



# The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

## 19 April 2025: The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

**First Reading:** Genesis 1:1 – 2:2 A reading from the book of Genesis

*God saw all he had made, and indeed it was good.*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, and God's spirit hovered over the water.

God said, 'Let there be light', and there was light. God saw that light was good, and God divided light from darkness. God called light 'day', and darkness he called 'night'. Evening came and morning came: the first day.

God said, 'Let there be a vault in the waters to divide the waters in two.' And so it was. God made the vault, and it divided the waters above the vault from the waters under the vault. God called the vault 'heaven'. Evening came and morning came: the second day.

God said, 'Let the waters under heaven come together into a single mass, and let dry land appear.' And so it was. God called the dry land 'earth' and the mass of waters 'seas', and God saw that it was good.

God said, 'Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants, and fruit trees bearing fruit with their seed inside, on the earth.' And so it was. The earth produced vegetation: plants bearing seed in their several kinds, and trees bearing fruit with their seed inside in their several kinds. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came: the third day.

God said, 'Let there be lights in the vault of heaven to divide day from night, and let them indicate festivals, days and years. Let them be lights in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth.' And so it was. God made the two great lights: the greater light to govern the day, the smaller light to govern the night, and the stars. God set them in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth, to govern the day and the night and to divide light from darkness. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came: the fourth day.

God said, 'Let the waters teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth within the vault of heaven.' And so it was. God created great sea-serpents and every kind of living creature with which the waters teem, and every kind of winged creature. God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying 'Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas; and let the birds multiply upon the earth.' Evening came and morning came: the fifth day.

God said, 'Let the earth produce every kind of living creature: cattle, reptiles, and every kind of wild beast.' And so it was. God made every kind of wild beast, every kind of cattle, and every kind of land reptile. God saw that it was good.

God said, 'Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth.'

God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.' God said, 'See, I give you all the seed-bearing plants that are upon the whole earth, and all the trees with seed-bearing fruit; this shall be your food. To all wild beasts, all birds of heaven and all living reptiles on the earth I give all the foliage of plants for food.' And so it was. God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good. Evening came and morning came: the sixth day.

Thus heaven and earth were completed with all their array. On the seventh day God completed the work he had been doing. He rested on the seventh day after all the work he had been doing.

**Gospel:** Lk 24:1-12 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*Why look among the dead for someone who is alive?*

On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, the women went to the tomb with the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, but on entering discovered that the body of the Lord Jesus was not there. As they stood there not knowing what to think, two men in brilliant clothes suddenly appeared at their side. Terrified, the women lowered their eyes. But the two men said to them, 'Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here; he has risen. Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee: that the Son of Man had to be handed over into the power of sinful men and be crucified, and rise again on the third day?' And they remembered his words.

When the women returned from the tomb they told all this to the Eleven and to all the others. The women were Mary of Magdala, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them also told the apostles, but this story of theirs seemed pure nonsense, and they did not believe them.

Peter, however, went running to the tomb. He bent down and saw the binding cloths, but nothing else; he then went back home, amazed at what had happened

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### INTERCESSIONS

*Sisters and brothers, rejoicing in Christ's triumph over death, we bring our prayers before the God of glory.*

We pray for the Pope: may he be a living symbol of Easter joy and a sign of hope to the world.

That nations in conflict will be led from war and death into peace and new life.

That missionaries and all who dedicate their lives to God will find strength in their faith and draw inspiration from the Easter message.

We pray for everyone in our parish: may we value each other and be a living message of peace and hope.

We pray for those who are ill especially Moira Farrell; for those who have died recently especially John Sweeney and Robert Kelly and for those whom we remember at this time, especially: Maria Mambrino, Peter Fonseka, Lilly McManus and Mien Tran.

*God our Father, we rejoice this day in Christ's triumph over death. Hear our prayers and help us to bear witness to the risen Lord as we are freed by the mystery of his Resurrection. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

# The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

## 20 April 2025: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection

**First Reading:** Acts of the Apostles 10:34. 37-43 A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

**Responsorial Psalm:** This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 24:1-12 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (see front page)

### EASTER MESSAGE FROM FR JOHN

*Dear Friends, A warm and happy welcome to all for our Easter celebrations.*

*Throughout Lent our contributions towards Project Compassion are a demonstration of our commitment to the great work of Caritas Australia who this year called us to 'Unite Against Poverty' in supporting projects at the grass roots level. We've seen this in action in the reflections over the Sundays of Lent in Samoa, Vietnam and Democratic Republic of the Congo.*

*The celebrations of Holy Week culminate in our Easter proclamation that Jesus is Risen, and that his presence endures with us, as we remember the events of his life in his final days.*

*Holy Thursday's re-enactment of the Last Supper is our call to service as faithful Christian disciples. The Breaking of the Bread is our ongoing reminder of our responsibilities as we gather for Eucharist on our journey of life, to be strengthened by his "Bread for the Broken", in our wonderful but flawed human condition.*

*The dark reminder of the injustice of Good Friday leads us to reflect on the reality of our own mortality, human suffering, and the injustices in our world, to be countered by our own Christian response to the needs of those around us.*

*The spirit of Easter echoes the spirit of Christmas, as we gather in our churches in peace and good will, with a determination to live our faith well.*

*Another joy of Easter is gathering together as families and friends and sharing friendship, fellowship and of course Easter eggs in moderation.*

*Thanks to all who have helped prepare our churches for Holy Week and Easter, it is a mighty effort for all involved. There are too many individuals to name but I particularly acknowledge the volunteers who contribute to our music, liturgy, liturgical décor, welcoming, gardening, maintenance and cleaning and our dedicated sacristans.*

*A Happy and safe Easter season to all. Enjoy the break and travel safe if you are heading away.*

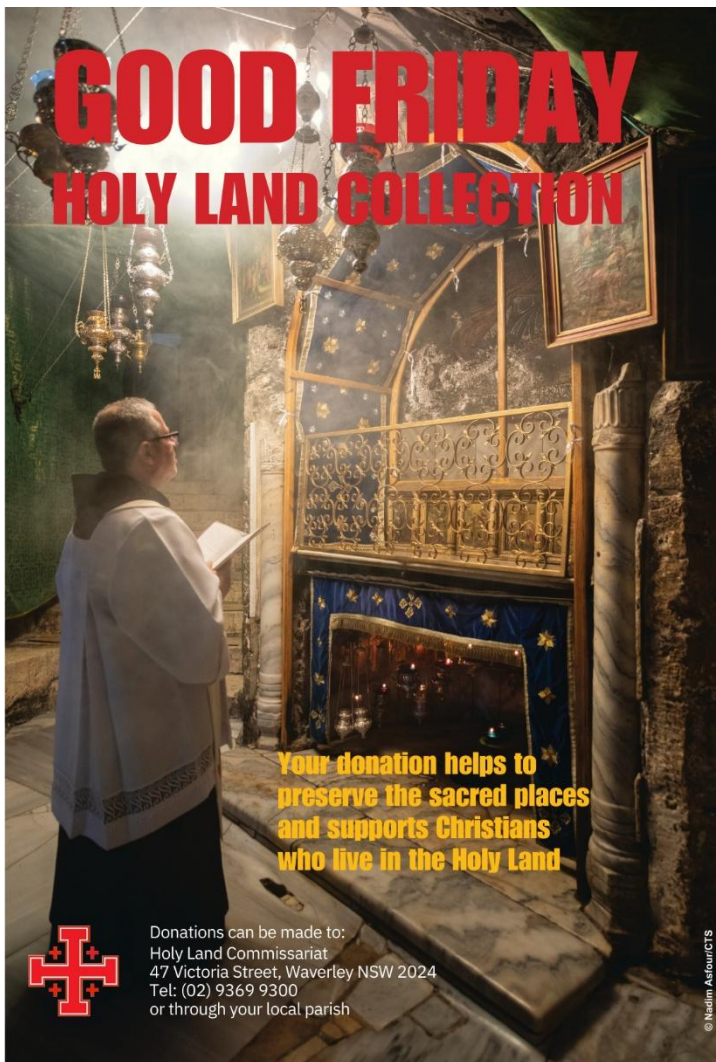
*John Hannon PP*

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

### MINISTRY ROSTER FOR WEEKEND 26 & 27 APRIL (WEEK 4)

MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Michael Balia	Fred Grima
OLN 10:00am	Adrian Commadeur	Michael Portelli
St T's 6.00pm	Tric Joseph & Tony Proctor	Joe Fittipaldi
St T's 9.00am	Bruce White & Christine Nelson	Marg Tormey & Mick O'Brien
St T's 10.30am	Jim Maderazo & Lanelle Eid	Marita Hassed-Dunne & Miriam Gandolfo
Adults: <a href="https://sundayreadingsathomeyearc.weebly.com/h1sks0t1.html">https://sundayreadingsathomeyearc.weebly.com/h1sks0t1.html</a> Children: <a href="https://www.childrenliturgyofthewordc.com/yhc3rwjcm2.html">https://www.childrenliturgyofthewordc.com/yhc3rwjcm2.html</a>		





# GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND COLLECTION

Your donation helps to preserve the sacred places and supports Christians who live in the Holy Land



Donations can be made to:  
Holy Land Commissariat  
47 Victoria Street, Waverley NSW 2024  
Tel: (02) 9369 9300  
or through your local parish

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# SHARING *memories*

A Friendship group supporting parishioners through life's challenges including:

- Grief and loss
- Relationship breakdowns
- Life changes

Monthly Morning Tea  
First Tuesday of each month  
10:30am in the Annex  
(room located behind St Therese's church)

**Next date: Tuesday 6 May**

- YOU ARE WELCOME



## Senior Friendship Group *Morning Tea*

PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS OF  
OUR PARISH ARE INVITED TO

**PACE Function Room**  
**Thursday 15 May**  
**from 10:45am**  
**(After Anointing Mass)**

Donations on the day will raise funds for Cancer Council Australia's Biggest Morning Tea or you can donate using the QR code



# 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

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 Requiem Mass for Robert 'Bob' Kelly at OLN church	11:00am
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
Weekend 3 & 4 May	Annual Parish Mass Count	All Masses
Saturday 3 May	Kids at Mass at St Therese's	6:00pm
Sunday 4 May	Third Sunday of Easter Catholic Care Victoria Sunday Appeal RE Programme Confirmation Session 1 - PACE Function Room	9:30am
Monday 5 May	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Draim family	
Tuesday 6 May	Sharing Memories Group morning tea in the Annex	10:30am
Wednesday 7 May	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store	9:00am 10:45am
Thursday 8 May	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room SVDP Regional Conference meeting in PACE	9:30am 10:30am 7:00pm
Weekend 10 & 11 May	Annual Parish Mass Count	All Masses
Sunday 11 May	Fourth Sunday of Easter RE Programme Confirmation Session 2 - PACE Function Room	9:30am
Monday 12 May	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Notaro family	
Wednesday 14 May	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Sacrament of Confirmation Faith night at St Therese's	9:00am 6:45pm

MASSES

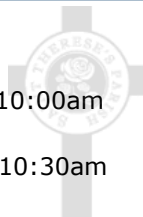
**ST THERESE'S CHURCH**

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](mailto:essendon@cam.org.au) **Website:** [www.essendoncatholic.org.au](http://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 Owners of Country of the land of our parish and recognize their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and to Elders past, present and emerging.*





# By his wounds, we are healed: Archbishop Comensoli's 2025 Easter message

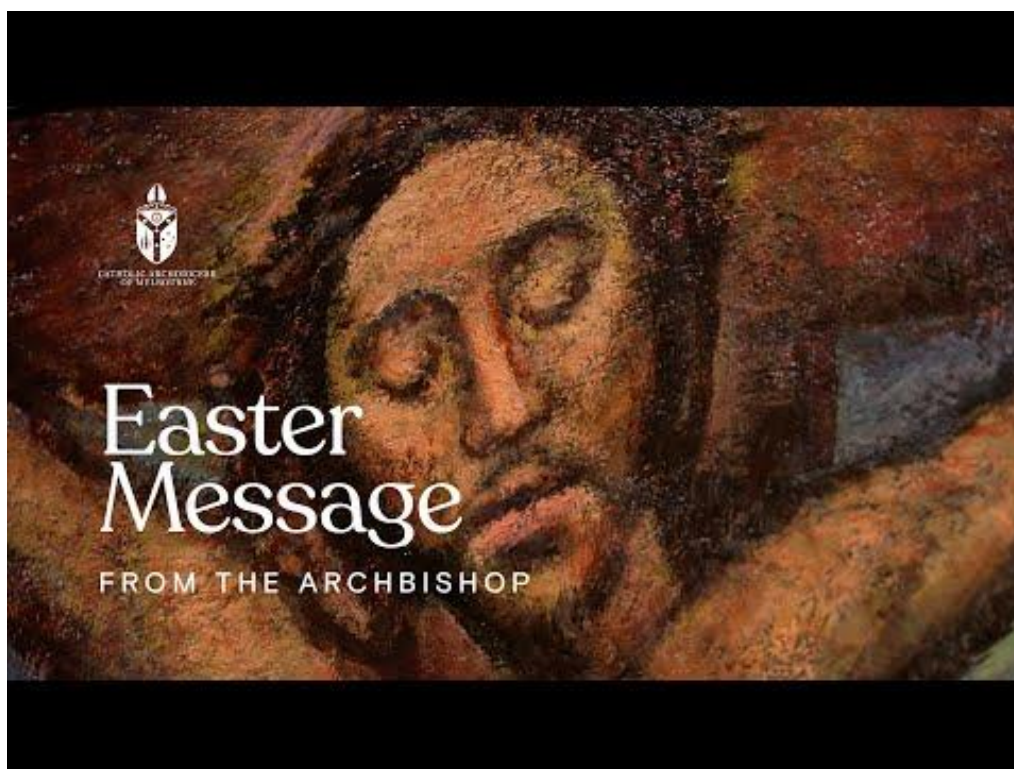
PUBLISHED  
16 April 2025

PRESENTED BY  
Archbishop Peter A Comensoli

In his Easter message for 2025, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli revisits the moment when the risen Jesus appeared before his disciples and showed them the marks of his wounds. These marks, he says, were not just proof of what Jesus had suffered; 'they were proof of what he had done.' Jesus wanted to show his friends 'that he had taken their wounded lives into his own body.'

Our own wounds, Archbishop Comensoli says, 'can feel like the end of our story. They threaten to define us, to trap us. They try to tell us there is no way ahead.'

'But Easter speaks another word: a healing word, a forgiving word. Easter tells us that our wounds are not where the story ends. Easter shows us there is a path to healing, and a vista onto a new dawn.'



## Transcript:

*When Jesus stood among his disciples after the resurrection, he showed them his wounds, the marks of his crucifixion. Those marks were not just proof of what he had suffered; they were proof of what he had done. Jesus wanted his disciples to see, with their own eyes, that he had taken their wounded lives into his own body.*

*St Peter, who was there that day, never forgot this. Later he would write, 'By his wounds, you have been healed' (1 Peter 2:24).*

*In his crucifixion, Christ carried the full weight of our failures, our hurts, the injuries done to us, and the damage we have done to ourselves and others. He did so knowing we could not heal them alone.*

*In his resurrection, he stood before his friends with a body bearing our wounds, yet gloriously alive. The resurrection of Christ was a declaration: nothing we carry is beyond his power to redeem. No injury too deep. No past too broken. No heart too far gone.*

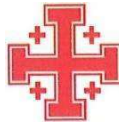
*The wounds we bear can feel like the end of our story. They threaten to define us, to trap us. They try to tell us there is no way ahead.*

*But Easter speaks another word: a healing word, a forgiving word. Easter tells us that our wounds are not where the story ends. Easter shows us there is a path to healing, and a vista onto a new dawn.*

*The risen Christ, bearing his crucifying marks, is the sign of hope we need. He entered fully into the depths of our brokenness, so that we might emerge with him, healed.*

*This is the promise of Easter: that in him, our wounds do not have the final word. Life does. For we are healed in the crucified and risen Christ.*

**Archbishop Peter A Comensoli**



## HOLY LAND COMMISSARIAT

Franciscan Provincial Office  
47 Victoria Street, Waverley NSW 2024, Australia  
Tel: (02) 9369 9300 • Email: [holyland@franciscans.org.au](mailto:holyland@franciscans.org.au)

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### *To the people of the Church in Australia, for the Holy Land Collection 2025*

As many of you are aware, for 800 years the Franciscan Friars have shared the difficult lives of Christians in the countries that make up the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land: Israel and Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Rhodes and Cyprus. The people of these countries face their own difficulties, but particularly Christians due to their minority status. Among them, the friars have never ceased offering their pastoral care.

Over the last five years the people of the Holy Land have had so much turmoil in their lives. My prayer as I write this letter is that the ceasefire in Palestine, Gaza and Israel will be honoured by all the leaders. Already the Christian church leaders are encouraging people to come back on pilgrimage. Pilgrims are vital because they generate income that allows the Friars and the local Church to fulfil their mission of caring for the Holy Places (which also gives work to the local people), as well as running parishes, schools and caring for orphans, refugees, the homeless, and more.

Brothers and sisters, I am amazed at the determination of the people of this area of unrest. I read with interest in January about the consecration of the new Church of the Baptism of the Lord at Al-Mughtas, Jordan. I remember visiting this site in 2015 when it was just a concrete shell of a building. Despite the challenges of the last 10 years, the people in the Holy Land (including many pilgrim sites in Jordan) have stayed strong in faith and the opening of a new church must bring about a great hope for the future.

In Dec 2024, Fr Francesco Patton ofm, the Franciscan leader of the Holy Land Custody wrote the following, which reminds us of the need to continue to support the Holy Land...

*We provide more than 400 apartments for local Christians in Jerusalem. In this way, we are able to preserve the Christian character of the Christian Quarter in the Old City. We provide more than 200 houses in Bethlehem and the surrounding areas. We also have a major project starting soon in Jaffa and a joint project with the agricultural sector to build an efficient compound near the wall that encloses Bethlehem. This is one way we provide job opportunities. We provide jobs for more or less 2,000 people, which is a great effort because it means every month we have to pay a lot of salaries.*

*For me, the most important social activity is our schools. We have 18 schools in the Holy Land. These schools are crucial because they provide not only cultural education but also human and religious education. We stress the importance of living together and the values of (papal encyclical) "Fratelli Tutti." Our Magnificat music school is a rare example of coexistence: Most of the teachers are Jewish and most of the students are Muslim and Christian. Through these efforts, we hope to foster a mentality of living together and counter the polarization fueled by politics and ideology. (Patton, Dec 2024)*

Brothers and sisters, as is always the case, the Good Friday Holy Land Collection is extremely important, and a mission that we all can assist with. The hope is that our Australian parishioners, Parish Priests and Bishops will again be as generous as they have always been. Our donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus, often in the face of great difficulty in recent years. On their behalf, I humbly and wholeheartedly thank you all.

Friar Bernie Thomas ofm  
Commissary of the Holy Land (Australia)



# 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!