*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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THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT Year B 2 & 3 March 2024

PROJECT COMPASSION

Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions.

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 |  | CUPPA AFTER MASS  Join us today after each Mass for a cuppa and a chat.  RECONCILIATION (Individual Confession)  Saturday 9th March, 10.00am at Queen of Heaven or other times and places on request.  COLLECTIONS RECEIVED  Thanksgiving $683 Loose Money $510 Presbytery $909  COUNTERS 10th March  Team 3: M Azzopardi, M Camenzuli  READINGS Today Next Week  Exodus 20.1-17 2 Chronicles 36.14-17a,19-23++  Ps 19.7,8,9,10 (R.Jn6.68) Ps 1371.1-2,3-4,5-6(R.6)  1 Corinthians 1.18,22-25++ Ephesians 2.4-10  John 2.13-25 John 3.14-21 |

THANK YOU……To all Parishioners both Schools, family and friends who assisted with preparation, set up/clean up, catering, donations and came along on Sunday to celebrate Fr Barry’s farewell gathering

CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT FUND Save with CDF Community Fund – it’s in everyone’s best interest. By opening an account, not only will you receive a competitive financial return, your savings will also help build parishes, classrooms, hospital wings, aged care homes and social service facilities. With competitive interest rates available across a range of accounts, including 5.55% p.a.\* on a 12-month Term Investment, it’s a way to save while doing good.

To find out more, visit [www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer](http://www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer) email Anton Pan-Cassin [apancassin@melbcdf.org.au](mailto:apancassin@melbcdf.org.au) or Bernard Docherty [bdocherty@melbcdf.org.au](mailto:bdocherty@melbcdf.org.au)

\*Interest rates subject to change. View current rates on the CDF website*.*

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

REFLECTION ON TODAY’S READINGS

If the world is one great classroom, then God is a fantastic teacher. We have all had experience of this: the firm and gentle way that God opens our minds and helps us to understand.

Today’s readings show three different ways that God tries to get through to us. In the first reading, God sets some clear expectations for behaviour. They are all based around respect, both for the teacher and for those with whom we share the class! At the same time, God reminds us ‘I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the house of slavery.’ In other words, these are not random rules. They are designed to protect our deepest freedom. Disregarding them sends us back into captivity.

In the Gospel, Jesus is annoyed by people who think they know everything but who have not properly understood the basic lesson about justice and reverence. ‘Stop turning my father’s house into a market.’ Finally, St Paul speaks about wisdom. ‘God’s weakness is human strength.’ This is another style again: inviting us into a mystery, almost using riddles to get us to think outside the box.

It is no surprise that the Catholic community has always valued education and done a great deal to make it accessible for people around the world. Just as God teaches us, so too do we try to share the wonderful gift of learning with others.

This week, Project Compassion brings us the story of Leaia, who lives in Samoa. With the support of Caritas Australia’s local partner Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed in Leaia’s home to harvest rainwater. This means that her family can now have access to clean water to drink and bathe. The time that was previously spent walking to collect water in buckets from a neighbour down the street can now be used for other essential tasks and, most importantly, her children don’t have to miss out on school. School is a doorway that opens onto a better world.

The Gospel today says that Jesus knew what a person had in them. We should try to be the same: to see the potential, not just the surface.

FAREWELL AND THANKS FROM FATHER BARRY

I have been very privileged to be a member of St Theresa’s Parish, and to have the role of Parish Priest here for 39 years. Thank you to all who have been involved in the Parish, including its two wonderful primary schools, in any way at all during that time. In particular thanks to all who have supported the Parish by taking on particular roles that include cleaning and maintenance, preparation for Masses, active involvement in the Mases, liturgy preparation, weekly reflections, parish leadership team, and many others. All these things contribute to making the Parish the welcoming community of faith that it is. We should all be particularly grateful to our parish secretarial staff, currently Jean and Margaret, who do so much to keep things running smoothly, and cheerfully respond to so many needs.

As I stand aside from the role of Parish Priest, and as Father Dixon moves into it, I am sure that good things will continue, and even better things will develop. I look forward to hearing the good news.

While I will no longer be your Parish Priest, I hope that I will still be your friend. Should people wish to contact me at some time my phone number is 0428 533 391, and my email [barrythughes45@gmail.com](mailto:barrythughes45@gmail.com). For a while I will be living in the presbytery at Alphington, 45 Railway Place, Alphington, and after that, who knows?

May God bless you all.

Father Barry