



# The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

## 14 & 15 March: Fourth Sunday in Lent Year A

*Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese. There is much darkness in the world today but the Gospel today contains the wonderful words of Christ: 'I am the light of the world.' 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:** 1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel

*In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.*

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 22 R. v.1 (R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

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### **INTERCESSIONS**

*Sisters and brothers, through Christ the light of the world, let us bring our prayers before God.*

That our Holy Father Pope Leo will unite Christians everywhere through Jesus the Light.

As Pope Leo has asked us, we pray that "the roar of bombs may cease, that the weapons may fall silent, and that a space for dialogue may open in which the voice of the peoples can be heard."

That those who live under the threat of cyclones, floods, fires and other disasters will remain safe and receive the support they need to recover from their losses

For all who lack the necessities of life, especially food security, that support for Project Compassion this Lent will enable Caritas to become a source of hope for them and for all those who hunger and thirst.

We pray for Vincent, Charlotte, Jack, Emilia and Romeo who are welcomed into our parish this weekend in preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism.

We pray for those who are ill. For those who have died recently especially Maurie Saunders, Jorge Arenivar and William Hammond. And for those we remember at this time, especially: John Synan.

*God, hear our prayers and open our eyes that we may see the light of your presence among us. Amen*

### **Gospel Acclamation:** John 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

### **Gospel:** *Shorter form* John 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
*The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.*

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

**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 while Fr Tony says 6:00pm Saturday and 10:30am Sunday Mass at St Therese's.

**EASTER PREPARATIONS** Volunteers are needed on Palm Sunday weekend to attend the Easter working bees at both churches. Please come along if you can as there are plenty of jobs to go around inside and outside. We also need volunteers for our Easter Masses. Sign up sheets are on church entry tables. Please add your name where you can help.

**PARISH SUNDAY MORNING TEAS THIS WEEKEND** This weekend parishioners are welcomed to morning tea after Sunday morning Masses at both churches. At St Therese's church parishioners and visitors are invited to gather in PACE Function room and at OLN the morning tea will be held in the church foyer. Many thanks to our hospitable volunteers who host these events for us each month.

**ANOINTING MASS AND MORNING TEA** On Tuesday 17 March there will be a Mass of Anointing at 10:00am at St Therese's church followed by morning tea in PACE hosted by our Parish Friendship Group. This month's morning tea is to celebrate St Patrick's Day and St Joseph's Feast Day. This is the final morning tea to be held on a Tuesday this year. From April the morning teas will move to the usual third Thursday of each month.

**MEN'S COFFEE GROUP** Our Men's Coffee group will meet at Lincoln Food Store on Wednesday 18 March at 10:45am. The group meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month. All are welcome – just come along!

**CARITAS MISSION FACILITATOR: MICHAEL MCGIRR** Next weekend we will welcome Michael McGirr, Mission Facilitator for Caritas Australia, who will speak at Masses on Saturday evening at OLN and St Therese's and both Sunday morning Masses at St Therese's. Unfortunately, Michael is here for one weekend only and so he is unable to speak at 10:00am Mass at OLN. Michael is a writer, reviewer and educator who has published books on philosophy, literature, spirituality and ethics, as well as hundreds of articles, essays and stories. Through all his work, he is motivated to connect faith, culture and community, and to champion an expression of a faith that encourages justice. You can read some of Michael's writing here: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/a-faith-for-the-hunger-of-the-world>



**PROJECT COMPASSION** Life was hard for Manaini and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.



**HOW TO DONATE:** Envelopes and money boxes are available from our church 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: <http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/>

*Photo credit: Caritas Australia*



**MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026** What is a Synod? A Synod is a moment when the Church deliberately pauses to listen, pray, and discern together. It is not simply a meeting or a conference, but a spiritual process rooted in faith that the Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church today. In a Synod, we ask not only "What do we think?" but more importantly, "What is God asking of us at this moment in our mission?" Further information at [melbournecatholic.org/synod2026](https://melbournecatholic.org/synod2026) In the synodal Church 'the whole community, in the free and rich diversity of its members, is called together to pray, listen, analyse, dialogue, discern and offer advice on taking pastoral decisions.'

**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 MARCH (WEEK 3)		
MASS	READERS	EUCCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Michael Portelli	Fred Grima
OLN 10:00am	Mark Donahoo	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 MARCH (WEEK 4)		
MASS	READERS	EUCCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Michael Portelli	Fred Grima
OLN 10:00am	Mark Donahoo	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.weebly.com/Urtl0m1hb.html>

PARISH CALENDAR

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 church 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 Requiem Mass for William Hammond 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
Weekend 21/22 March	Caritas Mission Facilitator Michael McGirr speaking at Masses	
Sunday 22 March	Fifth Sunday of Lent Parish Baptisms at St Therese's	12:00pm
Monday 23 March	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Latera family	
Tuesday 24 March	Mass at Ryman Raelene Boyle Village Aged Care Centring Prayer group gathering in PACE function room	11:00am 7:00pm
Wednesday 25 March	The Annunciation of the Lord Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
Thursday 26 March	Mass at Arcadia Aged Care Mass at Trevi Court Aged Care	11:00am 1:30pm
Friday 27 March	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room Stations of the Cross at St Therese's Stations of the Cross at OLN	10:30am 3:00pm 6:00pm
Saturday 28 March	Easter Working Bees at both churches Kids at Mass at St Therese's	9:00am 6:00pm
Sunday 29 March	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Men's Choir singing at St Therese's	10:30am
Monday 30 March	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Carroll family	
Tuesday 31 March	Communal Reconciliation Service at St Therese's church	7:00pm
Wednesday 1 April	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store Whole School Easter Paraliturg at St Therese's	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](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

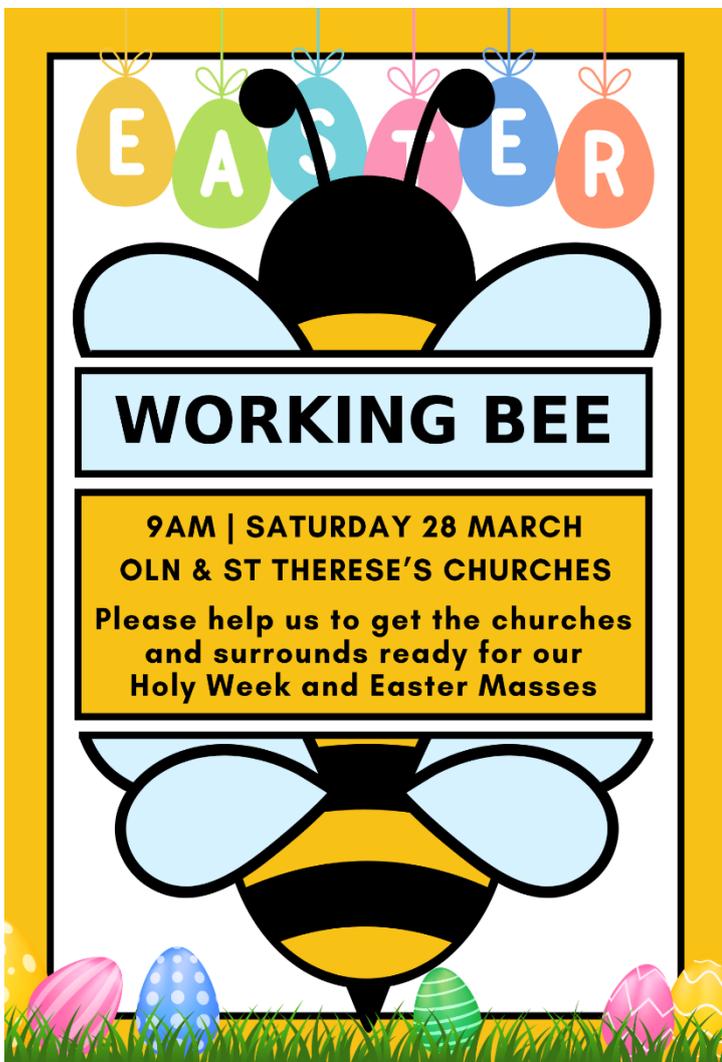
To subscribe to our newsletter go to the link below or use the QR code:

<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.*



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



## We welcome

**Caritas Mission Facilitator  
Michael McGirr  
Speaking at Parish Masses**

**Saturday 21 March**

**Our Lady of the Nativity 5:00pm**

**St Therese's 6:00pm**

**Sunday 22 March**

**St Therese's 9:00am & 10:30am**

**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**

**Caritas  
AUSTRALIA**



Photo credit Melbourne Catholic