



The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

21 & 22 March: Fifth Sunday in Lent Year A

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese. In today's Gospel we see a scene with which we are all familiar; people weeping over the death of a loved one. Jesus is at the centre of that scene as he gives hope to those who are surrounded by the shadows of death. 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: Ezekiel 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 129. R. v.7 (R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Gospel Acclamation: See John 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Shorter form John 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me
will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak

for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

INTERCESSIONS

With the Lord there is kindness, healing and hope in redemption. Let us turn to God who hears our every prayer.

That the Church, by the power of the Spirit, will be a beacon of hope and healing in times of crisis.

That nations will put right their failings of the past, working together in face of adversity.

That our parish community may be renewed in faith with the promise of the resurrection.

For those coping with humanitarian emergencies in many countries around the world, that our donations to Project Compassion this Lent make a positive difference to people in need.

We pray for the children who are initiated into our parish this weekend at the Sacrament of Baptism.

We pray for those who are ill especially Peter Stevens and Christine Wall (nee Whiting). We pray for those who have died recently especially Bill Hammond. And for those we remember at this time, especially: Noelle O'Brien, Jessie Jackman, Fr John Mullally and Carmelo Migliorino.

Loving God, your Son is the way through our darkness and despair. Hear our prayers and help us to trust in your promises as the time of Christ's suffering draws near. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

WHICH PRIEST WHERE This 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. Next weekend Fr John will say all Masses at St Therese's while Fr Tony presides at all Masses at OLN.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EASTER PREPARATIONS AND HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASSES 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. From 9:00am on Saturday 28 March at both churches. We also need volunteers to support our Holy Week and Easter Masses. Sign-up sheets are on church entry tables. Please add your name where you can help.

OFFICE CLOSURE DURING EASTER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS The parish office will close on Holy Thursday at 3:00pm and will remain closed for the week following Easter. The office will reopen on Tuesday 14 April at 9:00am. During the Easter break Fr John will be contactable on our after-hours number for funeral arrangements and end of life anointing.

KIDS AT MASS NEXT SATURDAY Kids at Mass will be back next Saturday 28 March. All school-aged children are welcome to attend. The children will join our leaders at the beginning of 6:00pm Mass and will gather in PACE for a Palm Sunday activity. The next K@M session will be Saturday 2 May.

CARITAS MISSION FACILITATOR: MICHAEL MCGIRR We 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 unable to speak at 10:00am Mass at OLN.



PROJECT COMPASSION Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.



HOW TO DONATE: 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 Jerusalem



MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026 Where does the word "Synod" come from? The word Synod comes from the Greek syn-hodos, meaning "walking together on the road." This reminds us that the Christian life is never meant to be lived alone. Faith is a shared journey, where we support one another, listen to one another, and discern together how best to follow Christ.

CAMPAIGN FOR SLAVERY-FREE EASTER CHOCOLATE Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) invites you to help eliminate human trafficking and modern slavery, and the harm they cause, in Australia, the Asia Pacific region and globally. Join ACRATH's Easter Campaign and feel good about the chocolate you purchase and consume this Easter. Together, we can make a change! Join ACRATH's Easter Campaign - spread the word! Make every choice count this Easter. www.acrath.org.au For more resources and stats, scan the QR code

Parishioners can call for stronger government action to ensure chocolate sold in Australia is free from exploitation by completing the 'Sweet on Chocolate' card and post free to Baptist World Aid. Cards are available on some church entrance tables.



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 MARCH (WEEK 4)		
MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Jon Fleming	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 & 29 MARCH (WEEK 5) PALM SUNDAY		
MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Paul Whiting & Georgina Kucera	Kathy Ferguson
OLN 10:00am	Coral D'Cruz, Mark Donahoo & Natale Cutri	Doug D'Cruz
St T's 6.00pm	Anne Lechte & Eve Korytkowski	Teresa Pong
St T's 9.00am	Margie Kerr, Lynette Russo & Christine Nelson	Marg Tormey & Tony Belcastro
St T's 10.30am	Rosa Pierorazio & Mary O'Brien	Marita Hased-Dunne
Online resource for Sunday Readings: https://sundayreadingsandreflections.a.weebly.com/Urtl0m1hb.html		

PARISH CALENDAR

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	Easter 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	Easter Mass at Arcadia Aged Care Easter Mass at Trevi Court Aged Care	11:00am 1:30pm
Friday 27 March	Tiny Ts Playgroup end of term party 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
Thursday 2 April	Holy Thursday Final day of school term 1 Parish office closes for extended Easter break Mass of the Lord's Supper at OLN Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Therese's Altar of Repose at St Therese's church	3:00pm 5:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm – 10:30pm
Friday 3 April	Good Friday Holy Places Appeal Stations of the Cross (both churches) Way of the Cross beginning at St Therese's church Veneration of the Cross (both churches)	10:00am 10:00am 3:00pm
Saturday 4 April	Holy Saturday Holy Saturday Easter Vigil at OLN Holy Saturday Easter Vigil at St Therese's	5:00pm 6:00pm
Sunday 5 April	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord Easter Sunday Masses at St Therese's Easter Sunday Mass at OLN	9:00am & 10:30am 10:00am
Monday 6 April	Easter Monday Public Holiday Statue of Our Lady moves to the Rodrigues family	

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

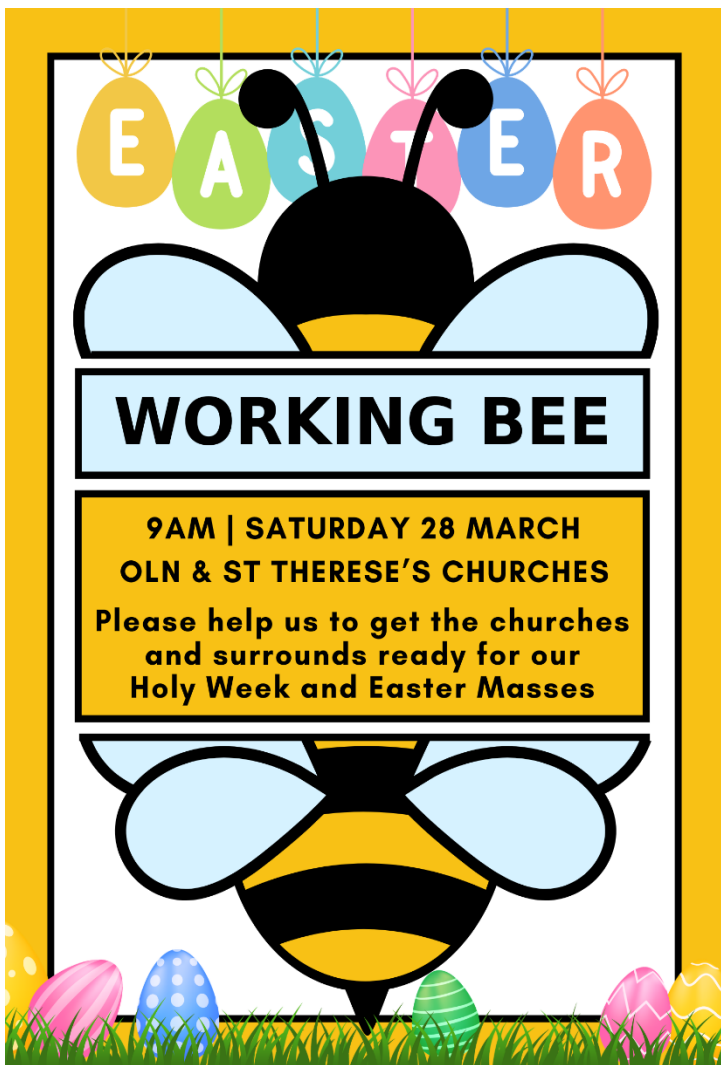
To subscribe to our newsletter go to the link below or use the QR code:

<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.



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

Tiny Ts Playgroup

EASTER PARTY

Friday 27 March 10:30am

St Therese's PACE Function Room
 48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon

COST: Free including food and games

Everyone is welcome - please RSVP via email so we can organise catering

EMAIL: stthereses.tinyts@gmail.com

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**

