

The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

29 & 30 November: First Sunday in Advent Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

COMMUNAL PRAYER FOR ADVENT

In this Pilgrim Year of Hope, we remember that the Advent & Christmas stories have many people waiting in hope, being surprised by grace, and on the move, away from home. May our own journeys of hope lead us to life.

INTERCESSIONS

Dear friends, as we enter this time of waiting, let us bring our intentions before God.

For the Pope: may his words and actions be a sign of the Good News of the kingdom which is to come.

That Christ guide the minds of those who govern us to promote the common good according to his will.

That communities support family life with safe housing, quality medical care, and good schools.

That all who await the Lord's coming, especially those near the end, be renewed in faith, steadfast in hope, and filled with love.

We pray for those who are ill.

We pray for those who have died recently especially Fr Bruno Rodrigues. And for those we remember at this time, especially: Eileen and Jack Sharp, Leon Morel, Frank Camiller, Gaetano Scriva, Michelle Marazita, Teresa Trimboli, Frank Sauro and Michael Hurst.

Lord God, you teach us to be attentive in faith and heart. Hear our prayers and help us to be ever watchful and ready for the glorious coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

WHICH PRIEST WHERE This weekend Fr John will preside at all St Therese's Masses while Fr Tony presides at OLN for both Masses. Next weekend Fr John will preside at all OLN Masses as well as 9:00am Sunday Mass at St Therese's while Fr Tony will preside at Saturday 6:00pm and Sunday 10:30am Masses at St Therese's.



The Parish of Our Lady & St Therese
Volunteers' Christmas Party
WEDNESDAY 17 DECEMBER
8:00PM - 9:30PM
PACE FUNCTION ROOM

Save the Date

KIDS AT MASS THIS SATURDAY: We welcome our K@M team to Mass this Saturday at 6:00pm Mass at St Therese's. This is the final session for 2025 and K@M will return in 2026 on Saturday 7 February. The monthly children's liturgy group is looking for support to set up a roster of people who can assist the K@M sessions in 2026. You will be fully supported and guided to help the leader and no experience is necessary. Please contact the parish office if you are keen to help.

'LOOKING AHEAD TOGETHER' OUR LADY AND ST THERESE'S PARISH STRATEGIC PLAN In October 2023 we commenced the parish strategic planning process. We called this initiative 'Looking Ahead Together', and it involved the development of Our Lady and St Therese's Parish Strategic Plan 2026 -2030. The objective of the plan is to inform and guide the future development of our parish, over the next 3-5 years. A brief overview of the plan is attached to our online newsletter and some copies have been printed and are available on church entrance tables.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS AND CHRISTMAS CARDS ON SALE DURING ADVENT At St Therese's church Vinnies will be selling calendars and Christmas cards as of this weekend and at OLN church as of next weekend. Calendars are \$10 and cards are \$5 for a pack of 5. Please note that stocks of cards will be limited this year due to a supply issue.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL The annual appeal will be held on the weekend of 6 & 7 December and we will hear from members of our SVDP Conference who will speak briefly at all Masses next weekend. Appeal envelopes will be available next weekend but you can donate now online at: <https://fundraising.svdp-vic.org.au/essendonconference> or use the QR code on the next page ad.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES Are now published on the parish website: <https://www.essendoncatholic.org.au/mass-prayer-times/christmas/> and there are postcards printed and available on church entry tables with the times listed. We will be publishing the parish Christmas card in the next week which will contain Fr John's Christmas message.

CHRISTMAS WORKING BEE To get our churches in good order for Christmas Masses we will hold working bees at both churches on Saturday 13 December from 9:00am until 11:00am. Cleaners and gardeners all welcome!

PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE The parish office will close on Tuesday 23 December, reopening on Monday 19 January 2026. The last bulletin for this year will be published on Friday 19 December and the first bulletin for the new year will be published on the weekend of 31 January & 1 February.

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

PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST THERESE
SAFEGUARDING
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 FOR DETAILS

YES

DO THE SAFEGUARDING REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO YOU?

NO MATTER HOW YOU VOLUNTEER IN THE PARISH

THE ANSWER IS YES

Church Cleaning ~ Collector ~ Counter
 Data Projector Operator ~ Eucharistic Minister
 Finance Committee ~ Gardening ~ Kids at Mass
 Lector ~ Liturgy Team
 Maintenance ~ Men's Choir ~ Music Ministry
 Parish Leadership Team ~ Pastoral Visitation
 Play Group Leader (Tiny T's)
 Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Group
 Sacristan ~ Parish Friendship Group
 Special Projects ~ Wedding Helper ~ Welcoming Team

To maintain accurate records ALL volunteers must be registered parishioners

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR THIS WEEKEND 29 & 30 NOVEMBER (WEEK 5)		
MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Paul Whiting	Kathy Ferguson
OLN 10:00am	Natale Cutri	Doug D'Cruz
St T's 6.00pm	Anne Lechte & Eve Korytkowski	Teresa Pong
St T's 9.00am	Margaret Kerr	Marg Tormey & Tony Belcastro
St T's 10.30am	Rosa Pierorazio	Marita Hased-Dunne
MINISTRY ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND 6 & 7 DECEMBER (WEEK 1)		
MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Jon Fleming	Tatiana Polizzi
OLN 10:00am	Coral D'Cruz	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: https://sundayreadingsathomeyearc.weebly.com/h1sks0t1.html Children: https://www.childrensliturgyofthewordc.com/ych3rwjcm2.html		



ST COLUMBAN'S MISSION SOCIETY 2026

AVAILABLE FOR SALE
AFTER WEEKEND MASSES AT
ST THERESE'S & OLN
During Advent
\$10 PER CALENDAR
Christmas Cards also
on sale for \$5 per
pack

**COLUMBAN
ART CALENDAR**



ESSENDON PARISH

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

THIS CHRISTMAS, HELP STOP
POVERTY BECOMING THE NEW
NORMAL FOR PEOPLE LIKE SARAH

**NEXT WEEKEND
6 & 7 December**

SVDP envelopes will be available at Mass and can
be placed on the collection plates or dropped to
the parish office

Use the QR code to link to the website:
[https://fundraising.svdp-
vic.org.au/essendonconference](https://fundraising.svdp-vic.org.au/essendonconference)

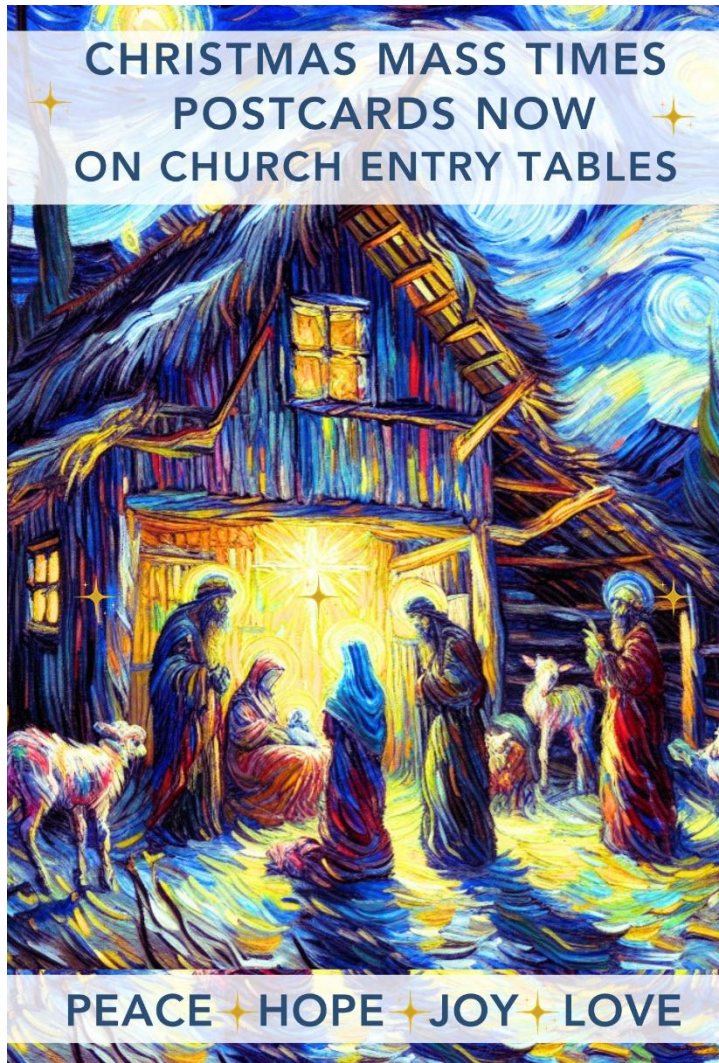
Phone Donations: call 13 18 12 & dontate
to Essendon Conference #176.




WORKING BEE

9AM | SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER
OLN & ST THERESE'S CHURCHES

Please help us to get the churches
and surrounds ready for our
Christmas Masses



**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES
POSTCARDS NOW
ON CHURCH ENTRY TABLES**

PEACE ✦ HOPE ✦ JOY ✦ LOVE

PARISH DIARY	Saturday 29 November	Kids at Mass at St Therese's	6:00pm
	Sunday 30 November	Year A Begins First Sunday of Advent Men's Choir singing at St Therese's church	9:00am
	Monday 1 December	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Lambert family	
	Tuesday 2 December	Sharing Memories Group morning tea in the Annex	10:30am
	Wednesday 3 December	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store Parish Leadership Team Meeting in PACE	9:00am 10:45am 7:30pm
	Thursday 4 December	Tiny Ts Playgroup in St Therese's Annex Parish Friendship Group Christmas Lunch in PACE	9:30am 12:00pm
	Saturday 6 December	Men's Choir singing at OLN church Kids at Mass at St Therese's	5:00pm 6:00pm
	Sunday 7 December	Second Sunday of Advent	
	Monday 8 December	The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary Statue of Our Lady moves to the Dang family Alpha Connect evening in PACE function room	7:00pm
	Thursday 11 December	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room	9:30am 10:30am
	Friday 12 December	OLN school Mass for end of year	9:00am
	Saturday 13 December	Christmas Working Bee – Both Mass Centres	9:00am – 11:00am
	Sunday 14 December	Third Sunday of Advent Parish Baptism Welcoming Mass at St Therese's	10:30am
	Monday 15 December	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Sylvestro family	
	Tuesday 16 December	Mass at Ryman Raelene Boyle Village Parish office closing early	11:00am 1:00pm
	Wednesday 17 December	Advent Communal Reconciliation Mass Parish Volunteers Christmas Gathering in PACE	7:00pm 8:00pm
	Thursday 18 December	Tiny Ts Playgroup Christmas Party in PACE Function Room Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room Mass at Arcadia Aged Care	9:30am 10:30am 11:00am
	Friday 19 December	Last day of school term 4	
	Saturday 20 December	Men's Choir singing at OLN church	5:00pm
	Sunday 21 December	Fourth Sunday of Advent Parish Morning Tea after morning Masses at St Therese's Parish Morning Tea after 10:00am Mass at OLN Men's Choir singing at St Therese's church Parish Baptisms at St Therese's	10:30am 12:00pm

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
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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 <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>	
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**Parish of
Our Lady and St Therese**

MEN'S COFFEE GROUP

**PUT IT IN YOUR
DIARY!**

**Only two more
dates for 2025**

3rd & 17th December

**1st & 3rd
Wednesdays
each month
from 10:45am**

**Lincoln Food Store
105 Lincoln Rd
Essendon**



Tiny Ts Playgroup CHRISTMAS PARTY



**Thursday 18 December
at 9:30am**

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

COST: Free including food and games

Everyone is welcome - please RSVP via email
so we can organise catering

EMAIL: stthereses.tinyts@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed

*Share Your Time
& Talents*



*Share your gifts, talents and energy to
build our parish community*

- ☒ Mass & Liturgy
- ☒ Outreach & Community
- ☒ Education & Formation
- ☒ Administration & Development
- ☒ Property

**Brochures available on
church entrance tables or
scan the QR code for online
version**



Parish of Our Lady & St Therese Essendon Leadership Team



Are you interested in the future of your Parish and what is
has to offer? Are you eager to share your voice and drive
positive change?

We are looking for energetic individuals, with a variety of
skills, to join our Leadership Team and help drive real
outcomes across the parish community.

The Parish Leadership Team plays a vital role in shaping
the future of our community by providing valuable direction,
clarity, and advice regarding the needs of the parish
community.

We are looking for people who can bring their ideas, talents
and experience to help make a meaningful impact in the
parish.

If you are interested, email
essendon@cam.org.au or call the
Parish Office to discuss with a
member of the Team.






LOOKING AHEAD TOGETHER

'Looking Ahead Together'

Our Lady and St Therese's Parish Strategic Plan 2026 -2030.

Background

In October 2023 we commenced the parish strategic planning process. We called this initiative 'Looking Ahead Together', and it involved the development of Our Lady and St Therese's Parish Strategic Plan 2026 -2030. The objective of the plan is to inform and guide the future development of our parish, over the next 3-5 years.

Why did we do this?

To ensure our parish continues to grow and thrive, it is becoming increasingly important that we develop a clear vision for the future. This plan will reflect, and support, the spiritual, community and material needs of our parish, while meeting the specific requirements and wishes of the various groups within Our Lady of the Nativity and St Therese's communities, including our school communities.

How did we do it and who was involved?

We conducted a number of 'focus group' meetings, across both Our Lady's and St Therese's church communities, speaking to some 50+ parishioners. This was to ensure that our Strategic Plan considered the different needs and priorities that exist across our entire parish community.

In the 'focus group' meetings we asked people 3 questions:

- i. What works well in the parish today?*
- ii. Are there things you think we could do better?*
- iii. Looking at the next 2-3 years, are there any specific 'opportunities' that you can see to improve the parish?*

As a result, we captured a range of responses which we distilled down to 270+ items for consideration. We analysed this information and identified 9 'key themes', and captured a range of 'desired outcomes', that form the basis of our strategic plan. The 'key Themes' are summarized below:

- 1) Greater communication and transparency on plans, projects and finances.
- 2) Programs to encourage families back into the church.
- 3) Review and extend our 'outreach programs' to meet the changing needs of the parish and surrounding community.
- 4) Recognise and celebrate the cultural diversity in our parish.
- 5) Recognise and address the 'accessibility' needs of the aged, disabled, and impaired within our parish community.
- 6) Grow parish community through more social events and interaction.
- 7) Promote greater connection with the parish schools.
- 8) Develop services and activities that are more engaging to younger people.
- 9) Provide spiritual development programs linked to key liturgical seasons or relevant topic areas.

The Strategic Plan reflects 'Action Plans' around each of these Themes, based on the outcomes you told us were important to you.

About the Resulting Plan!

The 'proposed actions' that we have associated with each Theme should be seen as a direction and starting point, rather than an absolute or an end point. This means that while we will initiate activity in a particular area, the final direction /outcome will depend on how we go, and what we find in the journey. The important point is that we make a start!

We don't suggest that this plan is absolutely 'correct', but we do believe that it highlights the areas in our parish that we need to think about going forward, and when we need to act. In that respect we do consider it 'correct' and relevant!

We will conduct information sessions shortly, to provide an opportunity for parishioners to understand, and discuss, the proposed program. You can read or download a copy of the complete, or condensed version, of the Strategic Plan from the Parish website. These documents can be located using the QR code in the church or weekly bulletin, or under the 'Looking Ahead' tab in the 'Latest News' section of the website.