

The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

2 & 3 May: Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A
CatholicCare Sunday Appeal

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese. May is traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, offering Catholics a special time for prayer, devotion, and veneration of the Mother of God. During May we'll begin each weekend Mass in communal prayer:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women,

and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Gospel Acclamation: John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you,

and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me;

so that where I am

you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?

Do you not believe

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly,

whoever believes in me

will perform the same works as I do myself,

he will perform even greater works,

because I am going to the Father.'

INTERCESSIONS

Brothers and sisters, the Lord has chosen us and blessed us, and so we seek him confidently with our prayers.

For our Church leaders: we pray that their leadership inspires us to value the unique dignity of all humans and keep working towards a just and compassionate society where all community members have an opportunity to live life to the full.

For our parish community: we pray that we may continue to grow as caring witnesses, walking more intentionally in Jesus' footsteps seeking to reflect God's love for every person and enabling opportunities for growth and transformation for individuals, families and communities.

For the staff and volunteers of CatholicCare Victoria: we pray that their work results in delivering services and programs that are grounded in love, leading to connection, improved relationships, and transformed life experiences for those who need support.

That those who are lonely and sad will experience God's friendship through others.

We pray for those who are ill especially: Mario Abela and Bridget Garden. We pray for those who have died recently especially Campbell Wight & Joan Halvorsen (nee Sully). And for those we remember at this time, especially: Carmen Edwards, Denis O'Sullivan, Robert Salpietro, Armando Catania, Mario Campo, Patricia Fraser, Madge Dobson, Giuseppe Dimasi, Henry Gerstner-Stevens, Margaret Jenkins, Warrick Stannus and Maria Terese Quattrone.

Loving God, hear these petitions which we humbly place before you, through Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen

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



CATHOLICCARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL THIS WEEKEND This weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. CatholicCare Victoria works with those facing homelessness, those experiencing mental health challenges, families struggling with relationship problems, newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers, and those experiencing grief and trauma. This year, the Appeal aims to give hope and support to people experiencing homelessness. Our faith calls us to welcome the stranger and care for those most in need. Your compassion ensures individuals and families are supported with safe housing, practical assistance, and compassionate care as they rebuild their lives. You can donate using the appeal envelope available in our parish, donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9967 2515. All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible.



MASS COUNT BEGINS THIS WEEKEND We thank our collectors who will be conducting the Parish Mass 'count' beginning this weekend and throughout May. The weekends are: 2 & 3 May, 9 & 10 May, 16 & 17 May and 23 & 24 May. This year marks a significant milestone as the 6th National Count of Attendance and 25 years of national attendance data, beginning with the first count in 2001. All dioceses and eparchies across all the states in Australia will be undertaking the National Count in the same way. The 2026 results will provide valuable insights into long-term trends, particularly in understanding the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHAT IS GRIEF: SHARING MEMORIES GROUP SPECIAL GUEST The Sharing Memories Group will welcome guest speaker Heather Somerville this coming Tuesday. Heather is currently Director of Pastoral and Spiritual Care at St Vincent's Health Australia. Heather is a clinical pastoral education consultant supporting and providing education and formation for pastoral care practitioners. Everyone is invited to listen to Heather's talk on Tuesday 5 May at 10:30am in the Annex (room located at the rear of St Therese's church.)

KIDS AT MASS We welcome our K@M team to Saturday 6:00pm Mass at St Therese's. The group will gather at the beginning of Mass and will proceed to the PACE function room for their session.

OLN PRESBYTERY Our commercial tenants at 33 Fawkner St have vacated after a two-year lease and we are undertaking improvements to meet the requirements for residential rental.

LEADLIGHT REPAIRS AT ST THERESE'S CHURCH Urgent works required to one window in the church tower begin this Monday 4 May to make the window safe. The window will be removed for repairs and boarded up until re-install.

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026 Synodality and priests. For priests, synodality is not an added burden but a way of exercising ministry in communion. When priests foster listening and participation, parishes become more alive, missionary, and joyful. The priest presides at the Eucharist, but the whole community contributes to the Church's mission. You can learn more about the Melbourne Synod at <https://melbournecatholic.org/synod2026>

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS Are made from wheat starch and water with a gluten content of 6.2 parts per million.

Lebanon Emergency Relief Appeal
The situation in Lebanon remains extremely fragile – over 1.1 million people displaced nationwide. Stand with the people of Lebanon today.

DONATE NOW
caritas.org.au/lebanon



CARITAS AUSTRALIA LEBANON EMERGENCY APPEAL The situation in Lebanon remains extremely fragile, and civilians urgently need humanitarian support. More than 2,000 people have been killed and over 1.1 million people displaced nationwide, including more than 390,000 children. Our partners Caritas Lebanon continue to deliver emergency food, water, shelter and health support across the country, maintaining humanitarian convoys to hard-to-reach areas in southern Lebanon. Stand with the people of Lebanon today. Learn more or make a donation today at www.caritas.org.au/lebanon

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR THIS WEEKEND 2 & 3 MAY (WEEK 1)

MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Jon Fleming	Tatiana Polizzi
OLN 10:00am	Paula O'Byrne	Andrew Scaramozzino
St T's 6.00pm	Eve Korytkowski	Gina Bell & Maggie Catterall
St T's 9.00am	Mary Dowling & Margaret Kerr	Carmen Merrigan & Rosina Tempini
St T's 10.30am	Silvia Campo & George Jungwirt	Miriam Gandolfo & Maria Giampiccolo

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND 9 & 10 MAY (WEEK 2)

MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST
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

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

PARISH CALENDAR

Weekend 2 & 3 May	Annual Parish Mass Count: Week 1 CatholicCare Appeal Weekend	All Masses
Saturday 2 May	Kids at Mass at St Therese's	6:00pm
Sunday 3 May	Fifth Sunday of Easter	
Monday 4 May	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Draim family	
Tuesday 5 May	Parish office closed for staff training Liturgy of the Word replaces morning Mass Sharing Memories Group morning tea in the Annex	10:00am 10:30am
Wednesday 6 May	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store	9:00am 10:45am
Thursday 7 May	Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room Mass at Trevi Court Aged Care	10:30am 11:00am
Friday 8 May	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room	10:30am
Weekend 9 & 10 May	Annual Parish Mass Count: Week 2	All Masses
Sunday 10 May	Sixth Sunday of Easter Mother's Day	
Monday 11 May	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Notaro family Alpha Connect evening in PACE function room	7:00pm
Tuesday 12 May	Centring Prayer group gathering in PACE function room	7:00pm
Wednesday 13 May	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
Thursday 14 May	SVDP Regional Council meeting in PACE	7:00pm
Friday 15 May	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room	10:30am
Weekend 16 & 17 May	Annual Parish Mass Count: Week 3 Presentation Masses for Sacrament of Confirmation at OLN	All Masses
Sunday 17 May	The Ascension of the Lord Laudato Si' Week begins 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 18 May	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Lambert family SVDP Essendon Conference meeting in PACE	7:00pm
Wednesday 20 May	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store	9:00am 10:45am
Thursday 21 May	Mass of Anointing at St Therese's Parish Friendship Group Biggest Morning Tea in PACE	10:00am 10:40am
Friday 22 May	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room	10:30am

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: 9:00am until 3:00pm Tuesday to Friday

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.

SHARING *memories*

A Friendship group supporting parishioners through life's challenges:

- Grief and loss
- Relationship breakdowns
- Life changes

Tuesday 5 May
With Special Guest Speaker
Heather Somerville

Presentation & Morning Tea
 10:30am in the Annex
 (room located behind St Therese's church)

~YOU ARE WELCOME

Weekend 2 & 3 May

CatholicCare Appeal

Your generosity helps open the door to safety, dignity and hope

DONATE TODAY
 Scan to donate now



Or call (03) 9967 2515
www.catholiccarevic.org.au



You can donate using the appeal envelope available in our parish, donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9967 2515.

All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible.

*"For I was a stranger and you welcomed me."
 (Matthew 25:35)*

KAM IS THIS WEEKEND
SATURDAY 2 MAY
 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 13 JUNE**

Tiny Ts Playgroup



**MOTHER'S DAY
 CRAFT & COOKIES**
Friday 8 May at 10:30am
St Therese's PACE Function Room
48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon

COST: Free including food and activities
EMAIL: stthereses.tinyts@gmail.com
 Everyone is welcome - please RSVP via email

Parish of Our Lady and St Therese **MEN'S COFFEE GROUP**

SAVE THE DATES

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



Senior Friendship Group Morning Tea

PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS OF
OUR PARISH ARE INVITED TO

**PACE Function Room
Thursday 21 May
from 10:45am
(After Anointing Mass)**

Donations on the day will go to
Cancer Council Australia's
Biggest Morning Tea

Donate online using the QR code or go to:
<https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/fundraisers/FriendshipGroup>



Cancer Council
Australia's Biggest
Morning Tea



Save for a
greater reward

5.35% p.a.*

**12-month Term Investment
with CDF Community Fund**

catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer

*Rate subject to change. Interest paid at maturity.
Visit our website to open an account and
view the disclosure statement.



SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTIONS GROUP

The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese

Parishioners and other interested people are invited to attend
our weekly Gospel reflections session

**PACE Meeting Room
Thursdays 10:30am**

Weekly Meetings are held after 10:00am Mass on
Thursdays for a short session (one hour maximum)

A great way to meet and engage with people who share a
passion for scripture

Look at Sunday's Gospel with a focus on reflections
written by His Holiness Pope Francis

Printed materials are provided to participants.

No need to book, just turn up for the session.

**PACE is located at
48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon**