



The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

7 & 8 February: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese. You are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the cosmos. These descriptions are meant to apply to us as a Christian community. We are Christ's disciples and are called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We can enlighten the world with the message of the gospel, because our lives have been transformed by that gospel and now we ourselves are light for others. We can serve others, because we have been saved by God's grace and now we are agents of that grace in the lives of others.

First Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10

Your light will shine like the dawn.

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor,
clothe the man you see to be naked
and turn not from your own kin.
Then will your light shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.
Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'
If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,

and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3

(R.) Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

Gospel Acclamation: John 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me
will have the light of life.
Alleluia

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

You are the light of the world.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

INTERCESSIONS

Sisters and brothers, through Christ our Light, let us bring our intentions before the Lord.

That the Holy Church will radiate the power of Christ the Light to all people.

That governments of wealthy nations will share bread with the hungry and shelter the oppressed and homeless.

That the homeless and marginalised will be showered with compassion and warmth.

That, like the salt of the earth, our parish community will be united in our good works and praise to God.

That those who are plagued by weakness and self-doubt will be strengthened by the light of Christ.

For Missionaries, especially our neighbours from the Columban Mission Centre, may they inspire us all to be more generous and may they be role models for this and future generations.

We pray for those who are ill.

We pray for those who have died recently especially Veronika Boros, Raimondo Fazio and Patricia Fraser. And for those we remember at this time, especially: Barbara Hinton, Obdulia Fondevilla, Paulene Webster and Lina Gallo.

God of wisdom, your Son calls us to be the salt of the earth. Hear these prayers and give us courage and strength to spread the flavour of the Gospel to all who are called to your feast. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

WHICH PRIEST WHERE This weekend we welcome Columban Frs Hegerty, Howard and Barrett who will preside at all Masses at our churches for the annual Columban Missions appeal weekend. Next 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.

Fr Tony Feeney will take a break during February and we thank Fr Bernie Lane who will say Masses in his stead. Fr Bernie will preside at OLN on Sunday 15 February 10:00am and at St Therese's 6:00pm Saturday 21 February & Sunday 22 February 10:30am.

COLUMBAN MISSION APPEAL This weekend we are holding our annual appeal to support the work of the St Columban Mission.

HOW TO DONATE: Columban Mission donation envelopes are available on church seats and entrance tables. We will also ask our collectors to stand at the doors at Masses this weekend for a leaving collection for those who have loose cash to donate. Parishioners are welcome to take home the copies of The Far East magazine which are also on the church seats and entrance tables.

KIDS AT MASS THIS SATURDAY We welcome the return of Kids at Mass this Saturday at St Therese's at 6:00pm Mass. All school-aged children are welcome to attend.

AFTER HOURS ANSWERING SERVICE IS UNAVAILABLE Our after-hours answering service will be unavailable this weekend until Tuesday 10 February.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE NEXT WEEK The Parish office will be closed on Wednesday 11 February from 9:45am until 11:00am while staff attend online training.



LENT BEGINS 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

PARISH ACTIVITIES RESUME Regular parish activities are starting up again in February.

ITALIAN PRAYER GROUP Meets each Wednesday in the Annex from 9:00am.

GOSPEL REFLECTION GROUP Meets each Thursday in the PACE meeting room from 10:30am.

TINY TS PLAYGROUP Every Friday mornings at 9:30am in PACE during school terms.

ALPHA CONNECT For those who have previously attended Alpha programmes. Meets the second Monday of each month in PACE function room at 7:00pm.

SHARING MEMORIES GROUP Will meet in The Annex on Tuesday 10 February at 10:30am and then will move to their usual first Tuesday of each month commencing from March.

PARISH FRIENDSHIP GROUP Monthly morning teas will begin the year with two special Tuesday events in PACE function room. The first is on Shrove Tuesday 17 February and the second will be Tuesday 17 March for St Patrick's Day (and St Joseph's) and will then move to their usual third Thursday of each month.

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 7 & 8 FEBRUARY (WEEK 2)

MASS	READERS	EUCCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Georgina Kucera & John Harris	Kathy Ferguson
OLN 10:00am	Mark Donahoo	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	Silvia Campo	Rosa Pierorazio & Marg Moore

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR NEXT 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

Online resource for Sunday Readings: <https://sundayreadingsandreflections.a.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

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



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



KAM RETURNS FOR 2026
THIS WEEKEND

SATURDAY 7 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

PARISH CALENDAR

Weekend 7 & 8 February	Appeal for the Columban Missionaries	
Monday 9 February	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Asher family Alpha Connect evening returns for 2026 in PACE	7:00pm
Tuesday 10 February	Sharing Memories Group morning tea in the Annex Requiem Mass for Patricia Fraser at St Therese's	10:30am 11:00am
Wednesday 11 February	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Parish office closed for staff training	9:00am 9:45am -11:00am
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 Presentation of student leadership at St Therese's church Beginning of Year Whole School Mass at St Therese's	9:30am 9:50am 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 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	Requiem Mass for Veronika Boros at St Therese's	11:30am
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
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	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

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: Answering service not available this weekend

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>



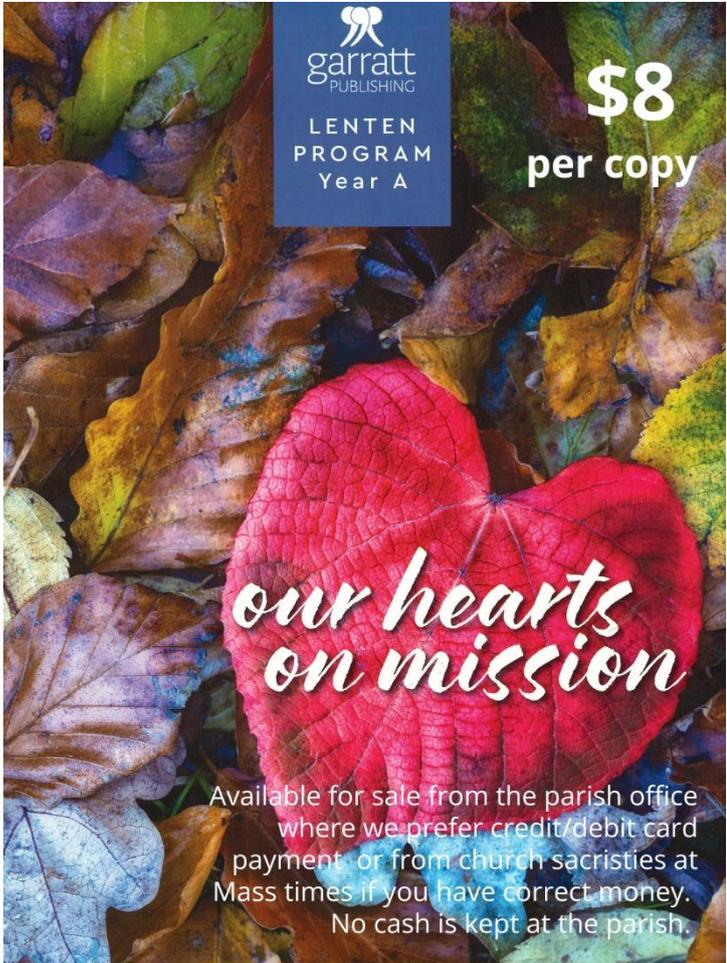
Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

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.



garratt
PUBLISHING
LENTEN
PROGRAM
Year A

\$8
per copy

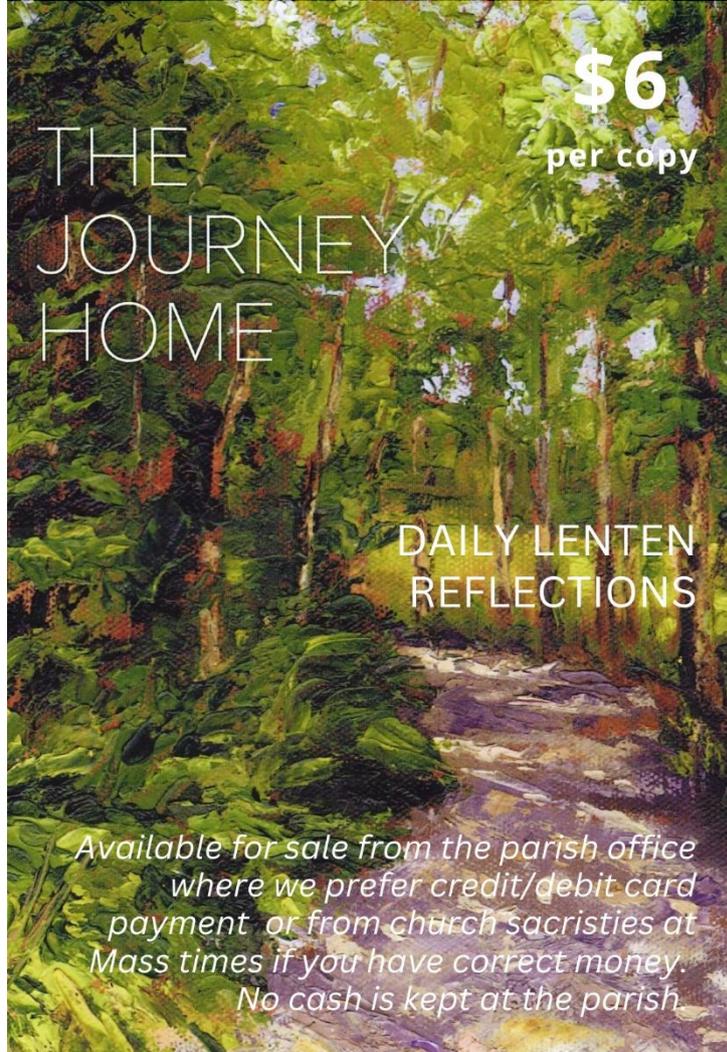


*our hearts
on mission*

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
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garratt
PUBLISHING
LENTEN
PROGRAM
Year A



**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

**Tiny Ts Playgroup
IS MOVING TO FRIDAYS**

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

Parish Friendship Group
 Shrove Tuesday
 Pancake Morning Tea

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

All welcome



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



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



Save for a
 Greater
 Reward

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

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

