

The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

21 & 22 February: First Sunday in Lent Year A
Project Compassion

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese. On Wednesday the Church invited us to begin the journey of Lent. This Lent we pray together our Communal Lenten Prayer:

Communal Lenten Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, You are our guiding light. As we begin and proceed through the Lenten season, let us focus on living your teachings; to love one another and be kind to our neighbour.

Ours is a troubled world which challenges us. Help us not to turn away when we see a person in need. Help us to open our eyes and ears to those who need our help and extend our hands and hearts to assist them. Lord Jesus, help the peoples of this world to be united in your love and give us the strength and understanding to follow in your ways.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

First Reading: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give.

So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3 (R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!!

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone

but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

INTERCESSIONS

Brothers and sisters, in the presence of God's mercy, let us bring our prayers before the Lord.

That the Church will be faithful through prayer, fasting and almsgiving in this time of preparation for Easter.

That nations will care for those who face the wilderness of poverty and homelessness.

For those experiencing poverty and marginalisation, that our support for Project Compassion during Lent will be a sign to them of the love of God for all people.

That our parish community will find courage to acknowledge our sins and repent in the Lord.

We pray for those who are ill.

We pray for those who have died recently especially Clare Vaz and Jack Wade. And for those we remember at this time, especially: Jan Collins, Gwendoline Ryan, Anthony Cassar, Rita O'Brien, Val Bourke and Marie Hased.

Loving Father, you shower us with mercy and compassion. Hear our prayers and help us to resist temptation and enter into your forgiveness and mercy during this Lenten season. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

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



This Lent, our parish community is called to Unite Against Poverty with Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. In 2026, Project Compassion shares four stories of resilience and strength.

We'll meet Sisilia, a student from Tanzania who, with the support of Caritas Australia now has access to clean water from taps in her school and village.

We'll get to know Monoranjon from Bangladesh, where Caritas Australia has helped communities learn climate-resilient farming skills.

We'll be introduced to Manaini from Fiji, who gained training in food processing and gardening, improving nutrition and creating income to support her children's education.

And we'll hear the story of Ahmad, a Caritas Jerusalem worker from Gaza who was displaced many times due to ongoing conflict. Despite this hardship, he continues to serve families in need through Caritas' emergency response.

HOW TO DONATE: Envelopes and money boxes are now available at our churches. Or use the links in the ad on the final page of the bulletin.

PARISH BULLETIN SUBSCRIPTION SUSPENDED TO SOME EMAIL ADDRESSES As the volume of bulk emails rises, email providers are stepping up security measures. Currently Microsoft not only blocks bulk emails from our PACEM system, but also blacklists our IP address, impacting all emails. This effects our weekly bulletin subscribers and Gospel Reflections subscribers who have Microsoft email accounts and will be disrupting ordinary email communications. Our system has temporarily stopped sending bulk newsletter emails to @hotmail, @outlook and @live accounts. By pausing these emails, our PACEM team aim to have our IP address removed from Microsoft's blacklist. In the meantime, parishioners can read our bulletin online here: <https://www.essendoncatholic.org.au/news-events/weekly-bulletin/>

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 Stations of the Cross are held each Friday in Lent at both churches.

ST THERESE'S CHURCH: 3:00pm each Friday during Lent. **OLN CHURCH:** 6:00pm each Friday during Lent.

LENT REFLECTION BOOKS We still have some Lenten books 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 (daily reflections) \$6 per copy and Our Hearts Our Mission Sunday reading reflections \$8 per copy

COLUMBAN MISSIONARY APPEAL: MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM FR TREVOR TROTTER "On behalf of the community here in Woodland Street, I want to thank you and the parish for the generous gift that we have been blessed with. Those of us who were able to meet with parishioners on the weekend of 7 & 8 February really enjoyed the spirit of both St Therese's and Our Lady of the Nativity. Then to find out how much was donated by the parish doubled the positive experience. It is a clear statement of the missionary spirit of the parish community." The parish appeal for Columban Missionaries this month raised just over \$7500. Thanks to you all for your very generous response.

SANDWICHES FOR MORNING TEAS Our Parish Friendship Group are seeking volunteers to make sandwiches a few times a year for morning teas. Anyone willing and able to help please contact the parish office.

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 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
MINISTRY ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND 28 FEBRUARY & 1 MARCH (WEEK 1)		
MASS	READERS	EUCCHARIST
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		

PARISH CALENDAR

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
Thursday 5 March	Lenten Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room	10:30am
Friday 6 March	Parish office closed for staff leave (TBC) 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 8 March	Third Sunday of Lent	
Monday 9 March	Labour Day Public Holiday: parish office closed Statue of Our Lady moves to the Moreno family	
Wednesday 11 March	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Sacrament of First Reconciliation at OLN	9:00am 7:00pm
Thursday 12 March	Lenten Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room SVDP Regional Council meeting in PACE	10:30am 7:00pm
Friday 13 March	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 15 March	Fourth Sunday of Lent 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

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

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?



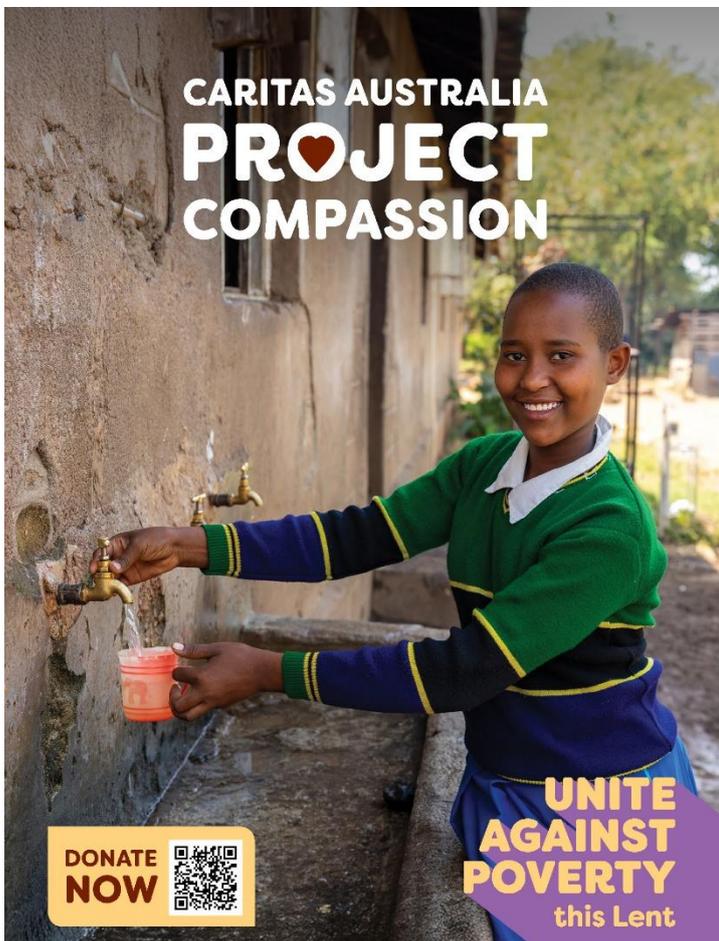
SCAN ME
FOR
DETAILS

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

CARITAS AUSTRALIA PROJECT COMPASSION



**DONATE
NOW**



**UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY**
this Lent

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

