

The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

14 & 15 February: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Project Compassion Sunday

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese. Today's First Reading, Psalm and Gospel all relate to the way in which we are called to live in right relationship with God and with one another. Throughout his ministry, Jesus repeatedly calls the people to be true to the teachings of old and to live them with integrity and dedication.

It is easy for us today to look at something like the Ten Commandments or the Beatitudes and dismiss them as irrelevant. However, interpreted in a broader context and within the context of our own lives, such ancient codes of behaviour can take on new significance. Jesus points us towards the importance of looking beyond the surface and searching out the truth of such statements.

First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power.

He has set fire and water before you;

put out your hand to whichever you prefer.

Man has life and death before him;

whichever a man likes better will be given him.

For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;

he is almighty and all-seeing.

His eyes are on those who fear him,

he notes every action of man.

He never commanded anyone to be godless,

he has given no one permission to sin.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34.

R. v.1 (R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Gospel Acclamation: See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;

you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and

teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

INTERCESSIONS

For Church leaders, that they will act with humility and integrity as they work to spread the Gospel.

That people affected by war and combat will find peace and security.

For communities suffering the effects of natural disasters, that they will be generously assisted by others.

That our parish community will find happiness and wisdom in the words of Christ.

We pray for Evander, Luciano, Isaiah, Rachel, Rochelle, Lily and Georgia who are welcomed into our parish this weekend in preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism.

We pray for those who are ill.

We pray for those who have died recently especially Veronika Boros, Patricia Fraser, Alan Renton and Adam Arceri. And for those we remember at this time, especially: Fonce Sully, Marie O'Brien, Santa Capovilla, Elizabeth Heslop and John O'Donoghue.

WHICH PRIEST WHERE This weekend Fr John will say all Masses at St Therese's as well as Saturday vigil at OLN. Fr Bernie Lane will say Sunday 10:00am Mass at OLN. Next weekend Fr Bernie will preside at St Therese's 6:00pm Saturday 21 February & Sunday 22 February 10:30am and Fr John will say all Masses at OLN as well as Sunday 9:00am Mass at St Therese's.

PARISH SUNDAY MORNING TEAS THIS WEEKEND This weekend we resume our monthly gatherings after Sunday morning Masses at both of our churches. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and members of the welcoming team who host these events each month. At St Therese's church parishioners and visitors are invited to gather in PACE Function room this month and at OLN the morning tea will be held in the church foyer.

MEN'S CHOIR AT OLN THIS SATURDAY We welcome the Men's Choir to Saturday Vigil Mass at OLN this Saturday.

PROJECT COMPASSION This Lent, we are called to Unite Against Poverty through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Your generosity this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need. **HOW TO DONATE:** Envelopes and money boxes are now available at our churches. There is a single Project Compassion donation envelope rather than the six weekly envelopes used in previous years. Thank you for Uniting Against Poverty with us this Lent.



LENT BEGINS THIS WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS LENTEN PROGRAMME IN PACE Our Gospel Reflections group meet each Thursday morning in the PACE Meeting Room after morning Mass. During Lent the group is following the Garratt publishing Lenten Program 'our heart, our mission.' Any interested parishioners are welcome to attend and should purchase a copy of the program book from the parish office.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAYS DURING LENT Parishioner-led Stations of the Cross are held each Friday in Lent at both parish churches. All are welcome. Booklets are provided.

ST THERESE'S CHURCH: 3:00pm each Friday during Lent.

OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH: 6:00pm each Friday during Lent.

LENT REFLECTION BOOKS Two Lenten books are available from the parish office (credit/debit card payment preferred) or from church sacristies at Mass times if you have correct change. We do not keep cash in the parish so there is no guarantee that change can be given for cash sales.

THE JOURNEY HOME With guest writer, Archbishop Emeritus Mark Coleridge, former Archbishop of Brisbane. This resource, designed for individuals and groups, offers simple, easy-to-follow prompts for small group leaders to use each Sunday during Lent. Each weekday includes a beginning prayer, a short scripture text, a reflection, some thoughts to provoke reflection and/or discussion and a closing prayer. \$6 per copy

OUR HEARTS OUR MISSION Garratt Publishing's Our Hearts on Mission is a modern Lenten program that guides us through the six weeks of Lent. Each year has its own glimmer, reflecting the Light at work in our particular situation. Accordingly, this year, in the commentaries for the Sunday readings there are reflections of the Augustinian light that Pope Leo is offering us. This year four authors bring a diversity of voices, offering fresh insights into our Lenten tasks and our orientation for mission. \$8 per copy

SANDWICHES FOR MORNING TEAS Our Parish Friendship Group (PFG) are seeking the help of any person able to make sandwiches a few times a year for morning teas. Anyone willing and able to help please contact the parish office who will pass on details to the PFG.

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

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR THIS WEEKEND 14 & 15 FEBRUARY (WEEK 3)

MASS	READERS	EUCCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Michael Portelli	Fred Grima
OLN 10:00am	Natale Cutri	Adrian Commadeur
St T's 6.00pm	Alison Bretag	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

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND 21 & 22 FEBRUARY (WEEK 4)

MASS	READERS	EUCCHARIST
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	Jim Maderazo & Lanelle Eid	Marita Hased-Dunne & Miriam Gandolfo

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

PARISH CALENDAR

Saturday 14 February	Men's Choir singing at Our Lady of the Nativity	5:00pm
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 Sequeira 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
Thursday 19 February	Lenten Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room Requiem Mass for Veronika Boros at St Therese's	10:30am 11:30am
Friday 20 February	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room Rosary and Requiem Mass for Adam Arceri at St Therese's Requiem Mass for Jack Wade at OLN Stations of the Cross at St Therese's Stations of the Cross at OLN	9:30am 11:00am 12:30pm 3:00pm 6:00pm
Weekend 21 & 22 February	Parish Volunteer Drive	All Masses
Sunday 22 February	First Sunday of Lent Parish Baptisms at St Therese's	12:00pm
Monday 23 February	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Misquitta family	
Tuesday 24 February	One-month Memorial Mass for Raimondo Fazio at OLN	6:00pm
Wednesday 25 February	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
Thursday 26 February	Lenten Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room	10:30am
Friday 27 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
Weekend 28 Feb & 1 March	Candidate Masses for First Reconciliation at OLN	
Sunday 1 March	Second Sunday of Lent	
Monday 2 March	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Xerri family	
Tuesday 3 March	Sharing Memories Group morning tea in the Annex	10:30am
Wednesday 4 March	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 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

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>



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.



Parish of
Our Lady & St Therese
GOSPEL REFLECTIONS
Lenten Programme

During Lent the Gospel Reflections session will follow the Garratt Lenten program 'our hearts on mission'

Thursday Mornings in Lent
at 10:30am
in PACE Meeting Room

Copies of 'our hearts on mission' are available to purchase from the parish office for \$8

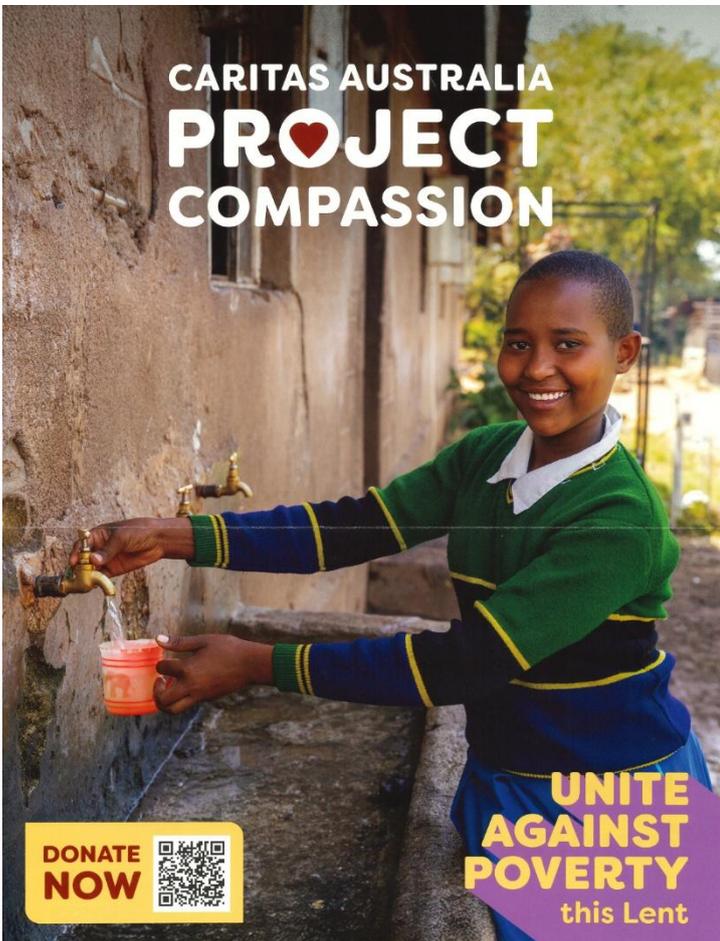
Locke • O'Beirne • Moore • Waddell

Parish Friendship Group
*Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Morning Tea*

PACE FUNCTION ROOM
Tuesday 17 February
from 10:30am
(After morning Mass)

All welcome

CARITAS AUSTRALIA
**PROJECT
COMPASSION**



**UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY**
this Lent

**DONATE
NOW**



projectcompassion.org.au 1800 024 413 #projectcompassion

**Ash
Wednesday**
18 February 2026

Masses

St Therese's
10:00am & 7:00pm

Our Lady of the Nativity
5:30pm


garratt
PUBLISHING
LENTEN
PROGRAM
Year A

\$8
per copy

*our hearts
on mission*

Available for sale from the parish office
where we prefer credit/debit card
payment or from church sacristies at
Mass times if you have correct money.
No cash is kept at the parish.

Locke • O'Beirne • Moore • Waddell

\$6
per copy

THE
JOURNEY
HOME

DAILY LENTEN
REFLECTIONS

Available for sale from the parish office
where we prefer credit/debit card
payment or from church sacristies at
Mass times if you have correct money.
No cash is kept at the parish.

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

4 & 18 February and March
1 & 15 April
6 & 20 May
3 & 17 June
1 & 15 July
5 & 19 August
3 & 17 September
1 & 15 October
5 & 19 November
3 & 17 December

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



Tiny Ts Playgroup

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



WHEN: Friday mornings 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

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 3 March

- 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



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



Help fund projects across Catholic organisations, including parishes, hospital wings and classrooms, with a CDF Community Fund savings account.

Save for a Greater Reward

With competitive interest rates, it's a greater reward than money alone.

Visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund or call our team on 1800 134 135 for more information

