*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*



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 Blanche St., Ardeer 3022

 Principal: Assunta Iacovino

*“Do Small Things Well”*

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SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT Year B 24 & 25 February 2024

After the birth of her children, 22-year-old Ronita was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia’s partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations. 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.

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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 Sunday |  | CUPPA AFTER MASS Join us next weekend 2 & 3 March after each Mass for a cuppa and a chat. Why not take this opportunity to enjoy the company of your fellow parishioners, and a chance to welcome Fr Dixon to the Parish. Please bring a plate to share.CHRIST’S CATHOLIC COMMUNITYPrayer Group meets every Thursday, 7.00 - 8.30pm, at Queen of Heaven Church. All are welcomeCOLLECTIONS RECEIVEDThanksgiving $662 Loose Money $262 Presbytery $484COUNTERS 3rd March Team 2: J Meilak, P PaceREADINGS Today Next WeekGenesis 22.1-2,9-13,15-18 Exodus 20.1-17Ps 116.10+15,16-17,18-19(R9) Ps 19.7,8,9,10 (R.Jn6.68)Romans 8.3lb-35,37++ 1 Corinthians 1.18,22-25++Mark 9.2-10 John 2.13-25 |

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 1ST March 2024

This year’s event will be hosted by The Salvation Army Sunshine Corps, 42 Devonshire Rd, Sunshine at 10.30am on Friday 1st March. All welcome

MONDAY MOVIE Returning last Monday of the month

Monday 26th February, meet at 'Sunshine Village Cinema' 3pm for the 3.20pm session of Bob Marley, reply to Ann-Maree 0401 192 079

POSITIONS VACANT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

* Parish Secretary- St John Bosco’s Parish, Niddrie
* Parish Secretary, Partnered Parish St Gabriels, St Stephens & St Raphael, Reservoir- Reservoir East -Presten West, Reservoir

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: [Job vacancies | Melbourne Catholic](https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies)

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

REFLECTIONS ON TODAY’S READINGS

When Jesus took his closest friends to the top of a high mountain, they experienced something quite extraordinary. The transfiguration gave them a glimpse of what it meant for Jesus to be the son of God. It is hardly surprising that Peter said, ‘it is wonderful for us to be here.’ The Gospel also tells us that Jesus’ friends were frightened, and this is also easy to understand. They were overwhelmed. Nevertheless, it’s not long before Jesus reminds them that he is destined to die. His friends must come down from the mountain and walk with Jesus through all the ordinary days and weeks that lie ahead.

We can all say ‘it is wonderful for us to be here’ no matter where that happens to be. Life is full of wonder. That doesn’t mean it is always easy. We live in the arms of a very deep mystery. God’s love enfolds us.

Throughout Lent, we are called to support Project Compassion, an initiative of Caritas Australia. This year, Project Compassion celebrates 60 years of partnership with some of the most marginal communities in the world. With your help, we have walked alongside literally millions of people in dozens of countries.

This week we encounter the story of Ronita who lives in Quezon City, part of metro Manila in the Philippines. Becoming a mother at a young age meant that her schooling was cut short. Her husband, Lean, leaves for work at 3am and returns at 9pm, earning less than $US10 per day in a demanding job in waste disposal. On such a small income, Ronita and Lean, along with two young children, are able to rent a room of about 10 square metres.

Thanks to your support of Project Compassion, Ronita’s life can be transfigured. She has been able to continue her education through the Alternative Learning System (ALS), run by Caritas Australia’s partner, the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). The FCJ sisters provide a safe space for young people such as Ronita to finish school and find better jobs.

Caritas Australia believes that the world can be transfigured to become more like the kingdom of God of which Jesus spoke. We can encounter people whom others choose to ignore. When we do so, we discover that here, too, are children of God. We are asked to listen to them.

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

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A reflection from Sister Veronica Lawson rsm

The wilderness was the geographical and key symbolic focus of last week’s gospel story. This week, the focus is a mountain. Wilderness and mountain remind us that God’s Earth itself is the locus of mystery and grace, the place of Earth-divine encounter. The mountain, like the wilderness, links Mark’s story of Jesus with the story of the Israelites. Moses’ encounter with God on the mountain of Sinai was a defining moment in the life of the people: the Israelites entered into covenant with God at this mountain and received the Law that was to guide their lives as a people. Some centuries later, at a time of crisis in Israel’s life, the prophet Elijah returned to this mountain and experienced the presence of God in the gentle breeze (1 Kings 19:10-13).

In the gospel passage for today, Jesus takes Peter, James and John up the mountain and is “transfigured” before them and “his clothes become dazzling white”. In the Book of Revelation, white clothes come to symbolise the clothing of martyrs, of those who die for their faith. Elijah and Moses, the key prophetic figures of Israel, appear and enter into dialogue with Jesus, God’s definitive prophet. The “transfiguration” seems to point to a time in Jesus’ ministry when he accepts his likely fate. If he continues to challenge oppression and injustice, he is certain to encounter opposition, even death. He struggles with that realisation in the “wilderness” and comes to terms with what it involves on this unidentified mountain.

The voice of God reaffirms the identity of Jesus that was announced in the opening words of the gospel and proclaimed at his baptism in the Jordan. It calls for a response from the disciples who have ascended the mountain in his company: they are to listen to him. In the two preceding scenes, Jesus has spoken of the suffering that he and his followers will have to face. These words are crucial to an understanding, not only of Jesus, but of what it means to follow him. They fall on deaf ears.

 Peter wants to hold on to the experience of glory, to “make tents” and settle down. He prefers not to face the difficulties involved in fidelity to the mission. But that is not the way of discipleship. Like Jesus and his companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of final victory. We also need the courage and the good sense to return from the mountain and 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 sometimes experience. While so many lives and so many life forms are obliterated by fruitless wars and unsustainable dependence on fossil fuels, we are called to “listen” and come to terms with the costs involved in maintaining the struggle for a sustainable, safe, and peace-filled world.