

# The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

4 & 5 April: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord Year A

*Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese. Dawn has Broken – The Son is Risen. Women go to the tomb as dawn is breaking. The Power of Darkness which had Jesus unjustly sentenced, cruelly tortured and buried in the pitch blackness of the tomb, is conquered by the Son-Rise of all sun rises flooding our world and the whole of human history with Divine Light and Energy.*

*This is the heart of our faith as Catholic Christians, which we celebrate with bon-fire (good fire) in darkness at the Easter Vigil. From that earthly element we light the Easter candle and the Exsultet is sung: 'Be glad, let earth be glad as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King.'*

*Christ's body was transfigured by the energy of Divine Love and we can, by grace, participate in that resurrection life of Our Lord. A glorious destiny awaits us, as indeed it awaits the whole cosmos as it is to be transformed by that resurrection life recreating the whole of creation.*

*We could take a moment to pray that we, along with all that matters, are graced with the life-giving energy of the Risen Son and that we may join Mary of Magdala in spreading the Good News of Christ's victory over death.*  
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**First Reading:** Acts of the Apostles 10:34. 37-43

*We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had

chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 117:1-2. 16-17 22-23. R. v.24 (R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

**Gospel Acclamation:** 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;  
let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew 28:1-10

*He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee.*

After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him." Now I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings,' he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'

## INTERCESSIONS

*Sisters and brothers, rejoicing in Christ's triumph over death, we bring our prayers before the God of glory.*

We pray for the Pope: may he be a living symbol of Easter joy and a sign of hope to the world.

That nations in conflict will be led from war and death into peace and new life.

That missionaries and all who dedicate their lives to God will find strength in their faith and draw inspiration from the Easter message.

That our parish community will be filled with the joy of Easter and find strength to reflect the risen Christ in all that we do.

We pray for those who are ill especially Christine Wall.

We pray for those who have died recently especially Carmela Meoli. And for those we remember at this time, especially: Ann Pitt, John Sweeney, Elio Dessardo, Carl Pereira, Brian Riley, Aileen Sheean, John Hardwick, Godfrey Gilmour, Ivor & Lorraine Perdrisat, Pat Nash, Vincenzo Misale, Salvatore Ganci, Paul Garro, Joza & Roza Bacak and Stella Gatt.

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

## ARCHBISHOP'S EASTER MESSAGE: EASTER OFFERS A WAY FORWARD

Friends,

Easter invites us to stand at the threshold from night into dawn. In the Gospel, we meet Mary Magdalen arriving at the tomb while it was still dark (Jn 20:1). She carries grief and confusion, yet a fragile hope. What she finds is not an ending but a beginning: the stone is rolled away, the tomb is empty. And before her stands the One who knows her name: Mary.

As dawn breaks, a quiet truth emerges: death has not had the final word; life has arisen. The resurrection unfolds like morning light. It does not blind, but illumines. It does not erase wounds, but transfigures them. Christ, the Light of the World, comes to meet us as the light we need. Christ is present; Christ is life. Yet many today experience absence. For the young especially, the world can feel stripped of mystery—flattened, reduced. Meaning feels distant; hope can seem lost. Our lives can appear dark and empty. Conflict and war confront us.

And yet, it is precisely there that Easter speaks our name. The empty tomb is the sign which awakens us to the truth that God is still with us; Jesus is still for us. This Easter, we are called not only to receive Christ's light, but to rediscover its wonder—and to bear that light for others.

Here in Melbourne, we see both vitality and vulnerability: generosity among neighbours, yet distance towards others. Into this world comes the risen Christ, shining light into every

darkness and upon every life. To be a light is to reflect the One who brings hope, and to keep it alive in a world that can forget to hold in safety those in need.

In our divided and conflicted world, Easter offers not escape but a way forward: to live with compassion, seek truth, build peace, and stand for hope.

To the steadfast in faith: may this Easter renew your joy and courage. To those who feel distant: the light of Christ is already seeking you. To people of goodwill: Easter proclaims that life is stronger than death, love stronger than fear, and hope stronger than despair.

May the risen Christ bless Melbourne and all its people this Easter. And may we rediscover his company as we walk from darkness into his marvelous light.

Christ is risen. Alleluia.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli : Archbishop of Melbourne

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**OFFICE CLOSURE** The parish office is closed for the week following Easter Sunday and 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 has already been printed. We will have our usual bulletin back on the weekend 18 & 19 April.

**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.

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**REDUCING CASH/REDUCING RISK** We have experienced two break-ins at our parish office in the past 18 months. 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.

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**MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026** A Synod is not a parliament. The Church is not a democracy where truth is decided by majority vote. A Synod is not about winning arguments or pushing agendas. Instead, it is a spiritual process of listening deeply—to God, to Scripture, to tradition, and to one another—so that decisions are shaped by faith and mission, not ideology. You can learn more about the Melbourne Synod at <https://melbournecatholic.org/synod2026>

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**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 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

### MINISTRY ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND 11 & 12 APRIL (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

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

PARISH CALENDAR

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 No Gospel Reflections group this week SVDP 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
Wednesday 15 April	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store	9:00am 10:45am
Thursday 16 April	Parish Friendship Group Morning Tea in PACE	10:30am
Saturday 18 April	Men's Choir singing at Our Lady of the Nativity	5:00pm
Sunday 19 April	Third Sunday of Easter 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 20 April	First day of school term 2 Statue of Our Lady moves to the D'Cruz family SVDP Essendon Conference meeting in PACE	7:00pm
Tuesday 21 April	Mass at Ryman Raelene Boyle Village Aged Care	11:00am
Wednesday 22 April	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
Thursday 23 April	Gospel Reflection Group meet in PACE meeting room Mass at Arcadia Aged Care	10:30am 11:00am
Friday 24 April	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](mailto:essendon@cam.org.au) **Website:** [www.essendoncatholic.org.au](http://www.essendoncatholic.org.au)

**Office hours:** Closed until Tuesday 14 April  
**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.*

# Parish Friendship Group Morning Tea

**PACE FUNCTION ROOM  
Tuesday 16 April  
from 10:30am  
(After morning Mass)**

*A Speaker from Hear4Life, an  
Independent Audiologist, Phung  
La will give a brief talk on hearing  
and the consequences of not  
hearing clearly*

*All welcome*

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

## **SHARING**

# *memories*

A Friendship group supporting  
parishioners through life's  
challenges including:

- Grief and loss
- Relationship breakdowns
- Life changes

Monthly Morning Tea  
First Tuesday of each month  
10:30am in the Annex  
(room located behind St Therese's church)

**Next date: Tuesday 7 April**

**- YOU ARE WELCOME**

# **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

