



The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

7 & 8 March: Third Sunday in Lent Year A

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese. The Samaritan woman at the well is a summary of how people came to understand Jesus: first as a Jew; then as a prophet; then as the Messiah; then as the saviour of the world. She is one of the first witnesses who leads others to Jesus. Her past does not hinder her from being a messenger of Good News. 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: Exodus 17:3-7

Give us water to drink.

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation: See John 4:42. 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;

give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: *Shorter form* John 4:5-15. 19-26. 39-42

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

INTERCESSIONS

For the Church in Melbourne: That our Synod may be a true moment of encounter, listening and renewal, where every voice is welcomed and our response to Jesus' call of 'I thirst' inspires our discernment

For vulnerable communities who thirst for justice and security, that our support for Project Compassion will be a sign to them of the love of God for all people.

For those caught up in increasing conflict the Middle East let us continue to pray for peace. May diplomacy prevail and may the well-being of peoples, who yearn for peaceful existence founded on justice, be upheld.

We pray for those who are ill especially Terese Dynon. For those who have died recently especially Jorge Arenivar, George Bugeja, Lucia Ferella, Maurie Saunders and Agata D'Andrea. And for those we remember at this time, especially: Vincenzo Romeo, Rachel & Damiano Galle, John Synan, Judy Dunstan, Saveria Di Giovanni and Joe D'Cruz.

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.



PROJECT COMPASSION THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT Monoranjon lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.



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: <http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/>



MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026 On the third Sunday of Lent, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will formally convoke a Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The synod calls the Melbourne Church to journey together in communion, participation and mission, echoing Pope Francis' vision of a 'listening Church' (Evangelii Gaudium, §31). Informed by Vatican II's teaching, the Church is 'a people made one with the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit' (Lumen Gentium, §4).

There are three themes about which the church of Melbourne is being invited to discern: Young Discipleship, Missionary Leadership and Formation and Participation.

The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4 to 6 December 2026. Over these next months, a range of opportunities will be available for Melbourne Catholics to be part of the consultation process toward the synod. In the meantime, further information can be accessed at 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 (ITC 68) for mission' (Final Document, §87).

NEW CENTRING PRAYER GROUP A centring prayer group will commence this Tuesday 10 March and will 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. 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 Microsoft subscribers (email IDs with Hotmail, live, outlook and msn) who had explicitly opted in via the PACEM subscription link will now receive newsletters via our usual Friday mail out. On-hold subscribers imported during our PACEM migration will get a one-time email invite by next week. Those people will need to opt in to receive the newsletter via email each week. Our newsletter is always available to read online at <https://www.essendoncatholic.org.au/news-events/weekly-bulletin/> and anyone wanting to subscribe can do so here: <https://www.melbocatholic.org/s/subscription?id=0012w00000LOj4wAAD&req=subscribe>

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.

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 MARCH (WEEK 2)

MASS	READERS	EUCCHARIST
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

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR NEXT 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

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

PARISH CALENDAR

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 Alpha Connect evening in PACE function room	7:00pm
Tuesday 10 March	Requiem Mass for Agata D'Andrea at OLN church Centring Prayer group gathering in PACE function room	11:00am 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 Requiem Mass for Jorge Arenivar at St Therese's church SVDP Regional Council meeting in PACE	10:30am 11:30am 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
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

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

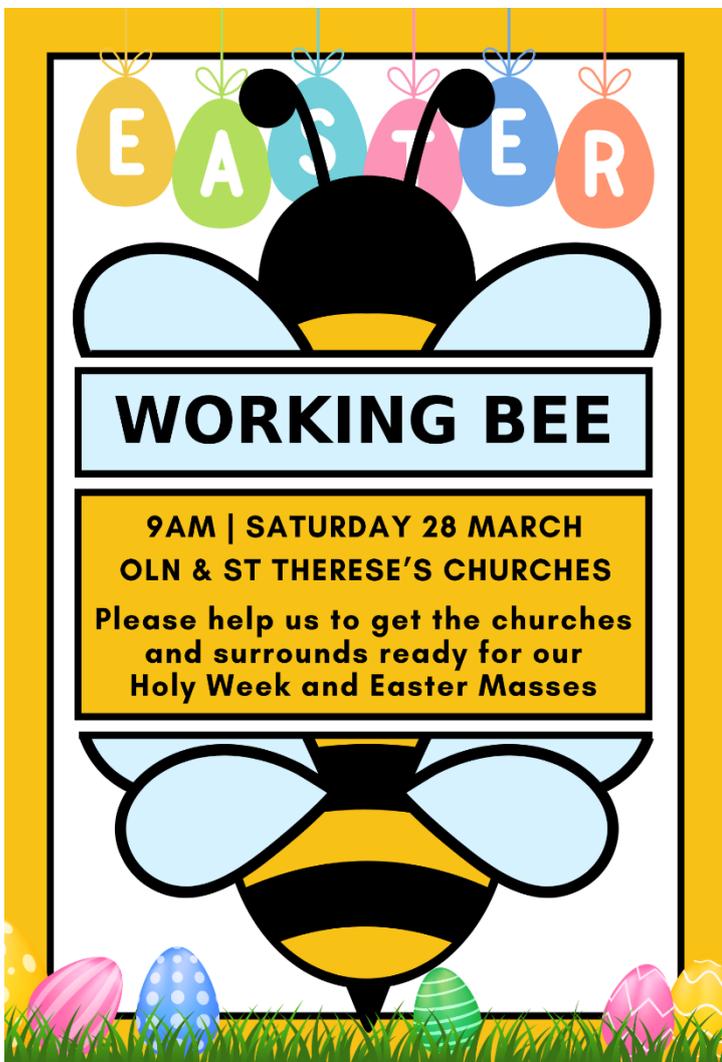
To subscribe to our newsletter go to the link below or use the QR code:

<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?

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



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

