*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”*

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A 16 & 17 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. 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 it.. Please send details to dgadri@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au or gwoolford@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au by 1st October 2023.

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

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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 SundayRECONCILIATION (Individual confession)Saturday next, 23rd September, 10.00am at Mother of God |  | AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MAGAZINESpring Edition out now articles Climate for change and a Fishy storyQUEEN OF HEAVEN PARISH REUNION ‘FINAL REUNION', Expressions of Interest please contact Ann-Maree 0401 192 078 by Sunday 17th SeptemberCOLLECTIONS RECEIVEDThanksgiving $626 Loose Money $388 Presbytery $543COUNTERS 24th September  Team 3: M Poulter, A SanfordFEAST DAYS St Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-san & Companions, 20 SeptemberSt Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist, 21 SeptemberSt Pius of Pietrelcina, 23 SeptemberREADINGS *Today Next Week**Sirach 27.30-28.7 Isaiah 55.6-9**Ps 103.1-2,3-4,9-10,11-12(R8) Ps 145.2-3,8-9,17-18(R.18)**Romans 14.7-9 Philippians 1.20-24,27**Matthew 18.21-35 Matthew 20.1-16* |

THE MELBOURNE WALK FOR YES This weekend The YES 23 campaign have organised walks for ordinary people to demonstrate their support. The Melbourne Walk starts at 12pm at the State Library of Victoria in Swanston St. ALL WELCOME

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.

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

AN EXPERIENCE WITH ABORIGINAL CATHOLIC MINISTRY VICTORIA

On Wednesday Fr Barry and I spent a day at the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria in Thornbury.

I’ve known about the centre for many years but have never had the opportunity to visit and participate in a day of reflection. ACM says they are “a sacred place that offers support, spirituality, cultural awareness and care that models practical reconciliation”, and on entering the centre I immediately had a sense that this was indeed a special place, and we were about to go on a journey of learning and discovery.

On entering the front gate, I was taken by the artwork around the garden, paintings depicting 8 Stations of the Cross, they are described as “an expression of deep faith and hope for the future”. That was just the beginning of my immersion into this sacred space. The garden itself is planted with Australian plants or plants that have a link to the Bible and include a Manna Gum which echoes the Wurundjeri people’s welcome, because of course the centre is on Wurundjeri land.

The day began with a welcome to country by Sherry Balcombe, ACMV Coordinator, who shared with us the history of ACMV and what they offer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families through a variety of programs and support services. They know that it is education that will enable people to have an equal place in our country. Not only does ACMV work with Indigenous families, they also offer services to educate the wider Australian society, in particular the Catholic community, to understand Aboriginal people, their culture and history.

The house ACMV occupies has had modifications made to include a beautiful Chapel, separate offices and workspaces for the staff who are involved with the different programs, and there are facilities which are used for the many gatherings that happen here. Throughout the centre, religious Indigenous artwork is displayed.

Sherry shared some of her own history, which indeed did open my eyes and gave me more of an understanding of the very challenging journey for Aboriginal people since the coming of white people to this land. She talked about the deep spirituality that Aboriginal people have always had, and their connection to Catholicism. Aboriginal Catholics know that God has been with them on this land for more than 65,000 years. For them God’s presence is manifested in the wisdom of the laws and customs that they have developed, and that have enabled them to live in peace and harmony for all that time,

While we listened to Sherry, it was hard not to be distracted by the most beautiful chapel we were sitting in. Every part of the Chapel has a story which Sherry explained in detail. The floor, the altar, the crucifix, the tabernacle, the baptismal font, the artwork on the walls, all have a link to Aboriginal culture and their deep Catholic faith.

As well as sharing her own story, Sherry explained the story behind the Indigenous Stations of the Cross which hung along one wall. In each station, Sherry’s brother’s story was reflected, his condemnation, the cross he has had to bear, his “crucifixion” and the loving care of his family. Replicas of this artwork are available for parishes to borrow, I found them both beautiful but at the same time I was saddened that someone could identify so closely with Jesus’ journey to the cross, the pain inflicted upon him, the rejection of people who had previously called him king, ultimately dying on the cross.

After sharing a lovely lunch, we celebrated the Eucharist in the Chapel, Josephite, Sr Joan Healy, invited people to share their reflections of the day. The general consensus was this had been a most thought provoking day and wondering how we could possibly share what we had learnt with our communities.

The final part of the day was Sherry discussing what the Voice to Parliament will mean for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. She reminded us that our First Nations people are the oldest continuous culture on earth, they have been here for more than 65,000 years. The Voice is a practical way of making sure constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander is more than symbolism, and it is what Indigenous Australians through the Uluru Statement From the Heart are calling for. She explained what the Voice is and what it is not. Listening to the passion in Sherry’s words was truly inspiring. I left ACMV knowing I had had a truly unique and remarkable experience, that I had been privileged to share in something quite special.

After the formalities we walked a little way up St Georges Road to observe a marvellous mural depicting some of the trials and triumphs aboriginal people have experienced since the beginning of colonisation.

Muriel Alexander