

The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

14 September 2025: Exaltation of the Holy Cross Year C
Season of Creation ~ Safeguarding Sunday

First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9 A reading from the book of Numbers

When those that were afflicted looked upon it, they were healed.

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.'

At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

Responsorial Psalm: Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your cross you have redeemed the world. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 3:13-17 A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Son of Man must be lifted up.

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.'

INTERCESSIONS

Sisters and brothers, with hope in the Cross, let us bring our prayers before God.

May our Church leaders and all those entrusted with ministry and pastoral care in the Church continue to help build stronger, welcoming and safe faith communities.

We pray for our St Therese's and RE programme students who receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist this weekend. May they find support within their families and our parish community along their faith journey.

That we may be open to God's mercy and forgiveness and embrace Christ's challenging mission for us to bring healing care to Creation, our common home.

For those who bear the cross of poverty and suffering: That they will be lifted up and restored by the cross of Christ.

We pray for those who are ill especially Pat O'Dwyer.

We pray for those who have died recently especially: John Curtin, Giovanni Ansaldo, Carmel Heenan, Maria Luisa Bottecchia and Neil Brown.

And we pray all who are remembered at this time, especially: Hughie Coghlan, Con Flaim, Tony O'Brien and Giuseppina Nesci.

Gracious and loving God, source of all truth, hope and love, hear the prayers we offer today and look favourably on the pleas of your people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

WHICH PRIEST WHERE This weekend Fr John is back from leave and will preside at all St Therese's Masses as well as the Saturday 5:00pm Vigil Mass at OLN. Fr Colin will preside at Sunday 10:00am Mass at OLN.

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY • 14 SEP 2025

WE ARE A SAFE, HOPE-FILLED AND WELCOMING CHURCH



SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY This weekend we gather on Safeguarding Sunday, a day when we pause to focus on our responsibility to protect and care for those who are vulnerable. In the Bible, we find a clear and strong message about justice, compassion, and speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are called to be a safe, welcoming and hope-filled church. In our everyday lives, let's be mindful of those around us who are vulnerable or marginalised. Who are the "silent" ones in our society, the ones without a voice? Today, God may be calling you to stand up for them. Whether it's through prayer, support, or direct action, we are invited to participate in God's work of justice.

SACRAMENT MASSES THIS WEEKEND This weekend will be busy between our two churches with the Sacrament of Confirmation at OLN happening on Friday afternoon and evening and Sacrament of First Eucharist at St Therese's at all weekend Masses.

SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST AT ST THERESE'S We celebrate First Eucharist as a faith community and parishioners are welcome as usual at all the Masses. Readers will be from our St Therese's school community and Fr John will preside at the First Eucharist Masses. Many church pews will be reserved for First Eucharist families.

WELCOME TO SCHOOL FAMILIES AND VISITORS We welcome visitors and ask that you please be respectful of the solemnity of all Masses. Please remain in your seats and only take photographs before and after the Mass.

MEN'S CHOIR THIS SATURDAY We welcome our Men's Choir to 5:00pm Saturday Mass at OLN this weekend.

MEN'S COFFEE GROUP Our Men's Coffee Group meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 10:45am at Lincoln Food Store, and will meet this Wednesday 17 September. Come along!

PARISH FRIENDSHIP GROUP MORNING TEA Our PFG monthly morning tea will be held this Thursday 18 September in PACE after 10:00am Mass. All welcome.

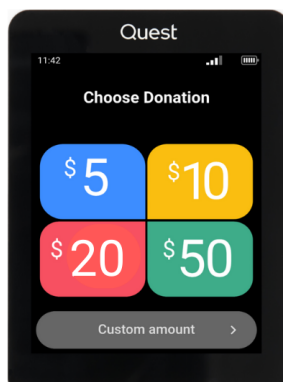
PARISH SUNDAY MORNING TEAS NEXT WEEKEND Next weekend we'll hold our monthly Sunday morning gatherings at both Mass centres.

SEPTEMBER PARISH OFFICE CLOSURES The parish office will be closed on Mondays until further notice to accommodate staff leave. The office will also be closed this Wednesday 17 September while our staff attend the quarterly Parish Administration Forum and on Friday 29 September for the Grand Final public holiday.

PARISH SUPPORT: DIRECT DEBIT AND CREDIT CARD CONTRIBUTORS The parish team are aware that some parishioners have recently seen misleading descriptions for parish/clergy giving transactions on their bank statements. If you notice anything unusual on your bank statement related to your pledge to our parish, please contact the parish office promptly. We'll investigate the matter the matter for you.

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

TAP))) TO DONATE IS HERE



Tap N Go terminals are now installed at both churches and after some initial technical issues they're now operational

At St Therese's there are two machines: One on the entry table at the main entrance and the other is on the table at the Lincoln Rd side entrance

At OLN the machine is located on the foyer table

Touch the screen or the Enter button to turn on

Select the amount to donate

Tap your card/phone or insert your card

You can choose to select 'Custom amount' and then enter the amount you wish to donate up to \$99

Receipts are not issued from the terminal and donations are anonymous

Funds are distributed 50/50 between church account and presbytery account

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR WEEKEND 20 & 21 SEPTEMBER (WEEK 3)

MASS	READERS	EUCCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Michael Portelli	Fred Grima
OLN 10:00am	Mark Donahoo	Adrian Commadeur
St T's 6.00pm	Murray Sykes	Tric Joseph & Trish Giacomini
St T's 9.00am	John Harvey	Maria Cricri
St T's 10.30am	Rosemary Patterson & Mary O'Brien	Cherrie Arnold & Therese Hanna

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

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

PRAYER FOR SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

by Archbishop Mark Coleridge

You guard us, Lord God, beneath the shelter of your wings
till the storms of destruction pass by (Psalm 57:1).

The storms of abuse have struck and have not yet passed by.

We see the damage done and we seek shelter in you.

Beneath your wings we gather the survivors and their loved ones,

all the victims, living and dead.

We gather those who work to bring healing and to make the Church a safe place for all.

We gather all the faithful, the Body of Christ, bearing the wounds of the Cross.

May the Church grow more like you, wings spread wide to provide shelter for all, till the storms of destruction pass by and peace without end has come.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen



Parish Friendship Group Morning Tea

PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS OF
OUR PARISH ARE INVITED TO

Morning Tea
in PACE Function Room
Thursday 18 September
after 10:00am Mass
at St Therese's Church

All welcome

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

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

PARISH DIARY	Saturday 13 September	Men's Choir singing at OLN church Sacrament of First Eucharist at St Therese's (4LT)	5:00pm 6:00pm
	Sunday 14 September	Exaltation of the Holy Cross Safeguarding Sunday Sacrament of First Eucharist at St Therese's (4C) Sacrament of First Eucharist at St Therese's (4P & RE)	9:00am 10:30am
	Monday 15 September	Parish office closed Statue of Our Lady moves to the Rodriguez family Rosary and Requiem Mass for Giovanni Ansaldo at St Therese's SVDP Essendon Conference meeting in PACE	10:00am 7:00pm
	Tuesday 16 September	Mass at Ryman Raelene Boyle Village One month Mass for Giuseppina Nesci at St Therese's	11:00am 7:00pm
	Wednesday 17 September	Parish office closed for staff training Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store Requiem Mass for Carmel Heenan at St Therese's	9:00am 10:45am 11:00am
	Thursday 18 September	Tiny Ts Playgroup in St Therese's Annex Parish Friendship Group morning tea in PACE Requiem Mass for Maria Bottecchia at St Therese's Mass at Arcadia Aged Care	9:30am 10:30am 11:00am 11:00am
	Friday 19 September	Last day of school term 3	
	Sunday 21 September	CSSV – Social Services Sunday 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 22 September	Parish office closed Statue of Our Lady moves to the Asher family	
	Wednesday 24 September	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
	Thursday 25 September	Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room	10:30am
	Friday 26 September	AFL Grand Final Public Holiday: parish office closed	
	Sunday 28 September	Parish Baptisms at St Therese's	12:00pm
	Monday 29 September	Parish office closed Statue of Our Lady moves to the Sequeira family	
	Wednesday 1 October	Feast of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store	9:00am 10:45am
	Thursday 2 October	Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room	10:30am
	Saturday 4 October	Feast of St Francis of Assisi	
	Sunday 5 October	Jubilee of Migrants Men's Choir Singing at St Therese's	9:00am

MASSES	ST THERESE'S CHURCH 48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon Weekday Services: 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	<p align="center"> 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 : Tuesday 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 </p> <p align="center"> <i>Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.</i> <i>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.</i> </p>	

Parish of Our Lady and St Therese MEN'S COFFEE GROUP

Put it in your diary!
Dates for 2025

17th September
1st & 15th October
5th & 19th November
3rd & 17th December

1st & 3rd
Wednesdays
each month
from 10:45am
Lincoln Food Store
105 Lincoln Rd
Essendon



CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL
IN CONJUNCTION WITH CHARIS PRESENTS

NewLife!

THE LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Tuesdays
7:30pm - 9:00pm
Commences 16th September
Weekly for nine weeks

Come and experience a deeper, more personal relationship with Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. Through talks, discussions, and prayer, come learn about God's love, salvation, spiritual gifts, and how to live a "Spirit-filled life".


The topics that will be addressed in the seminar:

- The Love of God
- Sin and Salvation
- Healing and Forgiveness
- Faith, Conversion, and New Life
- Jesus is Lord
- The Promise of the Holy Spirit: The Sanctifying Action
- The Promise of the Holy Spirit: The Charismatic Action
- Baptism in the Holy Spirit
- Personal and Community Growth

All are welcome, no bookings required and bring a friend!

Enquires - Marthese 0421 815 369
mtemm@hotmail.com

St Oliver's Parish Centre
(at left of Church)
1 Landells Road,
Pascoe Vale VIC



Speakers

Fr. Rob Galea
Dr. Mary Healy
José Prado Flores
H. E. Bishop Peter Leslie Smith
Ironi Spuldaró
Fr. Hayden Williams O.F.M. Cap
Patti Gallagher Mansfield
Michelle Moran

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTIONS GROUP

The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese

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 RIP

Printed materials are provided to participants.

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

**PACE is located at
48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon**



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Creator of all, we praise you for the gift of life and for the faith that unites us in care for our common home.

We confess how estranged we have become— from one another, from your Creation, and from our truest selves. We acknowledge that our greed and destructive impulses have fractured our relationships with you, with others, and with the Earth.

Fertile fields have become barren, forests lie desolate, oceans and rivers are polluted.

Thriving communities have become places of suffering, and the earth cries out.

Beloved Christ, who spoke "Shalom" to frightened hearts, stir us to compassionate action.

Inspire us to work for the end of conflict, and for the full restoration of broken relationships— with you, with the ecumenical community, with the human family, and with all Creation.

Prince of Peace, through your wounds, teach us to stand in solidarity with the woundedness of others, of creation, and of the world.

Through your resurrection, make us people of hope— with a vision of swords turned into ploughshares and tears transformed into joy.

May we come together as one family, to labour for your peace— a shalom where all your people may dwell in safety, and rest in quiet places.

Amen