stations of the Cross to living in a post war zone.

PARISH DINNER Tuesday 20th February 6pm at Deer Park Club. Please call Ann-Maree 0401 192 079 by Monday 19th.

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

REFLECTION ON TODAY’S READINGS

Mark’s Gospel is bold and challenging. It doesn’t beat around the bush. Throughout this year, there will be many Sundays when we really need to tune in because Mark’s Gospel doesn’t wait for the reader to be ready. It is right in your face, to use a modern expression. Sometimes Mark reminds us of the wise old person who doesn’t use many words, but every one of those words counts. There can’t be many books of so few pages that have had such a mighty impact on the world.

Today, a few lines tell us that Jesus went into the desert for 40 days and ‘was tempted by Satan.’ He was ‘with the wild beasts’, meaning he was vulnerable as he was immersed in the natural world. This was surely an experience of struggle and growth. Then suddenly Jesus discovers that John the Baptist has been arrested. In a few lines, Mark creates the impression of a challenging time.

How did Jesus respond? He seems to have been enlivened, to have decided to create change. He is full of energy and purpose. ‘The time has come,’ he says. In his vulnerability, he has discovered that ‘the kingdom of God is close at hand.’

This year, through Project Compassion, Caritas Australia will ask us to consider several stories of vulnerability and hope in action. Over the coming weeks, we will meet a number of extraordinary women: Leaia from Samoa, Ronita from the Philippines and Memory from Malawi. They remind us that in many situations around the world, women are the heart of the community and the drivers of change. In each case, a partnership involving Caritas Australia and local agencies has led to new opportunities not just for an individual but for families and communities. The kingdom of God is, indeed, closer than we think.

Our decisions help to bring it to reality around the globe.

Perhaps we might spend time with the words of today’s Psalm: ‘God guides me in the right path; God teaches the Lord’s way to the poor.’

*(From Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion booklet)*

Parish leadership meeting report – February 15th 2024

We began with a prayerful reflection on the Season of Lent.

Pupils from our parish primary schools will be invited to submit artwork to illustrate our Parish Vision and Mission Statements.

A number of issues concerning parish finances and parish buildings and maintenance were tabled and briefly discussed Parish finances. An income and expenditure statement for the year 2023 was tabled. It may need some adjustment and so, is not a final statement. Currently it indicates a surplus of $12,280.

The parish currently has $700,000 in investment with Catholic Development fund. These mature in the near future and decision on reinvestment will need to be made.

53 King Edward Avenue. The first stage of approval for the parish to carry out renovations of the parish owned house has been received from the Archdiocesan Building and Finance Commission (DPFC) has been received. A detailed description of what needs to be done now needs to be prepared in preparation for requesting quotes for the work. Heritage listing requirements need to be considered. When this is done the Parish can apply for the second stage of approval of DPCF.

The building by St John of God Healthcare for accommodation of intellectually disabled adults has been completed. This is on Parish owned land, the former convent site, on Blanche St leased to StJofG by the Parish. A blessing of the new facility will take place on Thursday 21st March at 10.30.

There will be a meeting this Thursday, 22nd February at 7.00pm at the Presbytery for current members of the Parish Finance Committee, other Parish Leadership Team members who can attend and any other parishioners interested in offering support in dealing with the above and other matters important to the good care of the Parish.