

# The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

24 & 25 January: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese. 'The people that lived in darkness have seen a great light.' This is how St Matthew describes the impact of Jesus' ministry. With our eyes focused on the true light of this world, we are called to be pointers to it. And as people of the light, we are called by God; we have a vocation, we have a mission, that our lives serve something greater than ourselves.

**First Reading:** Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3

*In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.*

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness  
has seen a great light;  
on those who live in a land of deep shadow  
a light has shone.  
You have made their gladness greater,  
you have made their joy increase,  
they rejoice in your presence  
as men rejoice at harvest time,  
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.  
For the yoke that was weighing on him,  
the bar across his shoulders,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
these you break as on the day of Midian.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14. R. v.1  
(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

## INTERCESSIONS

*Brothers and Sisters, let us bring our intentions before the Lord, who through the Spirit anoints us with joy.*

That the Church will be a light in the darkness for all nations.

That countries at war will put differences aside and live in unity.

That praying with the Word of God will be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church. [Pope Leo's prayer intention for January 2026]

That those who live their life in deep shadows will be filled with the light of Christ.

We pray for all those on holiday and travelling at this time. May they remain safe as they look forward to the new school and working year ahead.

We pray for those who are ill especially Veronica Boros.

We pray for those who have died recently especially John Heffernan, Evi Howell, Valerie McMahon and Wilhelm Senn. And for those we remember at this time, especially: Anne Balia, Maurice Corkill, Sergio Vezzoso, Terzita Lizio, Cas Lukauskas and Cathy Graham.

*Loving Father, your word is fulfilled in Christ the light of the world. Hear our prayers and help us to follow Jesus as we proclaim the Good News of your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

**WHICH PRIEST WHERE** This weekend Fr John will preside at all St Therese's Masses plus Saturday Vigil at OLN while Fr Tony will celebrate Sunday 10:30am Mass at St Therese's. Next weekend Fr John will say Saturday 6:00pm and Sunday 9:00am Mass at St Therese's then 10:00am Mass at OLN with Fr Tony at OLN for Saturday 5:00pm Mass and St Therese's Sunday 10:30am. The following weekend (7 & 8 February) we will welcome the Columbans who will preside at all Masses for their annual appeal weekend.

**Gospel:** Matthew 4:12-23

*He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.*

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!

Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,  
Galilee of the nations!

The people that lived in darkness  
has seen a great light;  
on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death  
a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

## **PARISH NEWS: A LETTER FROM FR JOHN**

*Greetings to you all and best wishes for the new year,*

*I write with news of the retirement of Kathy Gilmour who has worked in the front line of the parish office for nearly 13 years now, and who has decided it is time to retire and take life a little easier. I wish to acknowledge and thank her for all her years of service.*

*In her time here, Kathy has been a welcoming and friendly presence, taking calls of all sorts, co-ordinating parish activities, helping parishioners with their queries, providing information for baptisms, weddings and funerals, of which there have been many. And on the administration side, she has been most helpful in organising ongoing maintenance work for church, office, parish centre and the priest's residence next door.*

*Since my arrival here as parish priest, following Bill Attard, in October 2017, Kathy has been a great support to me, along with the office team. As I've said often enough, I have been most fortunate to have inherited a wonderful group of conscientious and competent workers, who are also friends.*

*While we'll miss Kathy's presence here in the office, she continues to be an active parishioner. We thank her for her commitment and dedication, and overall contribution to parish life, and wish her well in retirement.*

*Kathy's retirement is effective immediately.*

*John Hannon PP*

**COLUMBAN MISSION APPEAL** On the weekend of 7 & 8 February we will hold an appeal to support the work of the St Columban's Mission. Columban Missionaries live and share the Gospel of Jesus through working with poor and exploited people; seeking justice and dignity for those denied their rights; developing faith communities in the local church; promoting dialogue between other religions; growing a culture of peace; and advocating care for the earth and environment. On the appeal weekend we will welcome friends from the Columban's who will speak at all Masses to tell us about the work of the Mission and how donations from the appeal will support that important work.

**NEW OFFICE HOURS** From February the parish office will operate remotely (doors closed) on Mondays 9:00am until 3:00pm and will operate as usual (doors open) Tuesday to Friday 9:00am until 3:00pm.

**ESSENDONWEST EMAIL SHUTDOWN** Please note that the mailbox [essendonwest@cam.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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**

**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

**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 24 & 25 JANUARY (WEEK 4)**

<b>MASS</b>	<b>READERS</b>	<b>EUCARIST</b>
OLN 5:00pm	Michael Balia	Fred Grima
OLN 10:00am	Adrian Commadeur	Michael Portelli
St T's 6.00pm	Tric Joseph & Tony Proctor	Joe Fittipaldi
St T's 9.00am	Bruce White & Christine Nelson	Marg Tormey & Mick O'Brien
St T's 10.30am	Lucy Angelico	Marita Hassed-Dunne & Miriam Gandolfo

### **MINISTRY ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND 31 JANUARY & 1 FEBRUARY (WEEK 1)**

<b>MASS</b>	<b>READERS</b>	<b>EUCARIST</b>
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

**Online resource for Sunday Readings:** <https://sundayreadingsandreflections.weebly.com/Urtl0m1hb.html>

# 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 10 February  
after Christmas break**

- YOU ARE WELCOME

## 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



ESSENDON PARISH

## Columban Missions Appeal

**Weekend 7 & 8 February**

Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could.

*St Gregory Nazianzen*



## Tiny Ts Playgroup IS MOVING TO FRIDAYS IN 2026

All-weather with indoor and outdoor space  
For infant to school-aged children  
Grandparents welcome!



**TINY TS IS ON A BREAK FOR  
THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND  
WILL RETURN  
FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY  
9:30AM IN PACE**

Sunday 25 January	Parish Baptisms at St Therese's	12:00pm
Monday 26 January	Australia Day Public holiday: parish office closed	
Tuesday 27 January	First day of school term 1 Mass at Ryman Raelene Boyle Village Aged Care	11:00am
Thursday 29 January	Gospel Reflections returns for 2026 in PACE Meeting Room Requiem Mass for Evi Howell at St Therese's	10:30am 11:00am
Monday 2 February	The Presentation of the Lord	
Wednesday 4 February	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
Thursday 5 February	Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room Mass at Trevi Court Aged Care	10:30am 11:00am
Friday 6 February	Tiny Ts Playgroup returns for 2026 in PACE function room	9:30am
Weekend 7 & 8 February	Appeal for the Columban Missionaries	
Monday 9 February	Statue of Our Lady moves to the NAME family	
Tuesday 10 February	Sharing Memories Group morning tea in the Annex	10:30am
Wednesday 11 February	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
Thursday 12 February	Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room SVDP Regional Council Meeting in PACE	10:30am 7:00pm
Friday 13 February	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room Beginning of Year Whole School Mass at St Therese's	9:30am 10:00am
Sunday 15 February	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 February	Statue of Our Lady moves to the NAME family SVDP Essendon Conference meeting in PACE	7:00pm
Tuesday 17 February	Shrove Tuesday Parish Friendship Group pancake morning tea in PACE	10:30am
Wednesday 18 February	Ash Wednesday: Lent Begins Project Compassion Appeal Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Ash Wednesday: St Therese's School Mass Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store Ash Wednesday: Mass at OLN Ash Wednesday: evening Mass St Therese's	9:00am 10:00am 10:45am 5:30pm 7:00pm
Friday 20 February	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room Stations of the Cross at St Therese's Stations of the Cross at OLN	9:30am 3:00pm 6:00pm
Sunday 22 February	First Sunday of Lent Parish Baptisms at St Therese's	12:00pm

**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 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:** 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>



*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.*