24 January, 3rd Sunday, Year B

TEMORA MISSION AREA

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Ardlethan/Sacred Heart Ariah Park
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Parish Priest Fr Sijo Jose Email: Sijo.Jose@cg.org.au
St Therese Barellan Pastoral Associate: Sr Janet Glass rsj

In our Prayers: Leo Griffin, Linda Grinter, Robyn Richards, Jim Slater, Neville Caldow, Ray Fairman, Kashaya Kuemmel,
For our Deceased: Neville Popple, Deceased Family, Friends, victims of coronavirus, car accidents and natural disasters.

6 –7 Feb	Ariah Park	6.00 p.m. Liturgy		
Mass	Temora	6.00 p.m.		
Mass	Ardlethan	**8.00 a.m.**	Barellan	10.00 a.m.

Reflection
The Time has Come. These are the first recorded words of Jesus in Mark's Gospel. In a variety of contexts we have probably used them ourselves when we felt that an important decision could be delayed no longer. At some point in our life, perhaps even today, the decision in question will be whether to follow Jesus wholeheartedly or in a superficial way.

5th Sunday
There will be no liturgy here in Ardlethan on Sunday, 31 January. Liturgy will be at Ariah Park on Saturday, 30 January at 6.00 p.m.

An Australia Day Reflection ~ South Land of the Holy Spirit
And we are a 'Land Down Under'.
Australia is a place to which people have been attracted over the millennia to forge a new future. First, the original inhabitants coming down through Asia, and then the settlers, migrants and refugees of the last 220 years. *(Of course, the convicts were a less voluntary part of the movement of peoples!)*
Most were attracted by a vision of a different future, a future where human beings could relate to each other differently to the old order in Europe, and more recently in the Middle East or Africa or Asia or Central or South America. People were and are prepared to take the risk of being dis-located, of re-locating because of that vision of a different future, particularly a future not determined by the violence of feud and warfare which had characterised their homelands for generations, centuries, and even millennia.

Those mapping expeditions gave us our name 'Australia'? De Quiros, the great Portuguese explorer of the 16th Century, set out on a quest for 'Terra Austrialia del Espiritu Santo', South Land of the Holy Spirit. Right from the start, the full title of our land was bound up with the Holy Spirit. I am confident that 'Australia' is a work of the Holy Spirit, no chance event in world history but a gathering of peoples for a Divine purpose.

One of the most distinctive works of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was the breaking down of ethnic, tribal and language barriers between people. That is why Christianity spread like wildfire across the Roman Empire.

They have come, in their millions, to escape the histories of societies where everyone 'knew their place', to a land where we relate to each other for our inherent worth. Hence the great Australian characteristic: 'egalitarianism'. Have we responded to the Holy Spirit perfectly? No. Our treatment of the earliest inhabitants of this land was shameful and is not yet fully remedied. Our treatment of those genuinely fleeing persecution in their homelands falls short of what God desires. But on the whole, we are creating a version of the Kingdom of God under the Southern Cross of which we can be proud.

So, Australians All, let us rejoice.
Fr Michael Tate

Prayer for Australia Day
God of Australia …. We bring you our gratitude for the diversity and wealth of this land and its people; for its weathered old mountains, fertile valleys, and vast plains; for its riches of mine and agriculture, forest, and grazing lands; for the first Australians, who know and love this continent with an intimate, profound sensitivity; for the courage, vision and sacrifice of the early settlers; for the diverse races who now call Australia home: For these and all your gifts we offer you, O Lord, our joyful, thankful hearts. *Bruce Prewer*

Wanted: Parish couples interested in deepening their own relationship in order to help other couples deepen theirs.
The Archdiocese is offering The **Marriage Course** – a 7-week course delivered to you in the comfort of your own home via Zoom. The course is designed to help couples build strong foundations, learn to communicate more effectively and resolve differences well. Couples will then be equipped and supported to assist in running the same course for the wider Parish community should they wish to. The Marriage Course starts Tues 9th February 2021 and costs $70 per couple. For more details and to register visit https://mailchi.mp/b4c3fdd09d6a/tmc21 or contact Steph Ransom steph.ransom@cg.org.au

Roster 7 February Reader: Bernard
Welcomer: Sr Maureen