*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*



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Principal: Rob Macklin

Mother of God Primary School – 9363 1734

Blanche St, Ardeer 3022

Principal: Assunta Iacovino

*“Do Small Things Well”*

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A 9 & 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

ARDEER HISTORY THROUGH KIDS AND COMMUNITY

Mother of God School is capturing short stories of people who lived and worked in Ardeer and really hoping to collect very old stories from people who were here in the early days of the suburb.

The children of Mother of God and Ardeer Primary School are going to animate them. You can send your story by making a voice recording or writing a story. Please send details to [dgadri@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au](mailto:dgadri@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au) or [gwoolford@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au](mailto:gwoolford@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au) by 1st October 2023 *the children would love to hear your stories.*

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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 Thurs  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 next, 17th September, 10.00am at St Theresa’s.  FATHER’S DAY COLLECTION  Many thanks to those who donated we received $1155.55  COLLECTIONS RECEIVED  Thanksgiving $1068 Loose Money $329 Presbytery $543  COUNTERS 17th September  Team 2: M Azzopardi, M Camenzuli  FEAST DAYS  St John Chrysostom, 13 September  The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 14 September  Our Lady of Sorrows, 15 September  St Cornelius & Cyprian, 16 September  READINGS *Today Next Week*  *Ezekiel 33:7-9 Sirach 27.30-28.7*  *Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9 Ps 103.1-2,3-4,9-10,11-12(R8)*  *Romans 13:8-10 Romans 14.7-9*  *Matthew 18:15-20 Matthew 18.21-35* |

NEXT PARISH DINNER Tuesday 19th September, 6pm at Deer Park Club, RSVP Ann-Maree by Monday 18th September on 0401 192 079

HELLO...HELLO VICTORIA UNIVERSITY A student is collecting stories and photos of embroideries for her project, if you have a piece of traditional embroidered textiles (particularly eastern Europe) between 1947-1965 from a tablecloth to a blanket, please contact [julieb13@bigpond.com](mailto:julieb13@bigpond.com) or 0418 221 695

QUEEN OF HEAVEN PARISH REUNION Holt Street 'REUNION', Expressions of Interest please contact Ann-Maree 0401 192 078 by Sunday 17th September

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

Reflection on the Gospel

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Matthew 18:15-20)

In reflecting on this Sunday’s Gospel Sr Veronica Lawson RSM asks:

 ‘What does a just society or community do with its persistent offenders, with those whose behaviour continually disrupts or even destroys the unity of a group?’

This is an age old question that has no easy answer. The people of South Africa in the wake of apartheid and Timor Leste after twenty-five years of oppression recognised that a too easy amnesty is no solution for violent and destructive behaviour. Offences need to be named and acknowledged by their perpetrators for the sake of community reconciliation and for building the trust essential to the creation of a new future.

The processes followed in South Africa and in Timor Leste were similar to those proposed in today’s gospel for members of the ‘church’ community. The power to deal with transgression is firmly in the hands of the community members.

All care must be taken not to shame a person, but to allow her or him to acknowledge the offence in private. If that fails, the matter is referred to a group of two or three witnesses in line with Israel’s ancient legal practice (Deuteronomy 19:15).

The next step is referral ‘to the church’, or in other words to the assembled community. A person who refuses to listen ‘to the church’ is to be treated as a Gentile or a tax-collector. The meaning here is not at all clear. Some scholars suggest that the Matthean Jesus is proposing exclusion from the community. Others consider that he is advocating the sort of compassionate approach that Jesus has personally shown to ‘outsiders’, to those in need of conversion.

The responsibility for maintaining right relationship in the community lies with the community members. If our personal efforts to resolve conflict are unsuccessful, we do well to seek the wisdom of others.

Jesus, God-with us, is present in the assembly. We have that assurance. We also have the assurance that our failure to deal with transgression can leave a person unreconciled. It is very easy to hold on to past hurts. We need to ‘loose’ the sins of those who acknowledge their offences. In other words, we need to forgive them and thus set them free from the burden of their sins against us.

Forgiveness is needed at personal, group, national and global levels if we are to be in right relationship in the Earth community. Most global tensions have their origin in the unresolved conflicts of the distant past. Our future on this planet depends largely on our capacity to “surrender to the sky [our] heart of anger” (NZ poet James K. Baxter).

The three parts of the  Uluru Statement from the Heart in 2017 - Voice, Treaty and Truth are an invitation from the First Nations people of Australia to reconcile and create unity in our country by walking together with them for a better future.

Next Sunday the 17th of September  the YES 23 campaign have organised walks around Australia for ordinary people to demonstrate their support.

The Melbourne Walk for YES starts at 12pm at the State Library of Victoria in Swanston. ALL WELCOME

Michelle Buckley