*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*



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Mother of God Primary School - 93631734

Blanche St., Ardeer 3022

Principal: Assunta Iacovino

*“Do Small Things Well”*

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT Year B 9 & 10 March 2024

As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, Memory faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village.

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’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 |  | ESTIA HEALTH 30 North St, Ardeer, 11.00am Tuesday  RECONCILIATION (Individual Confession)  Saturday 16th March, 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 $1101 Loose Money $317 Presbytery $557  COUNTERS 17th March  Team 4: M Poulter A Sanford  READINGS Today Next Week  2 Chronicles 36.14-17a,19-23++ Jeremiah 31.31-34  Ps 1371.1-2,3-4,5-6(R.6) Ps 51.1-2,10-11,12-13(R.10)  Ephesians 2.4-10 Hebrews 5.7-9  John 3.14-21 John 12.20-33 |

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL H.V McKay Gardens, Sunday 17th March 12pm – 5pm

Food, free face painting, live music, sporting activities, games and prizes. 120 Anderson Road, Sunshine

ST. BERNADETTE LENTEN MISSION - JESUS AND FRIENDS!

The Maltese Mission (*Ezercizzi tar-Randan*), this year’s Lenten Mission at St. Bernadette Parish Church (59, Westmoreland Rd., Sunshine North) will be delivered in English.

Tuesday 19th to Friday 22nd March 2024, 7:00pm (finishing by 8:00pm), St. Bernadette Parish Church, Sunshine North. As we journey through Lent, we become more aware of the fact that we are not as close to Him as we would like to be.  There is so much that pulls us away.  That’s everyone’s experience.  Let us reflect on this reality with the help of some of Jesus’ friends. Everyone is welcome.

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

REFLECTION ON TODAY’S READINGS

Fourth Sunday of Lent

2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23 I Ephesians 2:4–10 I John 3:14–21

*Written by Michael McGirr*

We have all lived through a great deal of change. Even young people have seen plenty. ChatGPT is a recent development and so are electric cars. Older people can remember having a phone plugged into a socket that you couldn’t carry around with you. Sometimes we have discussions about the good old days. They are often tinged with nostalgia for things we miss and gratitude for improvements. We no longer need to buy film for our cameras or change typewriter ribbons. Climate change is deeply troubling. Many medical improvements are inspiring.

Change can certainly be frightening. It can also be an occasion of great hope. Jesus seems to have understood this. Nicodemus comes across as a character who is looking for change in his life, but he is nervous about it, so he comes to see Jesus under cover of darkness. Earlier in the chapter, Jesus uses the image of being born again. Of starting all over again. It is a dramatic description of change.

Jesus says that the light has come into the world and that people prefer the same old darkness. They are set in their ways.

Every Lent, through Project Compassion, Caritas Australia asks us to help bring light into the world and to make positive change. An example is presented to us this week in the story of Memory, a young woman from rural Malawi, the eldest child in a family living at the level of subsistence farming.

Listen to some of Memory’s words: 'Growing up in the village was not easy. My parents don’t have a job, so they depend on farming. When the season goes wrong, we suffer a lot and become food insecure. Sometimes we need to bathe without soap. Sometimes we need to walk without shoes.’

With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Memory was able to enrol at a technical college where she learnt practical skills in carpentry. A new life became possible. She can now realise her full potential and offer more to her family and her community.

Today, the letter to the Ephesians reminds us that every person is ‘God’s work of art.’ God is the artist who never signs off on a painting but is always trying to make it better. Perhaps we can see the world in the same way.

Memory graduated with an Advanced Certificate in Carpentry and Joinery becoming the first female carpenter from her village. Photo: Tim Lam/Caritas Australia.