*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*



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St. Theresa’s Primary School - 93119070

16 Drummartin St., Albion 3020

Principal: Rob Macklin

Mother of God Primary School - 93631734

Blanche St., Ardeer 3022

Principal: Assunta Iacovino

*“Do Small Things Well”*

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31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A 4 & 5 November 2023

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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  RECONCILIATION (Individual Confession)  Saturday 11th November, 10.00am at Queen of Heaven or other times or placeson request |  | CUPPA AFTER MASS  Join us today after each Mass for a cuppa and a chat.  CLEANERS NEEDED  Volunteers required to clean St Theresa’s Church, you would be rostered on once every 6 to 8 weeks, please talk to Ann-Maree or ring the office.  COLLECTIONS RECEIVED  Thanksgiving $672 Loose Money $261 Presbytery $498  COUNTERS 12th November  Team 1: D Catania, E Catania, C Xuereb  FEAST DAYS  The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, 9 November  St Leo the Great, 10 November  St Martin of Tours, 11 November  St Josaphat, 12 November  READINGS Today Next Week  Malachi 1.14-2.2,8-10 Wisdom 6.12-16  Ps 131.1,2,3(Rsee2) Ps 63.1,4-5,6-7(R.1a)  1 Thessalonians 2.7-9,13 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18  Matthew 23.1-12 Matthew 25.1-13 |

MELBOURNE CUP LUNCHEON Tuesday 7th November, 12noon at Sunshine City Club Albion.

$25 Buffet Lunch, numbers required at the latest by Sunday night Ph: Ann-Maree 0401 192.Flyer on noticeboard.

'POLISH COMMUNITY' Fundraising raffle, mystery prizes on the day of their function Saturday 18th November, raffle tickets $1 each being sold by Ann-Maree today & next week at St Theresa's 'only' & event flyer on the noticeboard for bookings.

POLISH FUNDRAISER – For Fr Marion on Saturday 18th November at the Polish Club 2pm,

19 Carrington St Albion $37pp Contact Jadzia 0417 776 427

JOSEPH’S CORNER 3 Birmingham St, Yarraville 3013

You a welcome to join Joseph’s Corner FREE 4 week Program to improve Psychological Flexibility, new skills to cope with difficult thoughts and feelings. Thursday’s 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th November, 10am – 12pm. Please call 9315 2680.See poster on Noticeboard.

MASS AT ST PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL On the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica – Thursday 9 November, 5.30pm. Visit of His Excellency Most Rev Paul Gallagher. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the Commonwealth of Australia and Vatican. Celebrated by Archbishops Comensoli, Gallagher and Balvo. All are welcome to attend.

PRACTISE WHAT YOU PREACH

Reflection of the readings. Sister Mary Coloe

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13 Matthew 23:1-12

Once again, we see in today’s Gospel evidence of the Jewish background of Matthew’s community. The chair was a symbol of a teacher’s authority. He sat while disciples gathered at his feet. We continue that symbolism today when a Bishop is consecrated and seated in his ‘chair’, or in Greek, ‘kathedros’ from which comes the word Cathedral. Universities also have this symbolism when they speak of ‘the chair of philosophy, or English’. Jesus rightly speaks of the authority of the Pharisees to teach the Law of Moses. But he then cautions that they do not live out what they teach.

Jesus criticises the Pharisees for seeking after honour and power as depicted in various titles such as Rabbi, Master, Father, Teacher. There is no doubt that the Christian community had teachers and missionaries and apostles. What matters though is that these are roles of service for the good of the community and are not roles of honour giving a person a higher status than another. In the Christian community ‘you are all brothers and sisters’. It is possible that Matthew’s community were in danger of forgetting this and returning to older attitudes of hierarchies and honour systems.

Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians provides an alternative vision of Christian leadership. This is the first letter written by Paul to a community in what is now Northern Greece. The Thessalonians were an enthusiastic group, eagerly awaiting the return of Jesus which Paul expected in his own life-time. In this section of the letter Paul describes his leadership style. Without denying his apostolic authority his image of leadership is that of a nursing mother, leading with gentleness, affection, self-giving – and paying his own way through his work. In verse 11, which is not in the lectionary, Paul balances the image of a nursing mother and likens his ministry to that of a father, exhorting and encouraging his children. These two parental images express Paul’s self-understanding of how he is to be within the community. His model of leadership is based on the biblical image of God’s leadership of Israel. In the Old Testament God is frequently described as a parent, as a father or mother who guides, teaches, reprimands, forgives, nurtures. This is a marked contrast to the leadership style of the scribes and the Pharisees described in today’s Gospel. Paul once was a Pharisee and boasts that he was taught by one of the great teachers of that time (Acts 22:3), but in becoming a disciple of the Risen Jesus, Paul has undergone a deep personal change of heart. He no longer teaches his community as he might once have, as a Pharisee; instead, he teaches the essentials of Christian faith by his own example. Earlier in this letter he said, ‘You became imitators of us’ (1 Thess 1:6), and he writes to the Corinthians, ‘be imitators of me’ (1 Cor 4:16). Christian ministry is not so much teaching by words but by example. The minister lives the faith she or he teaches.

The words of Jesus and Paul challenge all of us, whether we have an official leadership role or not. All who profess to be a Christian should be able to say – look at me! This is what Christianity is about. We may never have the learned words to offer others, but the example of our lives ought to speak our Christian belief. In the days prior to Vatican II, it was easy to pick Catholics by such externals as ‘no meat on Friday.’ In our multi-faith society, it is easy to know the religious faith of some people by what they wear, what they eat, days of celebration – but what about Christians? Do our lives proclaim the Gospel, 24/7?

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