
St. Theresa's Parish Community Newsletter

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"Do Small Things Well"

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

100 YEARS OF LIFE

Mother of God's very own Janina Archabuz has been recognised with the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2026 Australia Day Honours for her lifetime commitment to the Australian Polish community. This is her story.

Affectionately known as Pani Babcia (Mrs Grandmother), Janina was born 100 years ago in the small Polish village of Sucin. She married Wacław Skinder from her village before they were both deported to Germany to work in the labour camps during WWII where they had two children and endured much hardship. Migrating to Australia at the end of the war, they settled in Queensland, but fate was cruel and Wacław fell ill and passed away after only two years in Australia.

Left alone with two children, little English, no husband to support them and no money, Janina tried to find work but was constantly knocked back because she had two young children. When told to leave the employment office of a sugar mill, she stood her ground, argued with the man in charge, showed him her empty purse and told him she had just enough money for three stamps and would send letters to the rulers of the UK, USA and Canada to tell them of her treatment.

When she was finally given work, she had to make the heartbreaking decision to leave her son in a convent. Working from 6 am to 9 pm daily, she finally earned enough money to reunite her family and move to Ardeer. In Melbourne, she met a good man, Piotr Archabuz, who was very good to her and her children. She found work in textiles and finally had a chance at happiness and security.

Janina then set about giving back and helping others around her. Always ready to help in the community, whether it was the Church, the Sunshine Polish Charity Association, Polish school or Wesole Nutki, a children's vocal dance group. She ran the kitchen, catering for all functions and made costumes with love for the dance group. Janina is also known far and wide for her pierogi (dumplings), kopytka (Polish gnocchi) and golabki (stuffed cabbage rolls). A couple of years ago she was asked to make 4,000 pierogi for a bazaar for the Polish Marian Shrine in Essendon. Thinking she was asked to make 400, the then 97-year-old, happily agreed. When told it was in fact 4000 that was needed, she doubted she could do it, but working every day and freezing them as she went along, she managed to make 3850 pierogi for the bazaar. She took no money, offering her contribution to God.

Janina's story inspired the 2015 short film "A dance to remember" which described how Polish immigrants who moved to Ardeer in the 1950s helped each other build their homes and then their community hall, Saint John Paul II Polish Centre.

Janina is a much loved and respected member of the Polish community at Mother of God. Her story reminds us that the extraordinary can be achieved when one's heart is full of love and hope. We wish Janina God's blessings and ask Him to keep her safe and healthy for as long as possible.

Many thanks to Krys Popczyk and Jadzia Badzaj for helping us bring you Janina's story.



CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, Sunday 8th March 2026

**CELEBRATING ANTOINETTE'S 90TH BIRTHDAY**

Congratulations to Antoinette on her 90th birthday — a truly joyful milestone for someone who has given so much to our parish community. Her many years of dedicated service, quiet commitment, and generous spirit have been a blessing to us all. We offer our heartfelt best wishes and pray for many more happy, healthy, grace-filled years to come

LENTEN REFLECTION

Join our group on Saturdays during Lent, 10.30am at the Presbytery. The resource we will be using, Journey Home, will also be available to purchase for \$4.50 if you would like to reflect at your own time.

MASSES THIS WEEK**ST THERESA'S**

Drummartin St, Albion

8.00am Wednesday -

Stations of the cross

8.30am Wednesday

(NO 9AM Friday Mass during Lent)

6.30pm Friday

followed by Stations of the Cross

8.30am Sunday Reconciliation

9.00am Sunday

10.30am Sunday

MOTHER OF GOD

Blanche St, Ardeer

10.00am Wednesday (Polish)

9.00am Thursday

6.00pm Friday (Polish)

5.00pm Saturday

Stations of the Cross

5.30pm Saturday

10.15am Sunday (Polish)

QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Holt St, Ardeer

CLOSED

RECONCILIATION

(Individual Confession)

Other times by Appointment.

CUPPA AFTER MASS

Join us today after our Sunday Masses for a cuppa and a chat. Let us take this time to get to know one another better?

FUNERAL MASS for Jadwiga Dabrowski, Tuesday 10th March, 10.30am at St Theresa's Church.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

During the **10.30am Mass**, **Rose** will invite the children to a separate space for the **readings and Gospel**, presented in a way that is engaging and age-appropriate.

EMAIL COMPLICATIONS.... Unfortunately, we seem to have lost our current address book list so anyone **NOT** receiving the newsletter please contact us so we can reenter your email details.

KEEP AN EYE OUT For any activity you might notice around QOH Church and please let us know at the office.

FOOD BANK Please note office hours would be best for pick-up of food for those in need.

Office hours: Tuesday 9.30-1.30pm, Thurs 9.30-12.30pm, Friday 9-2pm

COLLECTIONS RECEIVED

Thanksgiving \$880 Loose Money \$462 Presbytery \$745

COUNTERS 15 March Team 3: M Azzopardi, M Camenzuli

READINGS Today

Exodus 17.3-7

Psalm 95

1-2,6-7ab,7c-9 (R.7c+8a)

Romans 5.1-2,5-8

John 4.5-42

Next Week

1 Samuel 16.1b,6-7,10-13

Psalm 23

1-3a,3b-4,5,6 (R.1)

Ephesians 5.8-14

John 9.1-41

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026

On the third Sunday of Lent, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will formally convoke a Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The synod calls the Melbourne Church to journey together in communion, participation and mission. The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4–6 December 2026. Over these next months, a range of opportunities will be available for Melbourne Catholics to be part of the consultation process toward the synod. In the meantime, further information can be accessed at melbournecatholic.org/synod2026.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA Project Compassion

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes. Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate Or by calling: 1800 024 413

