A SIMPLE PERSON OF FAITH IN THE 21ST CENTURY: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
Wed 21 Oct, 7.30–9pm  John Maher Auditorium, Our Lady’s Parish, Monash St, Sunshine
For many people, faith is based on creeds, doctrine and head knowledge. It’s about mastering the ‘facts’ and having the ‘right’ answers. But best-selling author Margaret Silf believes that faith is not about mastery but about mystery, and that living in that mystery allows us to properly shift our focus from religion to relationship—a relationship with the Divine.
About the speaker: Margaret Silf is passionate about making Christian spirituality accessible to people with no theological background. She is a writer and has led retreats around the world. She left paid employment in the computer industry to devote her time to writing and leading retreats, workshops and days of reflection. Her writing reflects her experiential approach, drawing connections between the eternal truths of the Christian vision and the moment-by-moment events and choices of everyday living.
Info and RSVP: Suzanne Hermon on 9926 5761 or evangelisation@cam.org.au

DEANERY LEADERSHIP TEAM
Meeting on Thursday, 15th October, 7.30pm at Holy Eucharist Parish, St Albans South.
Please share your wisdom, insights and ideas with us at this meeting.

YEAR OF MERCY
Pope Francis has invited the whole Church to take part in a Year of Mercy, beginning on 8th December. How will our Parish participate in this? A gathering to help parishes to plan for the Year of Mercy is being held at the Catholic Leadership Centre in East Melbourne on Saturday 17 October from 10.00am to 3.00pm. If any parishioner would like to go please let Father Barry or one of the members of the Parish Leadership Team know.

ROSAry IN THE PARK
Saturday 10 October
Join us at the H.V. McKay Memorial Gardens, Anderson Rd, Sunshine (opposite Ridley St) to pray for peace in the world and for God’s merciful protection of our nation. Starts at 12 noon. BYO lunch.

PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM
The next parent (and community) forum at Marian College, Glengala Rd, Sunshine West, will be held on Tuesday 13th October, 7.00-8.30pm. “Technology, Alcohol and Drug Issues” Bookings essential: 9363 1711. The Forum is free and for adults only.

INFORMATION SESSION
Marian College will be holding an information session for families who are considering enrolling their daughter in year 7 2017 and onwards. To be held on Wednesday 14 October from 4-6pm at Marian College 196 Glengala Rd. To book please call 9363 1711.

MASS TIMES
ST THERESA’S
Drummartin St, Albion
10.00am Friday
School celebration of the feast of St Theresa
10.30am Sunday

MOTHER OF GOD
Blanche St, Ardeer
10.00am Wed (Polish)
9.00am Thursday
6.00pm Friday (Polish)
6.00pm Saturday
10.30am Sunday (Polish)

QUEEN OF HEAVEN
Holt St, Ardeer
9.00am Wednesday
9.00am Sunday
4.30pm Sunday
(Syro-Malabar).

RECONCILIATION
Saturday 10th October,
10am at Queen of Heaven.

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM
Meeting Wednesday, 7.00pm.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK
Our annual Mass for the Sick will be held on Friday 16th October, 11.30am at Mother of God, and followed by lunch. Please offer a lift to any elderly or sick neighbours so all can attend.

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE BUILDING APPEAL
We collected $293 for the Building Fund. Thank you.

EVENING PRAYER GROUP
Thursdays, 7.00pm at Queen of Heaven. All welcome.

CLEANERS
Saturday 10th October (MG) M Abela
(QH) J Bugeja, D Shannon
(SIT) M&P Delavaris

THANKSGIVING
Weekly TG Pledge: $1645
Last Week’s Giving: $1149
Presbytery Collection: $550

COUNTERS
11 October
Team 2: P Farrugia, D&E Catania, C Xuereb

READINGS
Today
Genesis 2:7, 8, 18-24
Psalm 128
Hebrews 2:9-11
Mark 10:2-16

Week
Wisdom 7:7-11
Psalm 90
Hebrews 412-13
Mark 10:17-30
The Church’s liturgy is our great teacher. As it weeks pass it reviews the great issues of our existence, and the Word of God points the way forward. In today’s world, marriage is in crisis, and the break-up of families leaves many young people seriously deprived in their formative years. Without the guidance of Christ we would be at a loss to find the truth that should guide us. In today’s reading from Mark, Jesus is asked whether divorce was permissible. In the time of Jesus, although divorce was permitted (see Deut 24: 1-4) the proper grounds for divorce were debated. Jesus bypasses this debate, and speaks of what marriage is in the plan of the Creator – ‘in the beginning’. Citing today’s first reading from Genesis, he makes the startling assertion that true marriage is more than an arrangement entered into by two human persons; it involves God – ‘What God has united, man must not divide’.

One of Pope John Paul II’s contributions to the Church’s life was his series of addresses on human love and sexuality, given at his weekly audiences (1979-1984). Explaining how it is that Jesus can make such an assertion, he interprets today’s reading from Genesis. This seemingly simple text speaks with great depth and subtlety of what it means to be human. The solitude of Adam, finds no companion in the animal kingdom – because, made in the image of God, Adam has in him a depth that they will never fill. It is only in the sharing of human companionship that this mysterious depth in the human person can be filled. The Creator provides for Adam the perfect companion: ‘This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh’. Paradoxically, this companionship becomes life-giving in self-donation, and destructive in selfish exploitation. The true beauty of human sexuality shines out as this self-donation finds expression in the body language which is part of God’s creation; Jesus quotes the Genesis text, ‘the two become one’. The body language of sexuality is not only the expression of authentic self-donation, but also the source of new human lives – marriage is a sharing in the work of the Creator. Though the account of Jesus welcoming the ‘little children’ is a separate incident, it follows on well from the discussion of marriage, reminding us of the children who are so often forgotten in the discussion of marriage relationships today. Marriage breakdown is a very complex pastoral problem. But the great ideal Jesus puts before us must never be forgotten.

We begin reading from the Letter to the Hebrews, a treatise written to give heart to Jewish converts, who were tempted to lapse into a mood of anticlimax and nostalgia, in a world that seemed little changed after the Resurrection. Its message is straightforward; the things of old Israel were only shadows; now – by faith – we possess all that these shadows promised. Today’s passage is a fine description of the Paschal Mystery that should be central to Christian faith. Jesus is ‘crowned with glory and splendour’ after he has shared life with us. His death has been a source of life for all mankind - after sharing our ‘imperfect’ world and its ‘suffering’ he has given us a share in his ‘glory’ and ‘holiness’. He is forever our ‘leader’ and our ‘brother’.

John Thornhill sm