

The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

28 February & 1 March: Second Sunday in Lent Year A
Project Compassion

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese. As Peter, James and John were chosen to witness the transfiguration of Jesus, so today we are invited to look to Jesus for inspiration during this holy season. 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 12:1-4

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'
So Abram went as the Lord told him.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

INTERCESSIONS

Sisters and brothers, through faith in the transfigured Christ, let us bring our prayers before the Lord.

That our Holy Father Pope Leo will continue to guide the Church in Christ's message for the faithful.

That leaders and governments listen attentively to those they serve.

That those who do not know Christ will come into the light and discover the glory of his Resurrection.

For all people who lack access to safe and reliable water, that they will be able to receive this basic necessity of life as a result of generous support for the Project Compassion campaign.

We pray for those who are ill especially Jorge Arenivar and Therese Dynon.

We pray for those who have died recently especially Michelle Barnes, Maxine Duke, Albert Michael Griffiths and Lucia Ferrella. And for those we remember at this time, especially: Sr Patrice Orchard, Ruth & Jack Forehan, Isabella Campo, Margaret Barmby, Margaret Mizzi, Neil & Ana Brown, Sabastino La Mari and Giuseppina Mazzarotta.

Loving God, you ask us to listen to the words of your Son. Hear our prayers and give us faith in the beloved Christ to always carry out your will and to live your word. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

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



PROJECT COMPASSION SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT Sisilia is a 13-year-old girl living in remote Tanzania. Thanks to Project Compassion, Sisilia's school and village now have safe clean water close by and she can spend more time studying so she can fulfil her dream of one day becoming a pilot. Thank you for standing with us, as we Unite Against Poverty this Lent.

HOW TO DONATE: Envelopes and money boxes are available at our churches on the entry tables. You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the boxes and envelope, by calling: 1800 024 413, by scanning the QR code, by visiting: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Photo credit: Caritas Australia



OLN CANDIDATE MASSES THIS WEEKEND We welcome students and families to OLN Masses this weekend as our year 3 students present themselves for their upcoming Sacrament of First Reconciliation.

KIDS AT MASS THIS SATURDAY Kids at Mass is happening this Saturday at St Therese's at 6:00pm Mass. All school-aged children are welcome to attend. For this session the children and team leaders will gather in PACE function room. The next K@M session is Saturday 28 March.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ESSENDON CONFERENCE QUARTERLY REPORT From 1 October through to 31 December 2025 SVDP Essendon Conference members made 67 home visits, assisting 91 adults and 36 children. Visits included deliveries to companions who received a Christmas Box, a food voucher, a hamper bag of Christmas goodies donated by our local schools and a personalised Christmas Card. Over the quarter, SVDP provided \$7,299 in food vouchers and Vinnies store vouchers to assist those in need within our Parish.

The SVDP Christmas Appeal raised just over \$20,000 through the generous support of our parishioners; St Therese's Men's Choir; students and staff at St Therese's Primary School, Ave Maria College and St Columba's College. A third Bunnings BBQ on 3 January 2026 raised just over \$2,000. Local businesses who supported the BBQ included: Bakers Delight Niddrie and North Essendon, Fresh on Young Food Hall Coburg and Bunnings Maribyrnong.

If anyone is interested in knowing some more about our SVDP activities or joining the Conference please contact Wendy at esdon.conf.pres@svdp-vic.org.au

NEW CENTRING PRAYER GROUP A centring prayer group will commence on Tuesday 10 March and will then be held on the second and fourth Tuesday evening of each month. Centring prayer, practised for many centuries in the church, is essentially silent prayer, where participants sit quietly in the presence of God. The goal is to recognise the presence of God in our lives and relax in a group setting. Participants will share their experience of the method and then view a short video describing the method of centring prayer. Starting Tuesday 10 March at 7:00pm in PACE Function Room. For further information contact the parish office who will pass on your details to group leader John Varney.

NEWSLETTER EMAIL DELIVERY UPDATE PACEM has been working with Microsoft to address temporary delivery delays affecting newsletter emails sent to Hotmail, Outlook and Live email addresses. This week, Microsoft subscribers who have explicitly opted in via the subscription link will receive newsletters in our usual mailout. Microsoft subscribers whose email addresses were imported as part of our PACEM migration and who have not opted in are still on hold. This affects approximately 10% of our subscriber list. 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 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 a few Lenten books available. The Journey Home (daily reflections) \$6 per copy and Our Hearts Our Mission Sunday reading reflections \$8 per copy

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. For those who were volunteers last year and are happy to continue, please also let the office know.

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 28 FEBRUARY & 1 MARCH (WEEK 1)

MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST
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

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND 7 & 8 MARCH (WEEK 2)

MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Georgina Kucera & John Harris	Kathy Ferguson
OLN 10:00am	Natale Cutri	Douglas D'Cruz
St T's 6.00pm	John O'Connor	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

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

PARISH CALENDAR

Weekend 28 Feb & 1 March	Candidate Masses for First Reconciliation at OLN	
Saturday 28 February	Kids at Mass at St Therese's	6:00pm
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	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room Requiem Mass for George Bugeja at St Therese's Stations of the Cross at St Therese's Stations of the Cross at OLN	9:30am 11:30am 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	
Tuesday 10 March	Centring Prayer group gathering in PACE function room	7:00pm
Wednesday 11 March	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Requiem Mass for Lucia Ferella at St Therese's church Sacrament of First Reconciliation at OLN	9:00am 11:30am 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
Monday 16 March	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Whiting family SVDP Essendon Conference meeting in PACE	7:00pm
Tuesday 17 March	St Patrick's Feast Day Anointing Mass at St Therese's Parish Friendship Group Paddy's Day Morning tea in PACE	10:00am 10:40am
Wednesday 18 March	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store	9:00am 10:45am
Thursday 19 March	St Joseph's Feast Day Lenten Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room	10:30am
Friday 20 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

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

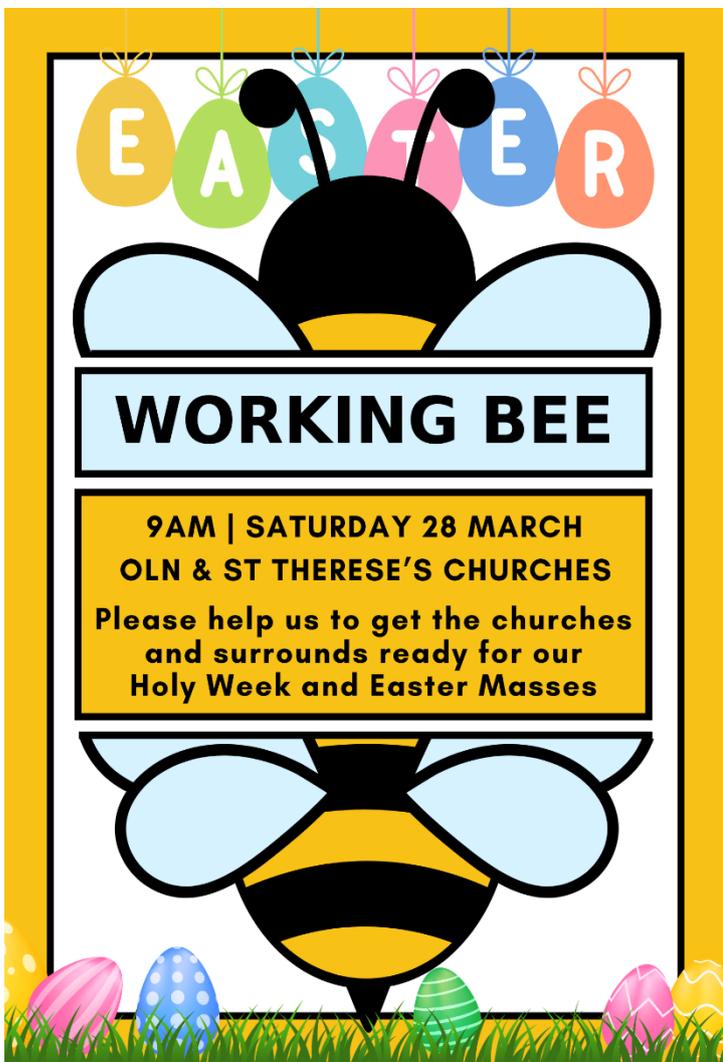
To subscribe to our newsletter go to the link below or use the QR code:

<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.



E A S T E R

WORKING BEE

9AM | SATURDAY 28 MARCH
OLN & ST THERESE'S CHURCHES

Please help us to get the churches
 and surrounds ready for our
 Holy Week and Easter Masses

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?

YES



SCAN ME
 FOR
 DETAILS

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

KAM IS HERE THIS WEEKEND
SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY
 AT ST THERESE'S 6:00PM MASS



Primary school-aged children can listen to Jesus' message in a child friendly and engaging way. Children who are not yet at school should be accompanied by parent/s

NEXT SESSION WILL BE HELD SATURDAY 28 MARCH

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

