*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*



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Principal: Rob Macklin

Mother of God Primary School - 93631734

Blanche St., Ardeer 3022

Principal: Assunta Iacovino

*“Do Small Things Well”*

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SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 13 & 14 January 2024

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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 20th January, 10.00am at St Theresa’s 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 $660 Loose Money $302  Presbytery $574  COUNTERS 21st January  Team 1: D Catania, E Catania, C Xuereb  FEAST DAYS  St Anthony, 17 January  READINGS Today Next Week  Isaiah 55:1-11 Jonah 3.1-5,10  Isaiah 12:2-6 Ps 25.4-5a,6+7b,8-9(R.4)  1 John 5:1-9 1 Corinthians 7.29-31  Mark 1:7-11 Mark 1.14-20 |

JOSEPH'S CORNER A support service for families of Drug Addiction.

Located at 3 Birmingham St, Yarraville. Phone 9315 2680. More information is available from Fr Barry, the Parish Office, or a leaflet in the pamphlet rack.

NEED TO DISPOSE OF A VEHICLE?

Disposal of a car from a deceased estate, or when a family member has had to relinquish their licence or go into residential care, can be a challenging process. Getting a roadworthy, taking photos to advertise on the internet, cleaning and polishing, taking calls (if they come), even finding a garage until a prospective buyer turns up (if indeed they do!).

If you need to dispose of a vehicle from a deceased estate or which is no longer required, could you consider gifting it to the “Lifeboat Foundation”, a registered charity with tax deductible status, which for ten years has been providing pastoral and practical support to nearly 150 victims / survivors across Australia of church-related sexual abuse.

Many of these suffer Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), have limited or no employment, and a donated vehicle could vastly improve their quality of life and / or generate funds to assist personal, medical and accommodation needs.

If you would like to explore the possibility of gifting a potentially suitable vehicle to “Lifeboat”, contact Fr. Kevin Dillon ([frkdillon@outlook.com.au](mailto:frkdillon@outlook.com.au) or 0421 777 360) or Adam Kaali (0411 486 605 or [adam-kaali@hotmail.com](mailto:adam-kaali@hotmail.com)).

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

REFLECTION ON TODAY’S READINGS

The Baptism of Jesus marks the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. Many of us have been fortunate enough to get some time after Christmas to reflect on the past year with all its challenges and to set goals for the year ahead so that we might move into Ordinary Time with renewed life and vigour. As Covid-19 vaccines offer hope of a return to more familiar ways of being, we acknowledge the need to explore new ways of living the faith we profess.

Mark’s story of the baptism forms part of the prologue to the gospel. It provides the reader with insights that the characters in the story are invited to learn along the way. It is succinct and at the same time replete with evocative imagery. At one level, the imagery leads us back into Israel’s faith traditions and forward into the unfolding mystery of God’s new way of being in the world through the ministry, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. On another level, the imagery embraces the entire universe, the heavens and the earth, celestial and earthly beings, the human and the more-than-human.

The preceding verses (Mark 1:5-6) have told us that John the Baptizer has drawn huge crowds of people from the Judean countryside and from Jerusalem to be baptised in the Jordan River. In the midst of this activity, John now suddenly announces that one more powerful (literally “the stronger one”) is about to come on the scene. John knows who he is in relation to this coming one: he is not even worthy to bend down and untie the thong of his sandals. This footwear imagery evokes the humility and earthiness of John as well as the relentless journeying of Jesus in Mark’s gospel. While John baptised with water, the more powerful one will “baptise” with the Holy Spirit.

The baptism story is a commissioning story. The heavens are torn apart, evoking the prophetic hope of Isaiah 64:1 and foreshadowing the tearing of the curtain of the temple at Jesus’ death (Mark 15:38). In other words, all the barriers between God and God’s creation are now dismantled. Just as God’s spirit hovered over the waters of creation, so now the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus in the form of a dove, giving birth to something entirely new. The God of the universe addresses Jesus as “my beloved Son”. There are echoes here of the story of Isaac, the beloved son of Sarah and Abraham, the one through whom God's promises were to be fulfilled. Isaac is the ancestor of Israel who struggled with God. God's people have always struggled with God and will continue to do so. But God's favour continues to rest on God's creation just as it rests on Jesus of Nazareth, God's beloved. We take heart from this in face of a world that cries out for justice and compassion.

Reflection by Sister of Mercy, Sr Veronica Lawson RSM, Theologian and Biblical Scholar. (For Feast of the Baptism of Jesus 2021)