

The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

28 & 29 March: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Year A

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese. As we begin Holy Week, today's Gospel recounts the Passion of our Lord Jesus. Pope Leo tells us: 'Jesus does not face his passion out of fatalism, but out of fidelity to a path freely and carefully accepted and followed.' As Pope Leo explains, 'the gift of his life stems from conscious intention, not a sudden impulse.' Christ chose his path. And he did so for us.

Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem: Matthew. 21: 1-11

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"

When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord has need of them," and he will send them immediately'. This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass'. The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem

all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2 (R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Gospel Acclamation: Philippians 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel: Matthew 26:14 – 27:66

The Passion and death of Jesus.

INTERCESSIONS

Sisters and brothers, let us make our prayers before God, the Father of our Saviour.

That through compassion and self-giving, the Holy Church will follow the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ during Holy Week.

For peoples ravaged by violence and war: that peace will reign.

For those who suffer in mind and body: that we will recognise their needs and act.

For all who suffer injustice as Jesus did and for those who take up the cross to follow Jesus. May our work to end injustice bring peace, healing and unity in the face of all the challenges facing humanity.

We pray for those who are ill especially Jaci Teal and Christine Wall.

We pray for those who have died recently especially Ron Cooper, Iolanda Drufuca, John Taylor and Carmela Meoli. And for those we remember at this time, especially: Malachi Carroll, Daniel & Jean McAuslan, John Hardwick, Angela & Giuseppe Panuccio, Rocco & Carmela Calabro and Bill Kennedy.

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 Easter Masses at St Therese's while Fr Tony presides at both Easter Masses at OLN.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASSES We always 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. There will be a very simplified parish bulletin on the weekend of 11 & 12 April which will be printed before Thursday 2 April. Anyone wishing to include names in the intercessions for the weekend 11 & 12 April should email them to the parish office (or phone and leave the names on our voicemail) this weekend.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK & FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS DURING OFFICE CLOSURE Fr John will be contactable on our after-hours number (ph 0490 956 610 for answering service) for funeral arrangements and end of life anointing.

KIDS AT MASS THIS SATURDAY We welcome our Kids at Mass team this Saturday to 6:00pm Mass at St Therese's. 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.

MEN'S CHOIR THIS SUNDAY We welcome our Men's Choir to 10:30am morning Mass this Sunday at St Therese's.

BREAK IN AND THEFT AT PARISH OFFICE In the early hours of Tuesday 24 March, there was a break-in and theft at our parish office. After a concerted effort, damaging window frames in his attempts, the thief was ultimately successful and stole cash collected at last weekend's Masses as well as some donated to Project Compassion. It is likely that a break in at St Monica's on that date was the same thief. This is the second break-in at our parish office in the past 18 months. Catholic parishes are frequently targets of this type of crime because it's known we collect cash at our Masses. Cash collections continue to pose a security risk to our parish and we would like to minimise this risk as far as possible. If you can, please make donations at Mass on our TapNGo machines, rather than cash on the plates. For parishioners who give via envelopes, we ask that (where possible) you change over to regular direct debit arrangements using a credit card or a bank account. In the meantime, we have increased security measures at the parish office as much as possible but unfortunately no building is impregnable. While we are undertaking repairs to the parish office please hold on to your Project Compassion money boxes. We understand police have identified the thief.

WAY OF THE CROSS ON THE STREETS The live-action Way of the Cross which has been held from St Therese's for the past two years will not go ahead this year. It should return in 2027 at the new location of Lincoln Park, Essendon.

PROJECT COMPASSION As Project Compassion 2026 comes to a close, we thank you for your generous support throughout Lent. This year, we shared the stories of four inspiring people whose lives are being uplifted through your compassion.



Your support is helping them overcome challenges and build stronger futures. There is still time to donate! Together, we can continue nurturing hope and empowering communities facing poverty and injustice.

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/>

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026 Synodality is not new. Synodality is not a modern invention. From the earliest days of the Church, Christians gathered to pray, listen, and discern together. In the Acts of the Apostles, the Church faced difficult questions and resolved them not through power struggles, but through prayer, dialogue, and trust in the Holy Spirit

CAMPAIGN FOR SLAVERY-FREE EASTER CHOCOLATE Join ACRATH's (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking) Easter Campaign, You can call for stronger government action to ensure chocolate sold in Australia is free from exploitation by completing the 'Sweet on Chocolate' card (on entrance tables) and post free to Baptist World Aid.

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 & 29 MARCH (WEEK 5) PALM SUNDAY

MASS	READERS	EUCCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Paul Whiting, Georgina Kucera & Coral D'Cruz	Kathy Ferguson
OLN 10:00am	Coral D'Cruz, Mark Donahoo & Natale Cutri	Doug D'Cruz
St T's 6.00pm	Anne Lechte, Eve Korytkowski & Tric Carr	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 & Lucy Angelico	Marita Hassed-Dunne

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND 4 & 5 APRIL (WEEK 1) EASTER

MASS	READERS	EUCCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Jon Fleming, John Harris & Natale Cutri	Kathleen Ferguson & Fred Grima
OLN 10:00am	Paula O'Byrne	Andrew Scaramozzino & Doug D'Cruz
St T's 6.00pm	Eve Korytkowski, Tric Joseph, Tony Proctor & Lucy Angelico	Gina Bell, Maggie Catterall & Marita Hassed-Dunne
St T's 9.00am	Mary Dowling & Margaret Kerr	Carmen Merrigan & Greg Johnson
St T's 10.30am	Silvia Campo & George Jungwirt	Miriam Gandolfo & Maria Giampiccolo

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

PARISH CALENDAR

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	Requiem Mass for John Taylor at OLN church Communal Reconciliation Service at St Therese's church	1:00pm 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 Paraliturgy at St Therese's	9:00am 10:45am
Thursday 2 April	Holy Thursday Final day of school term 1 Requiem Mass for Carmela Meoli at St Therese's Parish office closes for 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	10:00am 3:00pm 5:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm – 10:30pm
Friday 3 April	Good Friday Holy Places Appeal Stations of the Cross (both churches) Veneration of the Cross (both churches)	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	
Tuesday 7 April	Parish office closed for Easter break Sharing Memories Group morning tea in the Annex	10:30am
Wednesday 8 April	Parish office closed for Easter break Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Requiem Mass for Ron Cooper at St Therese's	9:00am 11:30am
Thursday 9 April	Parish office closed for Easter break SVPD Regional Council meeting in PACE	7:00pm
Friday 10 April	Parish office closed for Easter break	
Sunday 12 April	Second Sunday of Easter: Divine Mercy Sunday	
Monday 13 April	Statue of Our Lady moves to the D'Cruz family Alpha Connect evening in PACE function room	7:00pm
Tuesday 14 April	Parish office reopens Centring Prayer group gathering in PACE function room	9:00am 7:00pm

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.

KAM IS HERE THIS WEEKEND
SATURDAY 28 MARCH
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 2 MAY

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

All-weather with indoor and outdoor space
For infant to school-aged children
Grandparents welcome!



From Next Term Moving to 10:30am Friday

WHEN: Friday mornings in school terms
10:30am - 11:30am

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

COST: Free of charge

EMAIL: stthereses.tinyts@gmail.com

THERE'S A SEAT FOR YOU AT THE TABLE

AT ALPHA, YOU CAN ASK ANYTHING!
ALPHA IS A SAFE SPACE WHERE YOU CAN ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE, FAITH AND MEANING
A SEAT AT THE TABLE HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR YOU
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS COME

OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY HALL
29 FAWKNER ST ABERFELDIE (OPPOSITE BATMAN ST)
STARTING TUESDAY 28 APRIL AT 07:00 PM



REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL
SCAN QR CODE
OR CALL 9401-6330

