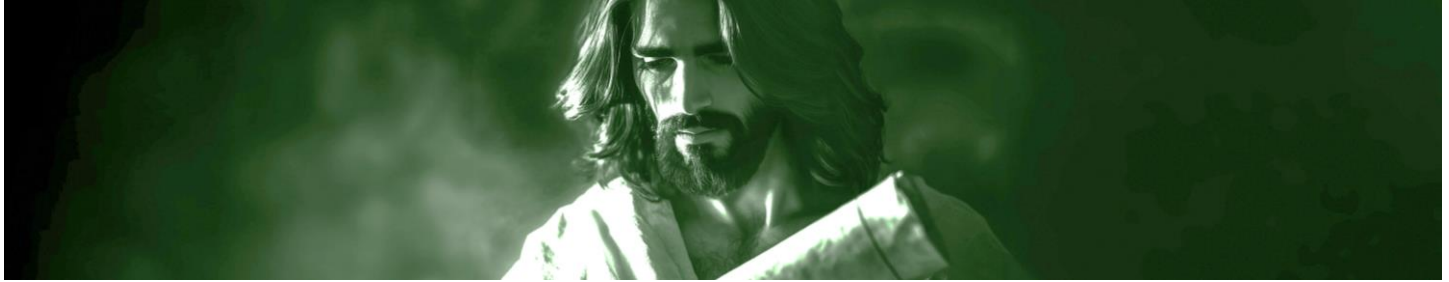




The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

25 & 26 January 2025: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C



First Reading: Nehemiah 8:2-6. 8-10 A reading from the book of Nehemiah

They read from the book of Law and they understood what was read.

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep'. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

Responsorial Psalm: Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1:1-4. 4:14-21 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

INTERCESSIONS

Brothers and Sisters, let us bring our intentions before the Lord, our salvation and refuge.

We pray that we may be faithful witnesses to a God whose presence is in every person and every culture.

We pray that our two communities may work together to continue living the Gospel in our new parish of Our Lady and St Therese.

We pray for a sense of mission that calls us out of our comfort zone to engage with national and international issues where this is injustice and conflict; and we pray for all Christian individuals and organisations who work for peace and reconciliation in our world.

We pray for Nyla, Zahli, Eric, Elly and Kingsley who are initiated into our church at the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend. That they lead a life of faith and love for all.

We pray for our primary school children starting school for the first time. May they learn to engage with, participate in and give to their new community.

We pray for those who are ill especially Kath Maslin, June McKibbin and Michele, Angela & Bruno Maiolo.

We pray for those who have died recently especially Fr Tom Cleary. And for those we remember at this time, especially Joe Ciantar, Maurice Corkhill, John Rodrigues, Cas Lukauskas and Salvatore De Fazio.

Loving Father, hear our prayers and help us become one people of faith, hope and love. Amen

WHICH PRIEST WHERE? This weekend Fr John will preside at all Masses at St Therese's church while Fr Bernie presides at all OLN Masses. Next weekend Fr John will say all Masses at OLN church as well as the 9:00am Mass at St Therese's and Fr Bernie will say 6:00pm and 10:30am Mass at St Therese's. While Fr Tony Feeney takes a break for the first three months of 2025, Fr Bernie Lane will share our weekend Mass schedule with Fr John until the end of March.

VALE FATHER THOMAS CLEARY (1944-2025) We were deeply saddened by the recent passing of Father Thomas Cleary SSC, who died on 9 January at Mercy Place. Father Tom was a friend to Essendon Parish for many years and was presiding at Masses here until quite recently. May he rest in peace. The funeral Mass for Father Tom was held at St Columban's Chapel on Monday 13 January and can be viewed here: <https://tobin.5stream.com/webcast/134296>

A MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM FATHER JOHN

Following our parish Christmas celebrations, I wish to acknowledge and thank those who contributed to the celebrations in so many ways, from the Senior Friendship group lunch, our parish volunteers social gathering, the parish Christmas working bees, the liturgical and Christmas decor, and of course all those who contributed to the liturgies and music for the seven Christmas Masses at St Therese's and OLN parish communities. Thanks also to those who sent personal greetings with cards, kind thoughts and generous gifts, as well as Christmas offerings. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated. Thanks again, as we look forward to building and serving our parish communities in 2025 as The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon.

PARISH AMALGAMATION: OUR NEW PARISH As of Saturday 25 January, our two parishes are officially amalgamated to form The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli's decree (previously posted on notice boards) nominated this as the date when amalgamation would be take effect. The decree is still available to read on our website: <https://www.stthereses.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Amalgamation-Decree.pdf>

Although now officially amalgamated, the parish has been working towards an actual commencement date of 1 February. Parishioners will understand that there is a great deal of work still to do and changes are coming. We expect to officially launch the new parish website before Easter but in the meantime all information pertaining to The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon will be on the existing www.stthereses.org.au website. We thank you all for your patience and understanding. For those who are interested, we have a new parish map and street listing available on the website: <https://www.stthereses.org.au/our-parish/parish-boundaries/>

There is no immediate impact on parishioner financial contributions (including direct debits) and we will be in touch shortly where changes need to be made.

ST THERESE'S CHURCH MEMORIAL GARDEN The Memorial Garden at St Therese's is open to all parishioners from the Parish of Our Lady & St Therese for the interment of cremated remains. Contact the parish office for details.

ST COLUMBANS MISSION APPEAL On the weekend of 8 & 9 February we will hold a special appeal to support the work of the St Columban's Mission. Columban Missionaries live and share the Gospel of Jesus through working with poor and exploited people; seeking justice and dignity for those denied their rights; developing faith communities in the local church; promoting dialogue between other religions; growing a culture of peace; and advocating care for the earth and environment. On the appeal weekend we will welcome friends from the Columban's who will speak at all Masses to tell us about the work of the Mission and how donations from the appeal will support that important work.

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS Are made from wheat starch and water with a gluten content of 6.2 parts per million.

SAFEGUARDING

SAFEGUARDING REQUIREMENTS Volunteers who haven't completed the Safeguarding obligations will now need to pause their involvement until they have completed all three requirements:

Requirement #1: All volunteers over the age of 18 are required to maintain a current Working with Children (WWC) check throughout their involvement with the parish, irrespective of the ministry in which they serve. To apply for a WWC check please visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/working-with-children-check>

Requirement #2: Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct: You can sign the Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct through the online Safeguarding Essentials Training platform

Requirement #3: Training <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2Fs%2F>

BOOK COMPUTER TIME AT THE PARISH OFFICE You can use a parish office computer to go through the training at your own pace and with the support of parish office staff. Please contact the parish office to book.

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR WEEKEND 1 & 2 FEBRUARY (WEEK 1)

MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Jon Fleming	Tatiana Polizzi
OLN 10:00am	Paula O'Byrne	Andrew Scaramozzino
St Therese's 6.00pm	Eve Korytkowski	Gina Bell & Maggie Catterall
St Therese's 9.00am	Mary Dowling & Margaret Kerr	Carmen Merrigan & Rosina Tempini
St Therese's 10.30am	Silvia Campo & George Jungwirt	Miriam Gandolfo

Adults: <https://sundayreadingsathomeyearc.weebly.com/h1sks0t1.html>

Children: <https://www.childrensliturgyoftthewordc.com/ych3rwjcm2.html>



ESSENDON PARISH

Columban Missions Appeal

Weekend 8 & 9 February

Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could.

St Gregory Nazianzen



SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

OLN AND ST THERESE'S GOSPEL REFLECTIONS GROUP

Parishioners and other interested people are invited to attend our weekly Gospel reflections session

PACE Meeting Room
Thursdays 10:30am

Weekly Meetings are held after 10:00am Mass on Thursdays for a short session (one hour maximum)

A great way to meet and engage with people who share a passion for scripture

Look at Sunday's Gospel with a focus on reflections written by His Holiness Pope Francis

Printed materials are provided to participants.

No need to book, just turn up for the session.

Tiny Ts Playgroup

A great place to make new friends!

For children from infancy through to primary school age

Indoor and outdoor covered play areas - runs in all weather conditions

BACK FOR 2025
THURSDAY 30 JANUARY 9:30AM



WHEN: Thursday mornings during school terms

TIME: 9.30am - 10:30am

WHERE: St Therese's PACE Function Room
48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon

COST: Free of charge

EMAIL: stthereses.tinyts@gmail.com

ESSENDON PARISHES

SAFEGUARDING

ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST:

- Hold a current Working With Children Check and must list the parish as a place you volunteer
- Complete the CAM Safeguarding Essentials Training Certification every three years
- Acknowledge The Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct every three years

DOES THIS APPLY TO YOU?



SCAN ME FOR DETAILS

YES

To maintain accurate records ALL volunteers must be registered as parishioners
If you are a volunteer but not a registered parishioner please contact the parish office ASAP

Saturday 25 January	Amalgamated Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon	
Sunday 26 January	Parish Baptisms at St Therese's	12:00pm
Monday 27 January	Australia Day Public holiday: Parish office closed	
Tuesday 28 January	First day of school term 1	
Thursday 30 January	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room	9:30am
Sunday 2 February	The Presentation of the Lord	
Tuesday 4 February	Mass at Ryman Raelene Boyle Village	11:00am
Thursday 6 February	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room Mass at Arcadia Aged Care	9:30am 10:30am 11:00am
Friday 7 February	Beginning of School Year Mass at OLN	9:00am
Weekend 8 & 9 February	Appeal for the Columban Missionaries	
Thursday 13 February	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room	9:30am 10:30am
Friday 14 February	Beginning of School Year Mass at St Therese's	10:00am
Thursday 20 February	Tiny Ts Playgroup in the St Therese's Annex Senior Friendship Group pancake morning tea in PACE	9:30am 10:30am
Thursday 27 February	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room	9:30am 10:30am
Tuesday 4 March	Shrove Tuesday	
Wednesday 5 March	Ash Wednesday: Lent Begins Project Compassion Appeal Ash Wednesday: St Therese's School Mass Ash Wednesday: Mass at OLN Ash Wednesday: evening Mass St Therese's	10:00am 5:30pm 7:00pm
Thursday 6 March	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room	9:30am 10:30am
Sunday 9 March	First Sunday of Lent	
Monday 10 March	Labour Day Public Holiday: parish office closed	
Wednesday 12 March	Sacrament of First Reconciliation Faith night at OLN	7:00pm
Thursday 13 March	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room	9:30am 10:30am
Sunday 16 March	Second Sunday of Lent RE Programme for First Reconciliation session 1 in PACE	9:30am
Monday 17 March	St Patrick's Feast Day	

PARISH PRIEST Fr John Hannon**Office phone:** 9401 6330 **Office address:** 48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon**Office hours:** Monday to Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm**After-Hours phone:** 0490 956 610 (answering service)

To subscribe to our newsletter go to:

<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/subscription?id=0012w00000LOj4wAAD&req=subscribe>**ST THERESE'S CHURCH**

48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon

Office email: essendon@cam.org.au **Website:** www.stthereses.org.au**Weekday Masses:** Tuesday to Friday 10:00am**Weekend Masses:** Saturday 6:00pm, Sunday 9:00am, Sunday 10:30am**Reconciliation:** Saturday 5:45pm**School:** email info@stessendon.catholic.edu.au phone 9374 6100**OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH**

31 Fawkner St, Aberfeldie

Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 10:00am**Reconciliation:** Saturday 4:45pm**School:** email principal@olnaberfeldie.catholic.edu.au phone 9337 4204**St Vincent de Paul helpline:** 1800 305 330 WEEKDAYS 10:00am-3:00pm*Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.**We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country of the land on which our churches stand and recognize their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and to Elders past, present and emerging.*

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people and adults.

HOW TO UPDATE YOUR COMPLIANCE STATUS

This information is provided to assist volunteers to ensure continued compliance. This information assumes you have access to internet and are comfortable with computers. If you require assistance, please call our parish staff on 9401 6330, so we can help.

Requirement #1: Working with Children Check

All volunteers over the age of 18 are required to maintain a current Working with Children (WWC) check throughout their involvement with the parish, irrespective of the ministry in which they serve.

A volunteer check is free but only valid for volunteer work. To apply for a WWC check please visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/working-with-children-check>

It is a requirement that volunteers register Essendon or West Essendon parish as an organisation where they engage in volunteering through the [WWCC Service Vic website](#). The Parish will then receive a letter linking their WWC check to the parish and will be informed if the WWC check status changes.

A teacher who holds a current registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) is exempt from the requirement to undertake a WWC check. VIT, however, requires registered teachers to nominate organisations in which they undertake volunteer work. Website: [Service Victoria Teachers Notifications](#)

Requirement #2: Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct

You can sign the Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct through the [online Safeguarding Essentials Training platform](#) (without completing the training). When you log into the online Safeguarding Essentials Training platform, you will see the following statement:

“Our records indicate that you have not acknowledged the Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct Declaration in recent times. Please read the document provided below and acknowledge your agreement by clicking the Accept Button.”

Volunteers are required to read and acknowledge the Code of Conduct every three years. There is a downloadable pdf version of the code on Archdiocese website here: [Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct](#)

Requirement #3: Safeguarding Essentials Training

Volunteers are required complete the Safeguarding Essentials training module every three years.

Website link: [online Safeguarding Essentials training](#)

The Safeguarding Essentials Training takes approximately 45 minutes and you can stop, leave and go back to it if you need to break it up.

Websites:

Working With Children Check: <https://www.vic.gov.au/working-with-children-check>

Code of Conduct: <https://melbournecatholic.org/uploads/documents/Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

Training: <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2Fs%2F>

Once you have read and accepted the Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct, and completed the Safeguarding Essentials Training, the online training platform will automatically update the parish administration system (PACEM) held by our Essendon and West Essendon parish.

The parish is happy to assist those who have trouble accessing the online training so please reach out!