*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*



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Principal: Assunta Iacovino

*“Do Small Things Well”*

TRINITY SUNDAY Year A 3 & 4 JUNE 2023

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL

This week Catholic Mission will offer the opportunity to be part of a life-changing program which aims to address gaps in medical care, and provide families with essential health care and knowledge, equipping them with the confidence to act, and autonomy over their health and well-being.

The Maria Auxiliadora Clinic is a vital project for the Salesian Sisters and the Church in Venilale. Since its establishment, the clinic has provided life-saving treatment for families in need, like Petrolina’s, whose daughter Vitoria was found to have tuberculosis. But, with an increase in the demand for treatment, the Sisters’ resources can only carry them so far.

Please give generously today to help continue this life-giving program by using the appeal envelope, going online at catholicmission.org.au/timor, or scanning the QR code. Your gift will also help many other similar Church-run mission programs around the world.

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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 Wed  9.00am Sunday |  | CUPPA AFTER MASS  Join us today after each Mass for a cuppa and a chat.  PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE Wednesday 7th June, 6.00pm  PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM Wednesday 7th June 7.00pm  COLLECTIONS RECEIVED  Thanksgiving $477.50 Loose Money $190.60 Presbytery $366.45  COUNTERS 11th June  Team 4: J Camilleri, M Buhagiar, J Zammit  FEAST DAYS  St Boniface, 5 June  READINGS *Today Next Week*  *Exodus 34.4b-6,8-9 Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16*  *Daniel 3.52,53,54,55,56 R.52 Psalm 147: 12-15, 19-20 2 Corinthians 13.11-13 1 Corinthians 10:16-17*  *John 3.16-18 John 6:51-59* |

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS. The Winter edition is full of stories about Cultural communities contribute to Church, and Culture Identity and other inspiring stories. Pick up your free copy from the newsletter table today.

POSITIONS VACANT

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

         **Safeguarding Officer**          **Parish Secretary – St Dominic’s Parish, Melton**

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

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

Reflection on the Gospel –

Trinity Sunday Year A (John 3:16-18)

Veronica Lawson RSM

“She has gone to God and God is very near”. Some dear friends of mine chose these words for the cover of their mother’s funeral booklet. Their choice of words demonstrates their faith in God of whom John writes in today’s gospel. For them, as for us, God is not a distant God, but rather a God of communion, and a God in communion with the world: “God so loved the world….” John uses the term “world” here to refer to humanity in need of salvation. Jesus is the one through whom the world is saved, the one through whom God gives “eternal life” (zoē aiōnios), literally “life of the age”. “Eternal life” or “life of the age” is not referring to ordinary life (psychē), but to a share in God’s life that has no beginning and no end. The whole gospel was written that we “may have life (zoē)”, the life that has no end (John 20:31).

Nothing in John’s gospel should be read in isolation from the whole. Our passage forms part of Jesus’ dialogue with a Pharisee called Nicodemus who recognizes that Jesus is “of God”. Jesus leads Nicodemus from a basic and fairly literal understanding to new understandings about what it means to be in relationship with God. The need to be “born of the Spirit” is part of the conversation that forms the context for the three verses chosen for today’s gospel. Trinitarian language pervades John’s gospel and is present elsewhere in the Christian scriptures, almost certainly reflecting the incipient belief of the earliest communities that God is one, as Jewish faith asserts, and at the same time three-in-one. This belief was to develop over the subsequent centuries into the doctrine of the Trinity which is at the very heart of Christian faith.

Perichoresis, a Greek term suggestive of dancing or of figures interweaving, is one of the earliest images for this Trinitarian life of God. The life that is in God is three and yet one in a totally harmonious dance of equals. The wonder is that we are invited to join the dance. Trinity Sunday is the day that we set aside to celebrate who God is in Godself and who God is in relation to the whole of creation. We celebrate the nearness of the Triune God who draws us as participants into the dance of life and love. We hear later in John’s gospel that the Spirit of truth guides us “into all the truth”. We continue to listen to the Spirit so that we might understand more fully the “things that are to come” and the relatedness we are called to live. The dance of Trinitarian love casts out hatred and enmity and wanton destruction and calls us to live in harmony with one another and with all of God’s creation. With Covid-19\* affecting the entire human community, we reflect anew on what it means to “have the life of the age” and to live in loving communion with one another and with the natural world.

\*Veronica’s reflection was written in earlier Covid times (2020). We are still living with Covid and its many effects.