



The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

12 & 13 April 2025: Palm Sunday

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel: Luke 23:1-49 The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

The elders of the people and the chief priests and scribes rose, and they brought Jesus before Pilate.

They began their accusation by saying, 'We found this man inciting our people to revolt, opposing payment of tribute to Caesar, and claiming to be Christ, a king.' Pilate put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'It is you who say it' he replied. Pilate then said to the chief priests and the crowd, 'I find no case against this man.' But they persisted, 'He is inflaming the people with his teaching all over Judaea; it has come all the way from Galilee, where he started, down to here.' When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man were a Galilean; and finding that he came under Herod's jurisdiction he passed him over to Herod who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

Herod was delighted to see Jesus; he had heard about him and had been wanting for a long time to set eyes on him; moreover, he was hoping to see some miracle worked by him. So he questioned him at some length; but without getting any reply. Meanwhile the chief priests and the scribes were there, violently pressing their accusations. Then Herod, together with his guards, treated him with contempt and made fun of him; he put a rich cloak on him and sent him back to Pilate. And though Herod and Pilate had been enemies before, they were reconciled that same day.

Pilate then summoned the chief priests and the leading men and the people. 'You brought this man before me' he said 'as a political agitator. Now I have gone into the matter myself in your presence and found no case against the man in respect of all the charges you bring against him. Nor has Herod either, since he has sent him back to us. As you can see, the man has done nothing that deserves death, so I shall have him flogged and then let him go.' But as one man they howled, 'Away with him! Give us Barabbas!' (This man had been thrown into prison for causing a riot in the city and for murder.)

Pilate was anxious to set Jesus free and addressed them again, but they shouted back, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' And for the third time he spoke to them, 'Why? What harm has this man done? I have found no case against him that deserves death, so I shall have him punished and then let him go.' But they kept on shouting at the top of their voices, demanding that he should be crucified. And their shouts were growing louder.

Pilate then gave his verdict: their demand was to be granted. He released the man they asked for, who had been imprisoned for rioting and murder, and handed Jesus over to them to deal with as they pleased.

As they were leading him away they seized on a man, Simon from Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and made him shoulder the cross and carry it behind Jesus. Large numbers of people followed him, and of women too, who mourned and lamented for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children. For the days will surely come when people will say, "Happy are those who are barren, the wombs that have never borne, the breasts that have never suckled!" Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!"; to the hills, "Cover us!" For if men use the green wood like this, what will happen when it is dry?' Now with him they were also leading out two other criminals to be executed.

When they reached the place called The Skull, they crucified him there and the two criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left. Jesus said, 'Father forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.' Then they cast lots to share out his clothing.

The people stayed there watching him. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it; we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

It was now about the sixth hour and, with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Temple was torn right down the middle; and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' With these words he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he gave praise to God and said, 'This was a great and good man.' And when all the people who had gathered for the spectacle saw what had happened, they went home beating their breasts. All his friends stood at a distance; so also did the women who had accompanied him from Galilee, and they saw all this happen.

INTERCESSIONS

With our prayers let us turn towards our God who will never abandon us.

We pray for the leaders of our Church: that it never grows weary of preaching the gospel.

We pray for Christians, especially those who suffer for their faith: may they be filled with strength and courage by the Lord to remain faithful to the mission.

We pray for the children who are welcomed into our parish this weekend in preparation for their Baptism.

For our community: that it will be known by our humility and compassion.

We pray that the mystery of the death of Jesus will deepen within our hearts. May we be ready to take up the cross in our time, especially as we support those who experience injustice throughout the world.

We pray for those who are ill, especially John Lee.

We pray for those who have died recently especially: John Sweeney. And for those whom we remember at this time, especially: Henry Gerstner-Stevens, Fortunato Vilone and Brian Nunn.

Faithful God, you sent your Son to suffer for our sake so that we may rise with him in new life. Help us to walk the path of Holy Week and draw us more deeply into the mind and heart of Christ. We make our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen

WHICH PRIEST WHERE This weekend Fr John will say all Masses at OLN and the Sunday 9:00am Mass at St Therese's. Fr Bernie will preside at our 6:00pm Saturday and 10:30am Sunday Masses at St Therese's. Next weekend Fr John will say all Masses at St Therese's while Fr Bernie says all Masses at OLN.



PROJECT COMPASSION This Lent, we shared the stories of three remarkable individuals who have overcome immense challenges. Thanks to the kindness of supporters like you, their lives have been transformed. As Project Compassion 2025 draws to a close, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support throughout this Lenten Season. But the work isn't done yet. There is still time to donate! Together, we can Unite Against Poverty and help transform lives this Lent. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through donation boxes, envelopes, by scanning the QR code, online: caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling: 1800 024 413



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER MASS TIMES The times for all our Holy Week services across our two Mass Centres are printed on the next page and are also published on the parish website here: <https://www.essendoncatholic.org.au/mass-prayer-times/holy-week-and-easter-mass-times/>

HOLY WEEK COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE Our usual Lent/Easter Communal Reconciliation service will be held in Holy Week this year on Tuesday 15 April at 7:00pm. All welcome.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS GOOD FRIDAY Our usual Good Friday Stations of the Cross/Way of The Cross will be held inside St Therese's church and Our Lady of the Nativity church at 10:00am on Good Friday. Fr John will lead the Stations at St Therese's and we thank parishioner Adrian Commadeur who has written and will lead Way of the Cross at OLN.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS GOOD FRIDAY For the second year, on Good Friday morning, Fr Colin McLean's vision of a modern re-enactment of Jesus's walk to Calvary will be held at our parish, beginning at 10:00am in front of St Therese's church. It will conclude with the crucifixion scene back at the St Therese's grounds.

EASTER HOLIDAYS PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE Please note that due to school holidays and staff leave the parish office will be operating remotely on Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 April next week. Staff will still be contactable via the office phone and email but the parish office will be closed. The Easter bulletin has already been printed and no changes are now possible to the printed version. The online version will be emailed out to subscribers on Holy Thursday. The parish office will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday, reopening on Tuesday 22 April.

HOLY WEEK AT OLN We thank Fr Bernie Lane who will preside at the Holy Week Masses at OLN.

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

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR WEEKEND 19 & 20 APRIL (EASTER)

MASS	READERS	EUCARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Michael Portelli, Michael Balia, Natale Cutri	Barbara Odachowski, Fred Grima
OLN 10:00am	Mark Donahoo	Doug D'Cruz,
St T's 6.00pm	Murray Sykes, George Jungwirt, Eve Korytkowski, Tric Joseph, Mary Dowling	Leanne Torr, Rosina Tempini, Marg Moore, Miriam Gandolfo
St T's 9.00am	John Harvey	Greg Johnson,
St T's 10.30am	Rosemary Patterson, Mary O'Brien	

Please note: This roster was populated from the sign-up sheets distributed last week.

Eucharistic ministers who are usually rostered in week three are welcome to serve at their usual Mass time.

A more comprehensive Lector Roster has been emailed out to our lectors as well as the readings for Holy Week.

Please check the printed rosters/sign-up sheets for a complete list of volunteers for Holy Week and Easter

Volunteers are still needed to help with the increased number of attendees at our Easter Masses



The Parish of Our Lady & St Therese

GOOD FRIDAY

The Way of the Cross

We invite you to join us in a modern re-enactment of Jesus' walk to Calvary

Friday 18 April
Starting at 10:00am
St Therese's Catholic Church
48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon

The Way of the Cross will be acted out on the streets of Essendon and will conclude with the crucifixion scene in the church grounds

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION SERVICE

TUESDAY 15 APRIL
7.00PM AT ST THERESE'S

HOLY THURSDAY

5.00PM MASS AT OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY
7.00PM MASS AT ST THERESE'S
8.00PM - 10.00PM ALTAR OF REPOSE AT ST THERESE'S

GOOD FRIDAY

10.00AM STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT OLN
10.00AM STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT ST THERESE'S
10.00AM WAY OF THE CROSS AT ST THERESE'S
3.00PM VENERATION OF THE CROSS AT OLN
3.00PM VENERATION OF THE CROSS AT ST THERESE'S

HOLY SATURDAY

5.00PM VIGIL MASS AT OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY
6.00PM VIGIL MASS AT ST THERESE'S

EASTER SUNDAY

9.00AM MASS AT ST THERESE'S
10.00AM MASS AT OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY
10.30AM MASS AT ST THERESE'S

THE PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST THERESE
HOLY WEEK & EASTER

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

Grandparents welcome!

ON A BREAK FOR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
BACK ON THURSDAY 1 MAY

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

THERE'S A SEAT FOR YOU AT THE TABLE

ALPHA IS COMING AFTER EASTER

BEGINS TUESDAY 29 APRIL
PACE FUNCTION ROOM AT 7:00PM
ST THERESE'S CHURCH
48A LINCOLN RD, ESSENDON



REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL
Use the QR code or phone 9401 6630



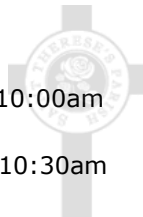
PARISH DIARY

Saturday 12 April	Easter Working Bees at both churches	9:00am
Sunday 13 April	Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)	
Monday 14 April	Statue of Our Lady moves to the D'Cruz family	
Tuesday 15 April	Communal Reconciliation Service at St Therese's church	7:00pm
Wednesday 16 April	Parish office operating remotely Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store Requiem Mass for John Sweeney at St Therese's	9:00am 10:45am 11:00am
Thursday 17 April	Parish office operating remotely Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at OLN Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Therese's Altar of Repose at St Therese's church	5:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm – 10:30pm
Friday 18 April	Good Friday Holy Land Appeal Stations of the Cross (both churches) Way of the Cross beginning at St Therese's church Veneration of the Cross (both churches)	10:00am 10:00am 3:00pm
Saturday 19 April	Holy Saturday Holy Saturday Easter Vigil at OLN Holy Saturday Easter Vigil at St Therese's	5:00pm 6:00pm
Sunday 20 April	Easter Sunday Masses at St Therese's Easter Sunday Mass at OLN	9:00am & 10:30am 10:00am
Monday 21 April	Easter Monday public holiday Statue of Our Lady moves to the D'Cruz family	
Tuesday 22 April	First day of school term 2	
Wednesday 23 April	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
Friday 25 April	ANZAC Day: public holiday parish office closed	
Sunday 27 April	Second Sunday of Easter Parish Baptisms at St Therese's	12:00pm
Monday 28 April	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Portelli family	
Wednesday 30 April	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Sacrament of First Reconciliation at St Therese's	9:00am 7:00pm
Thursday 1 May	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room	9:30am 10:30am
Saturday 3 May	Kids at Mass at St Therese's	6:00pm
Sunday 4 May	Third Sunday of Easter	
Monday 5 May	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Draim family	

MASSES

ST THERESE'S CHURCH
48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon

Weekday Masses: Tuesday to Friday 10:00am
Weekend Masses: Saturday 6:00pm
Sunday 9:00am & 10:30am
Reconciliation: Saturday 5:45pm



OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH
31 Fawkner St, Aberfeldie

Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:00pm,
Sunday 10:00am
Reconciliation: Saturday 4:45pm



PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH PRIEST Fr John Hannon

Office phone: 9401 6330 **Office address:** 48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon
Office email: essendon@cam.org.au **Website:** www.essendoncatholic.org.au
Office hours: Monday to Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm
After-Hours phone: 0490 956 610 (answering service)

St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 1800 305 330 WEEKDAYS 10:00am–3:00pm

To subscribe to our newsletter go to the link below or use the QR code:
<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/subscription?id=0012w00000LOj4wAAD&req=subscribe>



Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land of the Kulin Nation who have walked upon and cared for this country for thousands of years. We pay our respect to them and their cultures 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!