



# The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

## 1 June 2025: The Ascension of the Lord C

**First Reading:** Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11 A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

**Responsorial Psalm:** God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 24:46-53 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

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### INTERCESSIONS

*Brothers and sisters, with Christ ascended into heaven, let us bring our prayers to the Lord.*

We pray for the Catholic Church: that it may be a place of joy, spreading the message of God's love for everyone.

That our parish community may be inspired by the joy and hope of Christ's Ascension into heaven. (Pause) Lord, hear us

For world leaders: that the prosperity of the wealthy nations will be used to alleviate suffering in the poorer nations.

During this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we pray for the leaders of all churches and religious groups. May they be open to the Spirit that Jesus promised and may this unite all Christians as a testament to God's presence in our world

We pray for all who attend our Alpha session and pray that God prepares the hearts and the minds of all the guests to help them explore Jesus' character and nature.

We pray for those who are ill.

We pray for those who have died recently especially: Brian Delaney and Anne Blundo; And for those whom we remember at this time, especially: Virgilio & Concetta Giuffre, Steve McKenna, Jack Raeside and Daniel & Jean McAuslan,

*God our Father, your Son is with you, at your right hand. Hear our prayers and help us to glorify the work of our Saviour now enthroned in glory, through prayer, word and actions. We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

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**WHICH PRIEST WHERE** This weekend Fr John will preside at all Masses at St Therese's and 5:00pm Saturday Mass at OLN. Fr Bernie will preside at 10:00am Sunday Mass at OLN. Next weekend we expect to welcome Fr Tony Feeney back to Masses with a schedule yet to be confirmed.

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**PARISH SUPPORT PROGRAMME** The 2025/2026 envelopes for our parish are now available to collect from church entrance tables. Envelopes are grouped and organised alphabetically by STREET NAME. If you find your neighbour's we'd love you to deliver them.

If you'd like to join in the Parish Support Programme with regular automatic payments, Parish Registration and Direct Debit Forms are also available on church entrance tables or online at <https://www.essendoncatholic.org.au/our-parish/parish-registration-and-support/> Thanks everyone!

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER JOHN

Dear friends at OLN and St Therese.

As another financial year rolls around, I write to express appreciation on behalf of the parish communities for your ongoing generosity and support with your regular contributions to the parish support program, whereby we are able to cover both recurrent and capital costs for staff and for necessary parish expenses on regular cleaning, maintenance of our churches and surrounds, with ever increasing insurance costs and general expenses for maintaining our buildings and properties.

Then there is the archdiocesan levy for works of the Archdiocese, which is necessary, as the parish does not exist as an entity outside of diocesan services, which require our support as well.

There have been significant expenses with church roof repairs at St Therese's, and a new sound system is being investigated for OLN church, to be installed hopefully in the next 6 months.

Meanwhile, there are the costs relating to electricity, gas, water and plumbing along the way, as we all know, given our own living and house expenses.

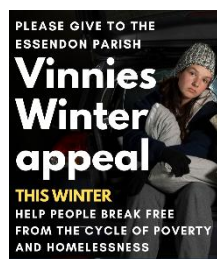
We are fortunate to have generous volunteers in the areas of pastoral care, liturgy, decor, music ministry with singing and instrumental input all as a result of parishioners being prepared to give of their time and talents in the many dimensions of parish life. Also noted with appreciation is the contribution made by those who help maintain the external areas surrounding the churches and parish office, in regard to lawns and gardens.

At the same time, there is the need for continued financial support, for which I thank you on behalf of the whole parish.

Many now contribute by direct debit or credit card, which reduces the security risk of cash on the premises, and a new 'Tap and Go' facility has been introduced into the church for weekend Masses, given the ever decreasing carrying of cash in the broader community.

Wishing you every blessing, good health and happiness as we continue to support and build our communities.

John Hannon PP



**VINNIES WINTER APPEAL** This weekend is our annual Vinnies Winter Appeal and we welcome members of our SVDP conference who will speak at all Masses. The appeal funds the works of our Essendon SVDP Conference who support Companions across our parish. Funds raised through the Winter Appeal will support people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and people struggling with poverty and cost-of-living pressures. Envelopes are available for cash and credit card donations. Donate: <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/winter-appeal> or by scanning the QR code on the next page. **PLEASE NOTE:** when donating online there is a Comments/Conference Name field at the bottom of the details page. Please add '176 - Essendon' here to ensure your donation comes to the Vinnies conference here in our local area. You can also call 13 18 12 to donate.

**ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING?** We need to ensure that the right people volunteer and support vulnerable members of our congregation. We ensure this by requesting: a current and valid volunteer Victorian Working with Children check, completion of the Safeguarding Essentials online training every three years, and, reading and understanding the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Framework including signing the Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct. Reach out to the parish office for more information.

**ST THERESE'S TENNIS CLUB**

**THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING SPONSORS**




<https://www.trybooking.com/CZRHT>

**Nelson's Advantage Pharmacy**  
Nelson's Advantage Pharmacy - Glenroy  
Nicole Hardwick & Adrian Salsone

**Kellie & Nick Smith**

**SKIN AFFAIR**  
Skin Affair Clinic  
The Flammea Family

**GLO**  
Glo Gelato

**Fieste**  
Fiesta Restaurant  
The Hernandez Family

**Super Stringer Bros**  
Raf & Luca Hernandez

**HAIRHOUSE HIGHPOINT**  
Hairhouse Highpoint & American Body Art

**Fruitique**  
Fruitique Essendon North

**PARENTS AND FRIENDS**  
St Therese's Parents and Friends

## MINISTRY ROSTER FOR WEEKEND 7 & 8 JUNE (WEEK 2)

MASS	READERS	EUCCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Georgina Kucera & John Harris	Kathy Ferguson
OLN 10:00am	Gerald Mullen	Mark Donahoo
St T's 6.00pm	John O'Connor	Tony Proctor
St T's 9.00am	Lynette Russo	Tony Belcastro & David Gloury
St T's 10.30am	Lucy Angelico	Rosa Pierorazio & Marg Moore
Adults: <a href="https://sundayreadingsathomeyearc.weebly.com/h1sks0t1.html">https://sundayreadingsathomeyearc.weebly.com/h1sks0t1.html</a> Children: <a href="https://www.childrensliturgyofthewordc.com/yhc3rwjcm2.html">https://www.childrensliturgyofthewordc.com/yhc3rwjcm2.html</a>		



KAM IS BACK THIS WEEKEND  
**SATURDAY 31 MAY**  
AT ST THERESE'S 6:00PM MASS



Primary school-aged children can listen to Jesus' message in a child friendly and engaging way. Children who are not yet at school should be accompanied by parent/s

REMAINING DATES FOR 2025  
2 August, 11 October & 6 December

# 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 3 June**

- YOU ARE WELCOME

## CAKE *Stall*

a fundraiser for St Therese's Tennis Club  
Centenary Celebrations

**SUNDAY 8 JUNE**

*Cake Stall & Coffee Van  
After Masses at St Therese's*



### BAKERS WANTED

Baked goods for the stall can be dropped off at the tennis club after Mass

And if you can't bake, come along and buy to support the club

PLEASE GIVE TO THE  
ESSENDON PARISH

## Vinnies Winter appeal

**THIS WINTER**

HELP PEOPLE BREAK FREE  
FROM THE CYCLE OF POVERTY  
AND HOMELESSNESS

**WEEKEND 31 MAY AND 1 JUNE**

With your help and support, young people like sisters Abigail and Isabella can look forward to a brighter future

Envelopes are available for all cash donations. Put them on the plate this weekend, bring them back next week or drop them off to the parish office.



Use the QR code to donate online  
Include '176 - Essendon' in the  
Comments/Conference Name field to  
ensure your donation comes to our  
Vinnies conference

# PARISH DIARY

Weekend 31 May & 1 June	Vinnies Winter Appeal	All Masses
Saturday 31 May	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Kids at Mass at St Therese's	6:00pm
Sunday 1 June	The Ascension of the Lord	
Monday 2 June	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Periera family	
Tuesday 3 June	Sharing Memories Group morning tea in the Annex Sacrament of First Eucharist Faith night at OLN	10:30am 7:00pm
Wednesday 4 June	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store Requiem Mass for Angelina (Anne) Blundo at St Therese's	9:00am 10:45am 11:30am
Thursday 5 June	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room	9:30am 10:30am
Friday 6 June	St Therese's school Mass Grade 2 & Grade 3 students	10:00am
Sunday 8 June	Pentecost Sunday STTC Centenary Celebrations and Club Championship Cake stall and coffee van at St Therese's	
Monday 9 June	King's Birthday Public Holiday: parish office closed Statue of Our Lady moves to the Rob family	
Wednesday 11 June	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
Thursday 12 June	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room SVDP Regional Council meeting in PACE	9:30am 10:30am 7:00pm
Weekend 14 & 15 June	OLN Students present as candidates for First Eucharist	OLN Masses
Sunday 15 June	The Most Holy Trinity Parish Morning Tea after morning Masses at St Therese's Parish Morning Tea after 10:00am Mass at OLN Parish Baptism Welcoming Mass at St Therese's	10:30am
Monday 16 June	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Mazzarella family SVDP Essendon Conference meeting in PACE	7:00pm
Wednesday 18 June	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store	9:00am 10:45am
Thursday 19 June	Tiny Ts Playgroup in St Therese's Annex Senior Friendship Group morning tea in PACE	9:30am 10:30am
Weekend 21 & 22 June	Sacrament of First Eucharist at OLN	OLN Masses
Sunday 22 June	The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ Parish Baptisms at St Therese's	12:00pm
Monday 23 June	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Mazzarella family	
Tuesday 24 June	The Nativity of John the Baptist	
Wednesday 25 June	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am

# 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:

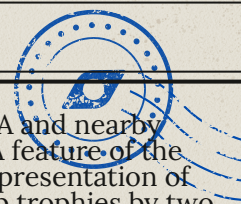
<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/subscription?id=0012w00000LOj4wAAD&req=subscribe>



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

*We acknowledge the traditional 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.*





## 1950's

The tennis club continues to be a social hub of the parish. There were many social events including dances, picnics and day trips to the beach on a regular basis. Sunday afternoons were set aside for social tennis only.

"The committee meeting 10<sup>th</sup> October 1952, carried a motion that the club members attend 8am Mass on the first Saturday of each month. This decision will be reviewed on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1959." Maintenance of the courts has prompted the committee to institute a monthly working bee on a roster basis.

The Teresian, the parish's monthly magazine carried an article December 1958 written by Harry Hopman, Australia's Davis Cup Captain, especially for the members of the St Therese's Tennis Club.



## 1960's

It appears that the tennis club struggled to survive in this period. It was noted that Mr Vern Wood was an important member of the club and he was praised in meeting notes for the sterling value he gave the Junior club. The sacrifice of his time and the value of his experience was much appreciated. Vern continued to offer his services to coach and help the juniors for a total of 15 years until 1971.

The record of the 1966 annual meeting describes its purpose as "convened to salvage the club from a disastrous future".



## 1970's

The interior walls of the clubhouse kitchen were cement rendered. At the 1971 annual meeting the members expressed a strong determination to make the club more firmly established. In particular, they discussed ways and means to make the tennis club a centre of parish activity where parishioners would come to fulfil their recreational and social needs.

Clubrooms repainted. A tin shed was erected (1977) for storage and the courts were resurfaced with new en tous cas (1978). The club had a very vibrant social focus with many activities including: wine tasting nights, picture nights, progressive dinners, dinner dances, car rallies and beach picnic days.

Courts hired to St Bernard's for use on Wednesday afternoons at a cost of \$50 per term.

An advertisement for a junior coach was placed in The Advocate (Catholic newspaper). Paul Kendall was offered the position of coach of juniors. It was stated in the minutes:

'Paul Kendall was given the coaching position mainly because he lives in close proximity and it did help that he applied first.'



## 1980's

Club rooms renovated. The centre space was enclosed, a new kitchen was installed, mens and ladies toilets and showers were added, and a storage room was built onto the south end of the club rooms, replacing the tin shed. This work was largely done by club members. On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July 1981, Rev Fr P Fitzpatrick opened the extended and renovated club rooms of St Therese's Tennis Club.

A large crowd was in attendance, including present and past members and their families.



Representatives of the NSTA and nearby tennis clubs were present. A feature of the opening festivities was the presentation of the 1981 Club Championship trophies by two life members, Mrs Lorna Rizzoli and Mr Matt Pattison.



## 1990's

Lights were installed on the courts. Initially two courts had lights and later, lights were installed on the third court.

Tennis Vic declared viewing area above the club room unsafe, and it had to be removed.

## 2000's

All courts are resurfaced with artificial grass. The St Therese's primary school is rapidly expanding and requiring more land to facilitate growth. Parish priest (Fr Mullally) proposes that the tennis courts would be solely for the use of the primary school. This would mean that the tennis club would have to be abandoned. Passionate tennis club members fight for the survival of the club. An agreement was made between the tennis club and the parish that the courts were to be shared between the school and the tennis club. The nets were to be removed during school hours to permit use by the school. The tennis club could continue their activities (i.e. coaching, junior competition and senior night competition), however, Thursday Ladies competition and midweek lessons in school hours would no longer be able to continue. The back fence was extended towards Florence St and the club rooms were renovated to their current state. The works included updating the toilets, installing the bifold doors and creating a deck at the front. Both the tennis club and the school/parish funded these updates. Later, the back of the courts were resurfaced with synthetic grass.

## 2020's (Present)

All courts resurfaced early January during the summer school holidays. Then the Covid era came. All competition was cancelled. There was a period when the courts became very busy as tennis was one of the few sports that could be played socially during lock down.

