



The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

13 & 14 December: Third Sunday in Advent Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, come and save us.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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

Confident that God is with us, let us bring our needs before the God of all.

We pray for our Holy Father, the Pope, and for our bishops: that they may continue to encourage us in serving the Lord.

For volunteers working throughout the world: May they be rewarded for their efforts in this and the next life.

Joyful God, open our eyes to wonder, our ears to laughter and our hearts to love. Make us joyful witnesses in our homes, in our parish and in our world.

We pray for all residents in aged care especially for our parishioners being cared for in local facilities. May the residents and staff enjoy abundance of Christmas blessings and may they celebrate Christmas joyfully.

We pray for Megan, Oliver, Oscar, Alessia, Eliana, Sofia, William and Leni who are welcomed this weekend into our parish in preparation for 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 Reginald Harry. And for those we remember at this time, especially: Antonio/Tony Scuteri, Raymond Vitiello, John Giardina, Leah Doran, Therese Dobbie, Fabian & Eldridge Donovan, Malcolm & Shirley Baptist and Joe D'Cruz.

God of peace, hear our prayers and plant within our hearts the living presence of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. 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.

THANKS AND FAREWELL This weekend the parish bids farewell to Jane De Git and Catherine Baxter after many years of service and a great contribution to our liturgy and music ministry as regular singers at our 9:00am St Therese's Mass. We wish Jane and Catherine all the best as they return to Brisbane prior to Christmas after making many friends at St Therese's over the years they've been here.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL Appeal envelopes are still available and can be used for cash and credit card donations and you can also donate online at: <https://fundraising.svdv-vic.org.au/essendonconference> or use the QR code on the next page. Completed envelopes can be dropped on any collection plate or dropped in to the parish office.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS AND CHRISTMAS CARDS ON SALE On sale now at both churches at weekend Masses and from the parish office during the week. 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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES Are now published on the parish website: <https://www.essendoncatholic.org.au/mass-prayer-times/christmas/> and we have now published the parish Christmas card with Fr John's Christmas message. Christmas cards and a few remaining Christmas Mass Time cards are available from church entry tables this weekend. Please note that the printed cards are missing Carols at 9:30am on Christmas Day at St Therese's.

CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED We seek parishioners' help to fill spots in our volunteer rosters for Christmas Masses. There are clipboards on entry tables this weekend where you can sign up. If you can assist please add your name and contact number to the sign-up sheets. If you are volunteering as a once-off you are not required to undertake the Safeguarding obligations/certifications.

PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE The parish office will close on Tuesday 23 December, reopening on Monday 19 January 2026. During the office closure Fr John will respond to messages on our after-hours answering service for end-of-life anointing and funeral arrangements.

PACE FUNCTION ROOM CHRISTMAS CLOSURE Our PACE Function room is now closed for bookings until February 2026. PACE booking enquires made during our office closure will not be responded to until the office reopens.

ESSENDONWEST EMAIL SHUTDOWN Please note that the mailbox essendonwest@cam.org.au is scheduled for deactivation early 2026. All email communications to the parish should now be directed to essendon@cam.org.au

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

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

DO THE SAFEGUARDING REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO YOU?
NO MATTER HOW YOU VOLUNTEER IN THE PARISH
THE ANSWER IS YES

To maintain accurate records ALL volunteers must be registered parishioners

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR THIS WEEKEND 13 & 14 DECEMBER (WEEK 2)		
MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Georgina Kucera & John Harris	Kathy Ferguson
OLN 10:00am	Mark Donahoo	Douglas D'Cruz
St T's 6.00pm	Alison Bretag	Tony Proctor & Trish Giacomini
St T's 9.00am	Lynette Russo	Tony Belcastro & David Gloury
St T's 10.30am	Lucy Angelico	Rosa Pierorazio & Marg Moore
MINISTRY ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND 20 & 21 DECEMBER (WEEK 3)		
MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Michael Portelli	Fred Grima
OLN 10:00am	Natale Cutri	Adrian Commadeur
St T's 6.00pm	John O'Connor	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
Online resource for Sunday Readings: https://sundayreadingsandreflections.a.weebly.com/Urtl0m1hb.html		



ESSENDON PARISH

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

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

YOU CAN STILL GIVE TO OUR VINNIES APPEAL

SVDP envelopes are still available at our churches
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 & donate
to Essendon Conference #176.



The Parish of
Our Lady & St Therese

Volunteer's Christmas *gathering*

WEDNESDAY | 17 DEC | 8PM - 9:30PM

PACE FUNCTION ROOM

To all our parish volunteers
*We are grateful to each of you for your
contribution to our parishes*
*We hope you join us in giving thanks for
and celebrating our communities
together*

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

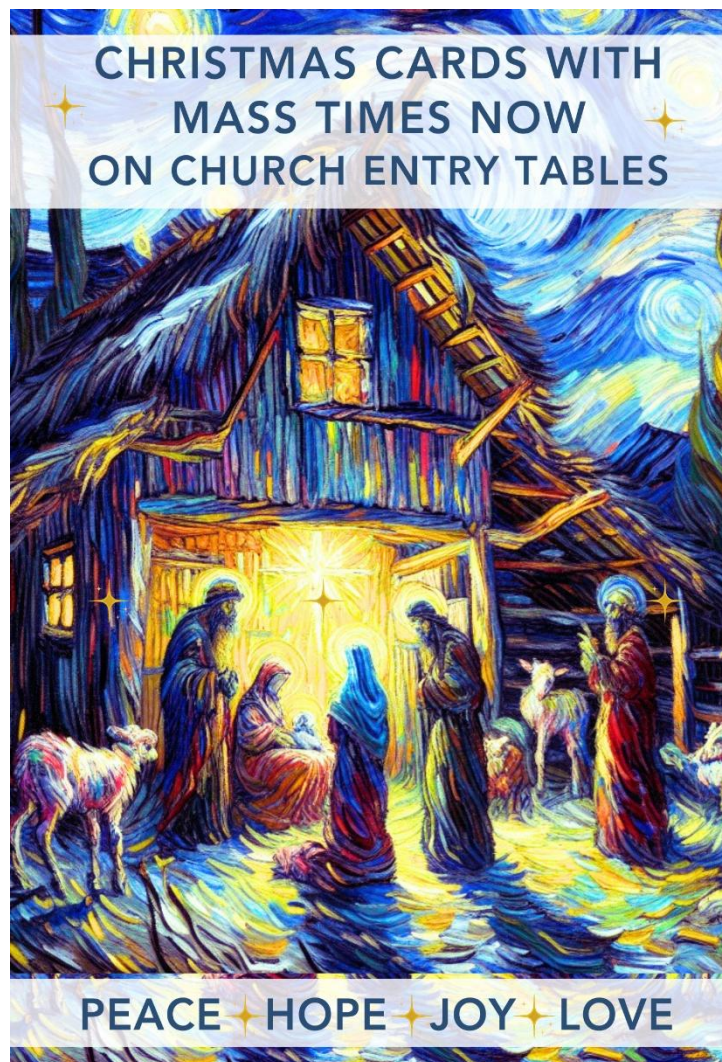
Everyone is welcome - please RSVP via email
so we can organise catering

EMAIL: stthereses.tinyts@gmail.com

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	Christmas Mass at Ryman Raelene Boyle Village Parish office closing early Funeral service for Sam Provaroni at St Therese's church	11:00am 1:00pm 1:30pm
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 Christmas Mass at Arcadia Aged Care Christmas Mass at Trevi Court Aged Care	9:30am 10:30am 11:00am 1:30pm
Friday 19 December	Requiem Mass for Reginald Harry at St Therese's	11:00am
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
Tuesday 23 December	Parish office closes for Christmas break	3:00pm
Wednesday 24 December	Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at St Therese's Carols and Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at OLN Carols and Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at St Therese's Carols and Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at St Therese's Carols and Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at St Therese's	10:00am Begins 5:00pm Begins 5:30pm Begins 8:00pm Begins 10:30pm
Thursday 25 December	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day) Carols and Christmas Day Mass at St Therese's Christmas Day Mass at OLN	Begins 9:30am 10:00am
Thursday 1 January	Mary, The Holy Mother of God New Year's Day Public Holiday Mass at OLN with Fr John Hannon Mass at St Therese's with Fr John Hannon	9:00am 10:00am
Sunday 4 January	The Epiphany of the Lord celebrated this Sunday	
Tuesday 6 January	The Epiphany of the Lord (moved to closest Sunday)	
Sunday 11 January	The Baptism of the Lord	
Sunday 18 January	Baptism Welcoming Mass at St Therese's	10:30am
Monday 19 January	Parish office reopens after Christmas/New Year break	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</p> <p align="center">Office phone: 9401 6330 Office address: 48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon</p> <p align="center">Office email: essendon@cam.org.au Website: www.essendoncatholic.org.au</p> <p align="center">Office hours: Monday to Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm</p> <p align="center">After-Hours phone: 0490 956 610 (answering service)</p> <p align="center">St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 1800 305 330 WEEKDAYS 10:00am–3:00pm</p> <p align="center">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></p> <p align="center"><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>	



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.