
St. Theresa's Parish Community Newsletter

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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

"Do Small Things Well"

Pilgrim of Hope Story.....Anna Rajtmajer



Ernestine (Anna) Rajtmajer was born on 27 August 1925 in what she then knew as Yugoslavia (now Bosnia).

Born and raised in the small town of Celinac, her childhood came to a sudden halt during World War II at the tender age of 16 when German soldiers came and rounded her up with all other people between the ages of 16 and 30 years. For almost five years, Anna worked in the German labour camp in Starochowice, Poland as a Prisoner of War. Her faith and her hope kept her alive during those grim years. She also found love in the camp, marrying a fellow prisoner from her hometown, Karl. They went on to have five children, two of whom were born in the camp.

After the war came to an end, they were warned that it was not safe for them to return home and with nothing but the clothes on their back and each other they made their way to the docks and onto a ship to Australia, where they were told they could find work.

Upon arriving in Sydney, they were forced to stay in a displaced persons camp as they had no money. The conditions in the camp in Sydney were not much better than those in the

POW camp. The Australian Government showed them no compassion or support and Anna was only given a straw bed to sleep in with her two babies. She had no milk to offer her children and fed them flour and water and by this stage she was pregnant with her third child.

Karl managed to leave the camp first. After working to earn enough money to support his family, Karl was finally able to get Anna and their children out of the camp, and for the first time in a long time they had a chance to make a home for themselves and begin a new life in Ardeer. They joined the Catholic parish in Ardeer and attended mass in a former army barracks until the parishioners saved enough money to start building Mother of God Church. Anna and Karl were among the founding group of parishioners of Mother of God who contributed to the construction of the church.

Anna took pleasure in helping in whatever way she could at Mother of God and took charge of the flowers and helped with cleaning the church. She became well known for her friendly and welcoming nature at Mother of God.

Hope kept Anna going through years of hardship and desperation during the war and then upon arriving in Australia. Having survived the worst times, she then did what she could to spread hope to others who needed companionship and friendship. Anna would go on to welcome strangers into her home, feeling compassion for anyone she would meet who was lonely and had no one to sit down and have lunch with. She opened the doors of her home to people who had no one to celebrate Christmas with. Once she brought home a whole Vietnamese family with her because they were new to Australia. Anna had little spare time with five children to raise, but she saw the importance of offering the hand of friendship to people who were alone and in need.

Anna has been a parishioner for more than 73 years and celebrated her 100th birthday only a few weeks ago. A special mass and celebration were held in Anna's honour on 7 September at St Theresa's Church.

Anna's Pilgrim of Hope story is also a wonderful testament to the contribution that hard working immigrants and refugees have made to making Australia the country that it is today.

**ST THERESA'S FEAST DAY****Sunday 5th October**

We will celebrate the Feast of our Patron Saint, St Theresa of Lisieux, at St Theresa's Church on Sunday 5th October. Regular Sunday Mass 10.30am, benediction, followed by light refreshments in the Multipurpose room of the school. A special guest speaker will join us to talk about St Theresa. Parishioners are asked to bring a plate to share

PARISH CARAVAN, Safety Beach / Dromana**SEPTEMBER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

If you would like to use our Caravan over the school holidays, please call the Office on 9311 3091 to book a couple of nights. It sleeps up to six (very cosy), is across the road from the beach, and costs \$80 per night. Take a chance to enjoy the Spring weather. Please contact us.

MASSES THIS WEEK**ST THERESA'S**

Drummartin St, Albion

No Mass 8.30am Wednesday**No Mass** 9.00am Friday

9.00am Sunday

10.30am Sunday

MOTHER OF GOD

Blanche St, Ardeer

10.00am Wednesday (Polish)

No Mass 9.00am Thursday

6.00pm Friday (Polish)

5.30pm Saturday

10.15am Sunday (Polish)

QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Holt St, Ardeer

CLOSED**RECONCILIATION***(Individual Confession)**Times by Appointment***HOLY ROSARY**

Before regular Wednesday & Friday Masses each week

BENEDICTION

First Friday of the month at St Theresa's Church

****OFFICE CLOSURE****

The Parish Office will be closed for the second week of the school holidays. (29 Sept – 3 Oct)

PLEASE NOTE: Change of weekday mass times.

PARISH FOOD BANK

We are in need of a few items to make up our food parcels. If you are able, tea, coffee, sugar, tuna & 2-minute noodles would be a great help. Thank you for your generosity.

LEGION OF MARY

Meet on Tuesday 10am at St Theresa's Church

COUNTERS 28th September

Team 4: M Poulter, A Silva, S Silva

COLLECTIONS

Thanksgiving \$986 Loose Money \$256 Presbytery \$632

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

St Pius of Pietrelcina, 23 September

St Vincent de Paul, 27 September

READINGS Today

Amos 8.4-7

Psalm 113

1-2,4-6,7-8,(R.1a, 7a)

1 Timothy 2.1-7++

Luke 16.1-13

Next Week

Amos 6.1a,4-7

Psalm 146

6c-7,8-9a,9b-10 (R.1)

1 Timothy 6.11-16

Luke 16.19-31

CARITAS AUSTRALIA – SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation's call for Peace with Creation aligns powerfully with the Turn Debt into Hope campaign, as communities burdened by debt are often those facing the worst environmental challenges.

This Season of Creation (1 September – 4 October), Caritas Australia is inviting parishes to stand in solidarity with vulnerable communities in need of sustainable development and ecological renewal by: signing the Turn Debt into Hope petition – caritas.org.au/debt committing to practical, everyday actions that promote ecological sustainability and care for creation by registering to become a Catholic Earthcare Household - caritas.org.au/catholic-earthcare/

