*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*



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Principal: Assunta Iacovino

*“Do Small Things Well”*

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A 2 and 3 SEPTEMBER 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 Thurs  6.00pm Friday (Polish)  5.30pm Saturday  10.15am Sunday (Polish)  QUEEN OF HEAVEN  Holt St, Ardeer  8.00am Wednesday  9.00am Sunday  FUNERAL for Vincenzo Barbaro  Rosary, Monday 4th Sept, 7.00pm, Queen of Heaven  Requiem Mass, Tuesday 5th Sept, 10.00am, Queen of Heaven |  | FATHERS’ DAY COLLECTION TODAY a special collection will be taken up for the support of sick or retired priests of the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Please respond generously.  CUPPA AFTER MASS  Join us today after each Mass for a cuppa and a chat.  PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM Meeting Wed 6th Sept, 7.00PM, Mother of God School.  PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE Meeting Wed 6th Sept, 6.00pm, Mother of God School  RECONCILIATION (Individual confession)  Saturday next, 9th September, 10.00am at Queen of Heaven.  CHRIST’S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  Meeting Thursday, 7.00 - 8.30pm, at Queen of Heaven Church  COLLECTIONS RECEIVED  Thanksgiving $1264 Loose Money $181 Presbytery $664  COUNTERS 10th September Team 1: D Catania  E Catania C Xuereb  FEAST DAYS Friday 8th, Birthday of Mary, Mother of Jesus.  READINGS *Today Next Week*  *Jeremiah 20:7-9 Ezekiel 33:7-9*  *Psalm 63:1-5, 78 Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9*  *Romans 12:1-2 Romans 13:8-10*  *Matthew 16:21-27 Matthew 18:15-20* |

PARISH REUNION for Holt Street part of parish for those who lived in the area from 1950-2000 for more information please email [reunionofholtstreetarea@gmail.com](mailto:reunionofholtstreetarea@gmail.com) or refer to Church noticeboard. RSVP by 9th September to Ann-Maree 0401 192 079

**AN INVITATION TO CONNECT WITH ABORIGINAL SPIRITUALITY** Join us at the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in exploring Social Justice and Aboriginal Spirituality, in the light of the Uluru Statement of the Heart and the Voice Referendum. Wed 13th September, or Friday 6th or 13th October. 10.00am to 2.30pm. Bookings through Father Barry.

**AUSTRAIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT.** *Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. If you missed out on getting one last week, there are still some f*ree copies available today. Pick one up to take home and read.

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## TO BE A CHRISTIAN IS TO ENTER A PANORAMA.

## A panorama is a scene with unlimited views in all directions. The Kingdom of God includes eternity past and eternity future. To be a Christian is to live your faith in a Kingdom that is larger than your own ambitions.

## Peter’s objection to Jesus’ prophecy in this weekend’s Gospel is not just based on *his love* of the Lord. The apostle’s objection is based on self. We learn this by reading Jesus’ severe response. “’Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man”. This appears to be a harsh response from Jesus. It was only a few sentences ago that Jesus said, “’Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by My Father in heaven.

Yet, Jesus’ hard response leads to an even harder reality: *Peter expected and anticipated a Kingdom of this world. Now.* But, God had promised the world to Abraham, not a small earthly kingdom in a small area of land along the Mediterranean. Peter apparently objected to Jesus’ prophecy to accommodate his own plans.

Before judging Peter, ask yourself ‘*Are we not all prone to think of God’s Kingdom as primarily there to serve our own needs? Our own world?’*

Have you ever had something happen in your life that leads you to think that God is letting you down, perhaps even working against you? You may have made plans that didn’t work out or suffered the tragic loss of a loved one and you questioned why God was not supporting you after all the good you were trying to do in the world. You may have asked yourself ‘Where are the promises of God?’ I wonder how many are disappointed with God because He hasn’t lived up to their vision of who He should be? Welcome to Peter’s world—and mine!

However, if we step back our plans, we may recognise that God’s promises are always “yes and amen” in Jesus. Because they are in Jesus, they come to us in the form of a cross. They come to us personally, to be sure, but they come to us in a way that is much larger than self. The Kingdom is not just about us!

*The Kingdom of God is a sweeping epic, a mosaic in motion, that stretches from eternity past to eternity future, with a vast and diverse number of other believers all living out the grand and glorious Plan of God for the ages.*

To be a Christian is to realise that you are in a relationship that is much greater than anything you ever imagined. Indeed, the glory of our faith is that it transcends all that we see and experience here in this world. To be a Christian is to enter a magnificent, panoramic, “world without end. Amen!” And that is good. For what blesses the whole Family of God will bless you.

May God bless us all, especially our fathers on this Fathers’ Day weekend.

Assunta Iacovino, Principal, Mother of God School

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