



# The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

27 July 2025: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C  
World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

**First Reading:** Genesis 18:20-32 A reading from the book of Genesis

*Lord, do not be angry if I speak.*

The Lord said, 'How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know.'

The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, 'Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?' The Lord replied, 'If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them.'

Abraham replied, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?' 'No', he replied 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there.' Again Abraham said to him, 'Perhaps there will only be forty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'for the sake of the forty.'

Abraham said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'if I find thirty there.' He said, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the twenty.' He said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the ten.'

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! You have received the Spirit which makes us God's children, and in that Spirit we call God our Father. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 11:1-13 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*Ask, and it will be given to you.*

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

"Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come; give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us. And do not put us to the test."

He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

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## INTERCESSIONS

*Dear friends, in the hope of receiving the goodness of God, we make our prayers before the Lord.*

That the Church will be filled with unwavering perseverance in working for the coming of God's kingdom.

That nations will not ignore the plight of developing countries and will respond to their needs with generosity.

That all who are searching for meaning in their lives will find opened doors and renewed spirit.

We pray that the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people, will share their experience and wisdom to help young people look towards the future with hope and responsibility.

We pray for the children who are initiated into our parish this weekend at the Sacrament of Baptism. That they lead a life of faith and love for all.

We pray for those who are ill.

We pray for those who have died recently especially: Max Symington; And for those whom we remember at this time, especially: Pauline Clark, Hilda Lynch, John Sexton, Vilma Manzotti, Gerald de LaHarpe, Len Reddoch, Mel DuCasse and Giovanni Italiano.

*Loving Father, you give us our daily bread through your Son Jesus Christ. Hear us today, and help us to pray as he taught us and to forgive as he showed us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

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**WHICH PRIEST WHERE** This weekend Fr John will preside at all St Therese's Masses as well as Saturday 5:00pm Mass at OLN. Fr Tony will preside at OLN Sunday morning Mass. Next weekend Fr Tony will say all Masses at St Therese's while Fr Bernie presides at our OLN Masses.

**FR JOHN ON LEAVE** On Monday 28 July Fr John will begin annual leave. We thank Fr Bernie Lane, Fr Tony Feeney and Fr Colin McLean who will preside at weekend Masses during John's absence. While Fr John is on leave a Liturgy of the Word with Communion service will replace 10:00am morning Masses on Tuesday and Thursday at St Therese's. Fr Colin will preside at 10:00am morning Masses on Wednesdays and Fridays at St Therese's. There will be no After-Hours message service while Fr John is away and we won't have a priest in residence to attend the sick and dying. For patients in hospitals, families should contact the hospital chaplain.

**WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY** Pope Leo XIV in his message about World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, says, "Embracing the elderly helps us to understand that life is more than just the present moment, and should not be wasted in superficial encounters and fleeting relationships. Instead, life is constantly pointing us toward the future." Pope Leo has called upon the faithful to reach out to those who are forgotten and alone, "We are called to help them experience liberation, especially from loneliness and abandonment." Pope Leo's message to the faithful is attached to the online bulletin and there are some printed copies on church entrance tables.

**OLN SOUND SYSTEM PROGRESS** Works have been progressing at OLN with electricians on site installing cabling for the new speakers and audio equipment. On Monday 28 July they will begin installing the new main switchboard which includes asbestos removal from the switchboard cupboard. The church will be closed and without power for two to three days while these works are completed.

**CONTRIBUTE TO THE OLN SOUND SYSTEM UPGRADE** Generous parishioners have so far donated \$4800 to the \$31,000 project and we'd be grateful for further financial contributions. You can send cheques or make credit card payments via the parish office or make EFT payments to the parish account. **Account name:** The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese Essendon **BSB:** 083-347 **Account Number:** 67640 1701 and use the reference "OLN Sound" and your last name.

**FRIENDSHIP GROUP** When our Senior Friendship Group (SFG) was established 15 years ago, the group's aim was to provide monthly opportunities for our older parishioners to come together. The committee have recently been involved in the parish strategic development discussions which gave them an opportunity to consider how to operate into the future. The group have decided to change their name in order to remain contemporary and inclusive - a place where all parishioners feel welcome and comfortable. You will now see all group activities listed as the Parish Friendship Group (PFG) in the weekly bulletin. Everyone is welcome to join!

**GARDENING GROUP WORKING BEE CANCELLED** In view of the forecast for heavy rain and strong winds on Saturday 26 July, we have decided to cancel the planned working bee to prune the roses and clean up the gardens. We will look to reschedule this activity as soon as practicable, when the weather permits.

**MEMORIAL GARDEN AT ST THERESE'S** St Therese's Church Memorial and Precious Angels Garden was established in 2011 primarily for St Therese's parishioners. With no plans to extend the garden there is now a limited number of inground interment plots and columbarium remaining for purchase. Parishioners interested in securing a place in the garden should contact the parish office as soon as possible. Info: <https://www.essendoncatholic.org.au/our-parish/memorial-garden-and-precious-angels-monument/>

In order to allow parishioners the opportunity to secure places in the garden we are no longer approving purchase for people without a current connection to the parish. Further, it is no longer possible to install a plaque on the memorial wall without purchasing an inground interment plot. Please note that there will be a price increase on 1 August 2025.

**REGISTER AS A PARISHIONER** We encourage all who participate in the worship, mission, and ministry of our parish community to officially register as a parishioner. Parish Registration forms are available on church entrance tables.

**JOIN THE PARISH SUPPORT OFFERING PROGRAMME** If you'd like to join in the Parish Support Programme with regular automatic payments, Parish Direct Debit Forms are available on church entrance tables.

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

APPEALS CALENDAR FOR REMAINDER OF 2025	
17-31 August (3 weekends)	The Archbishop's Campaign
4 & 5 October	Jubilee of Migrants: Refugee and Asylum Seeker Appeal
1 <sup>st</sup> weekend in December	Christmas Appeal: St Vincent de Paul Society

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR WEEKEND 2 & 3 AUGUST (WEEK 1)		
MASS	READERS	EUCARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Jon Fleming	Tatiana Polizzi
OLN 10:00am	Paula O'Byrne	Andrew Scaramozzino
St T's 6.00pm	Eve Korytkowski	Gina Bell & Maggie Catterall
St T's 9.00am	Mary Dowling & Margaret Kerr	Carmen Merrigan & Rosina Tempini
St T's 10.30am	Silvia Campo & George Jungwirt	Miriam Gandolfo & Maria Giampiccolo
Adults: <a href="https://sundayreadingsathomeyearc.weebly.com/h1sks0t1.html">https://sundayreadingsathomeyearc.weebly.com/h1sks0t1.html</a> Children: <a href="https://www.childrensliturgyofthewordc.com/ych3rwjcm2.html">https://www.childrensliturgyofthewordc.com/ych3rwjcm2.html</a>		

KAM WILL BE BACK  
**SATURDAY 2 AUGUST**  
 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

ESSENDON PARISH

# 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**

ALL volunteers must be registered as parishioners

If you are a volunteer but not a registered parishioner please fill in a Parishioner Registration Form (available from church entry tables) and return it to the parish office

# Tiny Ts Playgroup

A great place to make new friends!

All-weather with indoor and outdoor space

For infant to school-aged children

Grandparents welcome!



WHEN: Thursday morning in school terms  
 9.30am – 10.30am

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

COST: Free of charge

EMAIL: stthereses.tinyts@gmail.com

## MISSIONARIES OF

# HOPE

*among all peoples*



We are called to be 'Missionaries of hope among all peoples', and we invite you to extend Christ's love to those in need in Zambia.

**TO DONATE:** You can support this work by using the appeal envelopes available on church pews and entrance tables, going online at [catholicmission.org.au/mission](https://catholicmission.org.au/mission), or scan the QR code.



Freecall: 1800 257 296  
[catholicmission.org.au/mission](https://catholicmission.org.au/mission)





# PARISH DIARY

Saturday 26 July	St Therese's Gardening Group Pruning morning CANCELLED	9:00am
Sunday 27 July	Parish Baptisms at St Therese's	12:00pm
Monday 28 July	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Dang family	
Tuesday 29 July	Liturgy of the Word replaces morning Mass at St Therese's	10:00am
Wednesday 30 July	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
Thursday 31 July	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Liturgy of the Word replaces morning Mass at St Therese's Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am
Saturday 2 August	Kids at Mass at St Therese's	6:00pm
Monday 4 August	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Christie family	
Tuesday 5 August	Liturgy of the Word replaces morning Mass at St Therese's Sharing Memories Group morning tea in the Annex	10:00am 10:30am
Wednesday 6 August	The Transfiguration of the Lord Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store	9:00am 10:45am
Thursday 7 August	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Liturgy of the Word replaces morning Mass at St Therese's Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am
Friday 8 August	Feast of St Mary of the Cross (Mary MacKillop)	
Monday 11 August	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Whiting family	
Tuesday 12 August	Liturgy of the Word replaces morning Mass at St Therese's	10:00am
Wednesday 13 August	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
Thursday 14 August	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Liturgy of the Word replaces morning Mass at St Therese's Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room SVDP Regional Council meeting in PACE	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 7:00pm
Friday 15 August	Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
Weekend 16 & 17 August	The Archbishop's Campaign begins (3-week appeal)	
Sunday 17 August	Parish Morning Tea after 10:00am Mass at OLN Parish Baptism Welcoming Mass at St Therese's	10:30am
Monday 18 August	Statue of Our Lady moves to the D'Cruz family SVDP Essendon Conference meeting in PACE	7:00pm
Tuesday 19 August	Liturgy of the Word replaces morning Mass at St Therese's	10:00am
Wednesday 20 August	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store	9:00am 10:45am

# 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.*



# SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE **BOLLETTINO**

HOLY SEE PRESS OFFICE BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIÈGE PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHL  
OFICINA DE PRENSA DE LA SANTA SEDE SALA DE IMPRENSA DA SANTA SÉ  
BIURO PRASOWE STOLICY APOSTOLSKIEJ دار الصحافة التابعة للكرسي الرسولي

## ***Blessed are those who have not lost hope (cf. Sir 14:2)***

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Jubilee we are now celebrating helps us to realize that hope is a constant source of joy, whatever our age. When that hope has also been tempered by fire over the course of a long life, it proves a source of deep happiness.

Sacred Scripture offers us many examples of men and women whom the Lord called late in life to play a part in his saving plan. We can think of Abraham and Sarah, who, advanced in years, found it hard to believe when God promised them a child. Their childlessness seemed to prevent them from any hope for the future.

Zechariah's reaction to the news of John the Baptist's birth was no different: "How can this be? I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years" (*Lk* 1:18). Old age, barrenness and physical decline apparently blocked any hope for life and fertility in these men and women. The question that Nicodemus asked Jesus when the Master spoke to him of being "born again" also seems purely rhetorical: "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" (*Jn* 3:4). Yet whenever we think that things cannot change, the Lord surprises us with an act of saving power.

### *The elderly as signs of hope*

In the Bible, God repeatedly demonstrates his providential care by turning to people in their later years. This was the case not only with Abraham, Sarah, Zechariah and Elizabeth, but also with Moses, who was called to set his people free when he was already eighty years old (cf. *Ex* 7:7). God thus teaches us that, in his eyes, old age is a time of blessing and grace, and that the elderly are, for him, *the first witnesses of hope*.

Augustine asks, "What do we mean by old age?" He tells us that God himself answers the question: "Let your strength fail, so that my strength may abide within you, and you can say with the Apostle, 'When I am weak, then I am strong'" (*Super Ps.* 70,11). The increasing number of elderly people is a sign of the times that we are called to discern, in order to interpret properly this moment of history.

The life of the Church and the world can only be understood in light of the passage of generations. Embracing the elderly helps us to understand that life is more than just the present moment, and should not be wasted in superficial encounters and fleeting relationships. Instead, life is constantly pointing us toward the future. In the book of Genesis, we find the moving episode of the blessing given by the aged Jacob to his grandchildren, the sons of Joseph; his words are an appeal to look to the future with hope, as the time when God's promises will be fulfilled (cf. *Gen* 48:8-20). If it is true that the weakness of the elderly needs the strength of the young, it is equally true that the inexperience of the young needs the witness of the elderly in order to build the future with wisdom. How often our grandparents have been for us examples of faith and devotion, civic virtue and social commitment, memory and perseverance amid trials! The precious legacy that they have handed down to us with hope and love will always be a source of gratitude and a summons to perseverance.

### *Signs of hope for the elderly*

From biblical times, the Jubilee has been understood as a time of liberation. Slaves were freed, debts were forgiven and land was returned to its original owners. The Jubilee was a time when the social order willed by God was restored, and inequalities and injustices accumulated over the years were

remedied. Jesus evoked those moments of liberation when, in the synagogue of Nazareth, he proclaimed good news to the poor, sight to the blind and freedom for prisoners and the oppressed (cf. *Lk* 4:16-21).

Looking at the elderly in the spirit of this Jubilee, we are called to help them experience liberation, especially from loneliness and abandonment. This year is a fitting time to do so. God's fidelity to his promises teaches us that there is a blessedness in old age, an authentic evangelical joy inspiring us to break through the barriers of indifference in which the elderly often find themselves enclosed. Our societies, everywhere in the world, are growing all too accustomed to letting this significant and enriching part of their life be marginalized and forgotten.

Given this situation, a change of pace is needed that would be readily seen in an assumption of responsibility on the part of the whole Church. Every parish, association and ecclesial group is called to become a protagonist in a "revolution" of gratitude and care, to be brought about by regular visits to the elderly, the creation of networks of support and prayer for them and with them, and the forging of relationships that can restore hope and dignity to those who feel forgotten. Christian hope always urges us to be more daring, to think big, to be dissatisfied with things the way they are. In this case, it urges us to work for a change that can restore the esteem and affection to which the elderly are entitled

That is why Pope Francis wanted the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly to be celebrated primarily through an effort to seek out elderly persons who are living alone. For this reason, those who are unable to come to Rome on pilgrimage during this Holy Year may "obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if they visit, for an appropriate amount of time, the elderly who are alone... making, in a sense, a pilgrimage to Christ present in them (cf. *Mt* 25:34-36)" (APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY, *Norms for the Granting of the Jubilee Indulgence*, III). Visiting an elderly person is a way of encountering Jesus, who frees us from indifference and loneliness.

*As elderly persons, we can hope*

The Book of Sirach calls blessed those who have not lost hope (cf. 14:2). Perhaps, especially if our lives are long, we may be tempted to look not to the future but to the past. Yet, as Pope Francis wrote during his last hospitalization, "our bodies are weak, but even so, nothing can prevent us from loving, praying, giving ourselves, being there for one another, in faith, as shining signs of hope" (*Angelus*, 16 March 2025). We possess a freedom that no difficulty can rob us of: it is the freedom to love and to pray. Everyone, always, can love and pray.

Our affection for our loved ones – for the wife or husband with whom we have spent so much of our lives, for our children, for our grandchildren who brighten our days – does not fade when our strength wanes.

Indeed, their own affection often revives our energy and brings us hope and comfort.

These signs of living love, which have their roots in God himself, give us courage and remind us that "even if our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day" (*2 Cor* 4:16). Especially as we grow older, let us press forward with confidence in the Lord. May we be renewed each day by our encounter with him in prayer and in Holy Mass. Let us lovingly pass on the faith we have lived for so many years, in our families and in our daily encounter with others. May we always praise God for his goodness, cultivate unity with our loved ones, open our hearts to those who are far away and, in particular, to all those in need. In this way, we will be signs of hope, whatever our age.

*From the Vatican, 26 June 2025*

LEO PP. XIV