*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*



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 St. Theresa’s Primary School – 9311 9070

 16 Drummartin St, Albion 3020

 Principal: Rob Macklin

 Mother of God Primary School – 9363 1734

 Blanche St, Ardeer 3022

 Principal: Assunta Iacovino

*“Do Small Things Well”*

16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A 22 & 23 July 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 Thurs 6.00pm Friday (Polish) 5.30pm Saturday10.15am Sunday (Polish)QUEEN OF HEAVENHolt St, Ardeer  8.00am Wednesday 9.00am Sunday |  | CHRIST’S CATHOLIC COMMUNITYMeeting Thursday, 7.00 - 8.30pm, at Queen of Heaven ChurchCOLLECTIONS RECEIVEDThanksgiving $1346 Loose Money $377 Presbytery $823COUNTERS 30th July  Team 3: M Poulter, A CorreyaFEAST DAYSSt James, Apostle 25 JulySt Joachim & Anne, 26 JulySt Martha, 29 JulyREADINGS *Today Next Week**Wisdom 12.13,16-19 1 Kings 3.5-12++**Ps 86.5-6,9-10, 15-16 Ps 119.57+72,76-77,127-128,129-130**Romans 8.26-27 Romans 8.28-30**Matthew13.24-43 Matthew 13.44-52* |

DONATED CLOTHING A few winter jackets (kid’s sizes 7 & 8, ladies jumpers large and a blanket) have been donated to the parish. If there is anyone in need please visit the Parish Office Tuesday or Thursday this week between 9 -2pm

PARISH MOVIE MORNING Monday 31st July, 10.00am for ‘Red, White & Brass’ at Sunshine Village Cinema, Tickets $9. RSVP Ann-Maree on 0401 192 079 by Sunday 30th July.

ST JOSEPH’S BY THE SEA 16 Esplanade, Williamstown

*Treasuring our later Years* 5 days of reflections over the month of August, Wednesdays 10am-12.30pm Cost $20 per session

*“Treasuring our later years is a focus on how old age enlightens – we come with a wealth of experiences to treasure and to share with others. We are also opened to new opportunities, to come alive in new ways.* RSVP 2 days before on 9397 6012 for all sessions

SPIRITULAITY IN THE PUB ST ANDREW’S HOTEL 124 Nicholson St Fitzroy

**The St Andrew’s Hotel** provides a spacious and comfortable atmosphere. Meals available from 6pm to 7.15pm. **BUT PLEASE, IF YOU INTEND TO DINE**, **Book with the hotel on 9417 2817, quoting Spirituality in the Pub** to assist with setting out the necessary tables. Support the Pub that supports Spirituality in the Pub!

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

REFLECTION

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY by Mary Coloe PBVM

‘Gardening for the Soul’

The gospel continues on from the parable of the Sower that we heard last week. Divine Wisdom, now present in Jesus, continues to teach those who would listen. If God, the householder, sows only good seed why is it that there are such mixed results? The parable makes two points. Firstly that an enemy is responsible for the weeds, not the householder; secondly that the householder will deal with these weeds at the harvest time.

It is important to read this parable in its context. Jesus is dealing with why so many do not respond to his teaching, for his ministry receives a very mixed response. In the symbolism of the parable, the reign of God that Jesus announces is met by vigorous opposition from the powers of evil. This is the reality in Jesus’ time, the reality faced by Matthew’s community and it continues to be our reality. The voice of the Gospel continues to struggle to be heard in our present society. Other values are presented as offering a better way of life – if we allow asylum seekers in, our ‘white Australian’ quality of life may change – if we stop embryonic research we may lose our scientists and possible cures for many illnesses.

With many of the complex issues we face it is not easy to discern the weeds from the wheat. On the two issues named above good people of faith hold different views. The parable seems to suggest that the servants need to live with both the wheat and the weeds and leave the task of judgment to God. Jesus offers this teaching to console and encourage his followers. Their task, as servants, is to sow goodness. The task of destroying evil is God’s.

Perhaps an even greater challenge is to realise that the parable speaks about me. The paradox within my own life – I too have to learn to live with the wheat and the weeds within my own heart. Many years ago I read a story of Tony D'Mello's; it goes something like this. The preacher came and asked the class, ‘If all the good people wore white and all the bad people wore black, what would you wear?’ Mary Jane answered, ‘I'd wear polka dots!’ For all our good intentions, and efforts we will probably continue to struggle with some issues all our lives. The garden of our soul will always need a little weeding. These inner struggles will continue to call us to conversion and we will continue to need to call on God and allow God to be the gardener of our souls. Knowing the weeds and wheat within our own individual lives, can help us be a little more patient, or tolerant of the weeds and wheat around us – in our families, communities, our Church. This is not an invitation to complacency but a reminder to ‘get real’ as young people say.

The reading from Romans is from chapter 8, and earlier in this letter Paul had lamented, ‘When I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inner self, but I see in my outer self another law at war with my soul’ (7:21). I think Paul speaks of this same inner struggle of knowing the weeds and the wheat which leads him to rely on the Spirit of God as he says in the reading today. ‘The Spirit helps us in our weakness… The Spirit intercedes for us … the Spirit searches the inner hearts of all people.’ Paul then continues, ‘If *God* is for us, who can be against us’ (8:31). In the struggle to live a good meaningful life, we can sometimes be our own worst enemy in being far too harsh and unforgiving towards ourselves. The Parable may invite us to greater kindness towards ourselves and to leave the task of major garden work to God.