*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*



Parish Priest: Fr Barry Hughes

Presbytery: 17 Drummartin St, Albion 3020

Phone: 9311 3091

email: caalbion@netspace.net.au

Mobile: 0428 533 391

Polish Chaplain: Fr Marian Szeptak

Residence: 185 William St, St Albans 3021

Phone: 9310 9057

 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”*

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A 30 SEPT & 1 OCTOBER 2023

FEAST OF ST THERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS

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| MASSES THIS WEEK ST THERESA’SDrummartin St, Albion 9.00am Friday10.30am SundayMOTHER OF GODBlanche St, Ardeer10.00am Wednesday(Pol) 9.00am Thurs 6.00pm Friday (Polish) 5.30pm Saturday10.15am Sunday (Polish)QUEEN OF HEAVENHolt St, Ardeer  8.00am Wednesday 9.00am SundayCHRIST’S CATHOLIC COMMUNITYPrayer Group meets every Thursday, 7.00 - 8.30pm, at Queen of Heaven Church. All are welcome |  | CUPPA AFTER MASS Join us TODAY after each Mass for a cuppa and a chat. And to continue to celebrate the feast of our patron saint, St Therese of Lisieux.**PARISH FOOD BANK**We are low in food at the moment particularly in long life milk (full cream & lite), please donate in the Church baskets.COLLECTIONS RECEIVEDThanksgiving $877 Loose Money $306 Presbytery $560COUNTERS 8th October  Team 1: D Catania, E Catania, C XuerebFEAST DAYS St Therese of the Child Jesus, 1 OctoberSt Francis of Assisi, 4 OctoberOur Lady of the Rosary, 7 OctoberREADINGS *Today Next Week*Micah 6:1a, 8 Isaiah 5.1-7Psalm 131:1-3 Ps 80.8+11,12-13,14-15,18-19(R5.7)Colossians 3:12-17 Philippians 4.6-9Matthew 18:1-5 Matthew 21.33-43 |

SPRING MARKET BY ABBEY SOLO YOUTH COMMITTEE Sunday 1st October, 10.30am – 3.30pm at Kensington Town Hall, 30-34 Bellair St, Kensington VIC 3031

JOSEPH’S CORNER CHARITY GALA Saturday 7 October 2023 from 6pm

Joseph’s Corner, with the support of the Yarraville Club, 135 Stephen St Yarraville, presents the ORBISON PRESLEY Tribute Show. Please join us for a night of fun, entertainment, good food and friendship to help raise much needed funds to support families affected by addiction. See Poster for details and booking.

POSITIONS VACANT

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

* Parish Secretary-Our Lady of Southern Cross Parish, Clifton Hill
* Administration Assistant, Richmond
* Parish Secretary, Niddrie
* Parish Secretary, 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*

# The Little Way of Love: A Reflection on St. Thérèse of Lisieux

By Sister Joan Kerley, FMSJ

Thérèse of Lisieux, famous for her “little way” and her statement: “Upon my death I will let fall a shower of roses; I wish to spend my heaven in doing good upon the earth.”

Thérèse, who died at age 24, spent her short adult life as a Carmelite Sister in Lisieux, France. Although this vocation is not what most of us are called to, she can teach us the fundamental way of prayer: “Love God with your whole heart, mind and soul and your neighbour as yourself.”

“You, the great God, whom all heaven adores,
You live in me, a prisoner night and day;
The whole time your gentle voice implores me,
You keep on saying, “I am thirsty.. I thirst for love.”
I also am your prisoner,
And I want to say back to you
Your own tender and divine prayer,
‘My beloved, my brother, I thirst for love.’”

In her autobiography, The Story of a Soul, Thérèse relates two incidents which had a huge impact on her spiritual life. She had a great sense of belonging to the Body of Christ but, when she was meditating on St. Paul’s passage on the gifts of the Spirit and the unity and diversity of the Body of Christ (1Cor12), she began to get discouraged because she did not see her vocation there.

However, she found it in the next chapter on love: “So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” (1Cor.13:13). She wanted to be united with all the members of the Body of Christ, and serve them, through small acts of love, including prayer. Another influential image was a picture of the crucified Christ in which she noticed that blood was flowing from Jesus’ hands and no one seemed to be gathering it up. Thérèse understood that Christ was still bleeding in the wounded of the world and, like Christ, their suffering is often ignored, unnoticed and not valued. Her small acts of love, she believed, could unite her with those suffering people and bring Christ’s love and healing to them.

What can we learn from her that will help us address the needs of our day? From 6- 18 November 2022 world leaders met for COP27 t to continue discussing ways that all people can address one of the most pressing issues of our day: climate change.

Sometimes the extent of the problem may seem overwhelming or we may think that it is best to leave the solution to those who understand the issues better than we do and have the means to address them. I think Thérèse would disagree. As Pope Francis continually reminds us: we are all interconnected and what we do affects the lives of people, particularly the poor, in direct ways.

Thérèse’s “little way” challenges us to do our part to contribute to the solution. Are you a scientist, a teacher, an economist, a sociologist? Use your talents to educate and research. Are you a writer, a musician, an artist, a photographer? Create art that leads us to contemplate and wonder at the beauty of creation. Are you a parent, a caretaker, a religious leader? Help us to care for one another in practical ways that nourish our lives and our souls.

Thérèse lived an obscure, unremarkable life, she thought, in a cloister. Yet, her autobiography has influenced the lives of countless others and challenged them to live the Gospel by doing simple acts of love.

Our earth needs our love. The suffering, wounded ones of our world, here and abroad, need our love.

Most of us will never be famous but we can all live a life of love of God and neighbour through our prayers, our words, and our concrete actions to address the challenges that face our world today.

May St. Thérèse continue to guide us as we follow her example!