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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”*

News Years Day Year A 31 & 1 January 2023

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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 |  | *SPECIAL COLLECTION – Thank you for your generosity. We* *Raised $1636 for Ukraine* COLLECTIONS RECEIVEDThanksgiving $ 1697 Loose Money $463 Presbytery $1600 Christmas Offerings $436COUNTERS January 8 Team 2: Mary Azzopardi and Maria CamenzuliFEAST DAYS THIS WEEKSt Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, 2 JanuaryREADINGS *Today Next Week**Numbers 6.22-27 Isaiah 60.1-6**Ps 67.1-2,4-5,6-7 (R.1a) Ps 72.1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13* *Galatians 4.4-7 Ephesians 3.2-3a, 5-6**Luke 2.16-21 Matthew 2.1-12* |

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.

CHURCH PEWS AT QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Restoration of the church pews at Queen of Heaven has been completed at a cost of $15,000. Many thanks to Siva and his team from MS VIC PROPERTY MAINTENANCE for their good and efficient work. If you need furniture restoration, painting, various types of cleaning and similar work you can get Siva’s contact details from Mary Azzopardi or the Parish Office. Thanks to Mary Azzopardi and Ann-Maree Sanford for getting this organised, and thanks to those parishioners who made donations towards the cost. The remaining cost is covered by parish finances supported, as ore other costs of looking after our Parish, by our Thanksgiving donations. Please treat our newly restored furniture with respect and make sure that no deliberate scratching or graffitiing takes place.

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

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

Sister Mary Coloe

Our Mother. Our Sister.

Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

*Mary pondered all these things in her heart.*

In first century Israel, the custom was for a young woman to marry as soon as she reached puberty, so we need to remember that Mary would have been around thirteen years old when Jesus was born.

Throughout her life Mary, a young woman and mother, must have pondered many things as she learnt what motherhood meant in all its joys and sorrows. We know nothing of the years in Nazareth before Jesus’ baptism by John. But from the glimpses of Jesus’ adult life we know he must have been raised in the religion and traditions of Israel. He would have watched his mother prepare the Sabbath meals and pray her prayer of blessing over the Sabbath lights. He would have learnt from her the stories of his ancestors – Abraham, Moses, David, Ruth, Naomi and Esther. The home of Nazareth would have been his first place of schooling. Mary was not only the physical mother of Jesus, she, along with Joseph, was also the nurturer of his personal faith.

During Jesus’ ministry we seldom hear of Mary’s presence for the Gospel’s focus on Jesus’ new family of disciples. John’s Gospel names her standing at the cross and Luke presents her in the midst of the disciples at Pentecost. These glimpses assure us that Mary was both mother and faithful disciple. As mother, her role was unique. As disciple she is both mother and sister to all of us. May we all, like Mary, ponder God’s mysterious ways in our hearts and nurture the seeds of faith and life within.

A painting of the Annunciation by an American artist, Henry Tanner, captures for me, something of the mystery and vulnerability of Mary’s life. This painting brings out Mary’s humanity and awe, which I often find missing from other depictions of this young woman. (The image can be easily found on the internet.)

In the Letter to the Ephesians, Paul places the birth of Jesus within a long and evolving history. When he writes, ‘When the appointed time came,’ … the suggestion is there that from the beginning of time Jesus was always part of God’s plan. Paul then moves from the simple statement of Jesus’ birth to what this birth means, that all people now, in and through Jesus, are drawn into his relationship with God, all can now be sons and daughters of God. For Paul, this is the meaning of the Incarnation, that in becoming human, all humanity has been incorporated into the very life of God.