*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*



Parish Priest: Fr Barry Hughes

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Residence: 185 William St, St Albans 3021

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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”*

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Year A 6 & 7 May 2023

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| MASSES THIS WEEK  ST THERESA’S  Drummartin St, Albion  9.10am Friday  10.30am Sunday  MOTHER OF GOD  Blanche St, Ardeer  10.00am Wednesday (Pol)  NO MASS 9.00am Thursday  6.00pm Friday (Polish)  5.30pm Saturday  10.15am Sunday (Polish)  QUEEN OF HEAVEN  Holt St, Ardeer  NO MASS 8.00am Wed  9.00am Sunday |  | CUPPA AFTER MASS  Join us today after each Mass for a cuppa and a chat.  CHRIST’S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  Prayer Group meets every Thursday, 7pm - 8.30pm at Queen of Heaven Church. All are welcome  PROJECT COMPASSION  THANK YOU to all who donated to Project Compassion. A total of $2,692 has been forwarded to Caritas Australia.  COLLECTIONS RECEIVED  Thanksgiving $893 Loose Money $257 Presbytery $512  COUNTERS 14th May  Team 4: J Camilleri, M Buhagiar, J Zammit  READINGS *Today Next Week*  *Acts 6.1-7 Acts 8.5-8,14-17*  *Ps 33.1-2,4-5,18-19,(R.22) Ps 66.1-3a,4-5,6-7a,16+20(R1)*  *1 Peter 2.4-9 1 Peter 3.15-18*  *John 14.1-12 John 14.15-21* |

PARISH DINNER

All parishioners are invited to a meal on Tuesday 16th May 6pm at Braybrook Hotel Buffet, 353 Ballarat Rd, Braybrook. Adult meals $36 or Concession holders $26. RSVP Ann-Maree on Ph: 0401 192 079 by Monday 15th May.

JOSEPH’S CORNER - CELEBRATING 23 YEARS IN THE WEST

Support Joseph’s Corner High-Tea fundraiser by celebrating with your mother for Mother’s Day on 21st May 2023, Time: 2-5pm at Mount St. Joseph College 133 Maidstone St, Altona. Ticket includes a selection of High Tea favourites including savouries and sweets and a cuppa, dietary requirements available. $35pp. Ann-Maree will be booking a table please call 0401 192 079 if you wish to join the Parish group. *RSVP by Friday 12th May or Phone Ann 0409 901 899*

CAROLINE CHISOLM CATHOLIC COLLEGE OPEN DAY Sunday 21st May 11am-2pm

Caroline Chisolm Catholic College, Churchill Avenue, Braybrook or p:h 9296 5311.

POSITIONS VACANT

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

·         **Parish Secretary – St Dominic’s Parish, Melton**

·         **Parish Secretary – Holy Family Parish, Maidstone and Braybrook**

·         **Parish Secretary – St Mary’s Parish, Williamstown**

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 – EASTER 5A

(John 14:1-14)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

“Take from my heart all painful anxiety” is a gospel inspired prayer. It is the prayer of Catherine McAuley, the first Sister of Mercy. Like Jesus, Catherine knew in her being that a troubled heart is always a possibility. When we don’t have any serious concerns in the present, we are often anxious about the future. There is a difference, of course, between having concerns and having a troubled heart. The difference lies in how we deal with the inevitable problems and challenges that come our way. If ever there was a time with potential for troubled hearts, it is right now as we deal with extreme weather events, with the divisions in the community over justice for First Nations Peoples, with increasing wealth disparity, with the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and with the impact of long Covid.

Freedom from anxiety is the constant message of the gospels. “Do not let your hearts be troubled” is Jesus’ word to his friends in John’s gospel. The verb, here in passive mood (“be troubled”), is used of Jesus’ spirit when he finds his friend Mary and her companions weeping over the death of Lazarus (11:33). It means literally to shake or to stir up. Jesus is really shaken by grief in that situation. As he faces his own death, he does not want his friends to be troubled of heart or spirit. He speaks here from his own experience.

Jesus shows the way to an untroubled heart: “Believe into God, believe also into me.’” The faith of the disciples is to be grounded in his care for them both in the present and into the future: “I go to prepare a place for you… I will come again and will take you to myself”. In this context, Jesus makes three claims: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” The prologue to the gospel, which functions as an overture to the gospel, has introduced the notion of the incarnate Word as “full of grace and truth” and the bringer of “grace and truth” (1:14, 17). The Word is the life that is the light of all (1:4), the bread of life, even the resurrection and the life. Jesus’ claim to be “the way” is foreshadowed in the parable of the gate: “I am the gate for the sheep (10:7).”

If the disciples know Jesus, then they also know the way to God whom Jesus images in tender parental terms as “Father”. If Philip does not believe in their mutual indwelling, then maybe he can believe on account of the “works” of Jesus, works that are also the works of God. Those who believe have the power to do these and even greater works. This seems extraordinary, but is really a matter of believing with untroubled hearts that the power comes from God. Let us not underestimate the power of prayer at this time of distress and the power of action, no matter how small, to help those whose hearts are troubled.

