



The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

16 & 17 May: The Ascension of the Lord Year A
Laudato Si' Week "From Hope to Action"

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese. The ascension of Jesus is the pinnacle of his victory over sin and death. It is a day of joy and hope. Jesus hasn't left us, but is still with us, helping us in our struggles.

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 1:1-11

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority,

but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

INTERCESSIONS

My sisters and brothers, awaiting the return of Jesus let us pray to the God of all life for the needs of world.

That the Holy Church will continue to bear witness to the Gospel with grace and courage.

For our communities and families: may we put our hope into action during Laudato Si' Week as we take one meaningful action to care for others and our common home.

We pray for all who attend our Alpha program and pray that God prepares the hearts and the minds of all the guests to help them explore Jesus' character and nature.

That our parish community may be inspired by the joy and hope of Christ's Ascension into heaven.

We pray for the children who are welcomed into our parish community this weekend in preparation for their Baptism and our Year Six children from Our Lady of the Nativity who present themselves at Mass in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

We pray for those who are ill. We pray for those who have died recently especially Karen Egan. And for those we remember at this time, especially: Giuseppe & Luigi Bentivoglio, Bob Godden, Des Duffy, Luigi Cardamone, Shirley Cullum, Maria Cutajar and Nazarena Grech.

God of all creation, through the prayers we offer, guide our deeds and words so that all may be drawn into the embrace of your mercy. We ask this through Christ our 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.

PARISH MORNING TEAS THIS SUNDAY This weekend parishioners are welcomed to morning tea after Sunday morning Masses at both churches. At St Therese's church parishioners and visitors are invited to gather in the Annex (at the rear of St Therese's church) and at OLN the morning tea will be held in the church foyer.



Image credit: Laudato Si Movement

LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2026 'FROM HOPE TO ACTION' Each year, the global Church unites to celebrate Laudato Si' Week. The Laudato Si' Movement, a global network of more than 900 Catholic organisations, asks individuals, families, parishes, schools and local communities to reflect, pray and take thoughtful steps to protect the environment. Laudato Si' Week 2026 invites us to move from hope to action and reminds us that ecological conversion grows step by step—through relationships restored, creation protected, and communities strengthened. It is a renewed invitation to: pray deeply, reflect honestly & act concretely. Find out more at: <https://laudatosimovement.org/news/save-the-date-for-laudato-si-week-2026/>



ANOINTING MASS AND BIGGEST MORNING TEA On Thursday 21 May our 10:00am morning Mass will be a Mass of Anointing. Following Mass our Parish Friendship Group are hosting a Biggest Morning Tea to raise funds for Cancer Council. Please come along and give generously to help support the important work of Cancer Council. Almost 1 in 2 Australians will be diagnosed with cancer before the age of 85. Our morning tea will help raise vital funds to bring us closer to a cancer free future. Cancer Council is the largest non-government funder of cancer research in the country, and thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, have been able to invest almost \$250 million in Australian cancer research in the past 5 years. Investment in research has helped increase cancer survival rates from 49% in the 1980s to 71% today.

If you can't attend the morning tea you can donate online by using the QR code on the last page of the bulletin or go to: <https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/fundraisers/FriendshipGroup>

PROJECT COMPASSION RECEIPTS FOR CASH DONATIONS Parishioners who donated CASH to Project Compassion AND requested a receipt can now collect the receipt from the parish office. Caritas will send receipts for credit card, cheque or online donations. The parish only issues receipts for cash donations where requested.

COASTREK: BEYOND BLUE Parishioner and parish volunteer Eve Korytkowski will be hiking 20km along the Mornington Peninsula in support of Beyond Blue on Friday 22 May. For information about Coastrek and to donate to the fundraising cause go to: <https://www.coastrek.com.au/fundraisers/evекorytkowski/mornington-peninsula-20km-2026>

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026 Synodality is about mission. The purpose of synodality is not internal reform for its own sake. Its goal is evangelisation—helping the Church become more faithful, more welcoming, and more effective in proclaiming the Gospel to today's world. You can learn more about the Melbourne Synod at <https://melbournecatholic.org/synod2026>

FRANCISCUS: CELEBRATING 800 YEARS OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI The Capuchin Franciscan Friars are hosting a 2-day Conference at St Anthony's, Hawthorn on the weekend of 30th-31st May to celebrate this Jubilee Year of St Francis of Assisi. Light lunch provided. For more details, and to Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/DMBUF>

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC DIGEST The latest edition of the Melbourne Catholic Digest is now available and is offered especially for elderly parishioners who do not have online access. We have a limited number of printed copies available at our churches. Online version is here: <https://melbournecatholic.org/melbourne-catholic-digest-archive>

ARCHDIOCESAN CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL Parishes, communities and all of the faithful are warmly invited to join the annual Archdiocesan Corpus Christi Procession as we walk through the streets of CBD Melbourne on Sunday 7 June. Beginning at 2.00pm from St Patrick's Cathedral and concluding at Fed Square.

NATIONAL MASS COUNT We thank our collectors who are conducting the Parish Mass 'count' throughout May.

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 16 & 17 MAY (WEEK 3)

MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Michael Portelli	Fred Grima
OLN 10:00am	Mark Donahoo	Adrian Commadeur
St T's 6.00pm	Alison Bretag	Tric Joseph & Trish Giacomin
St T's 9.00am	John Harvey	Maria Cricri
St T's 10.30am	Rosemary Patterson & Mary O'Brien	Cherrie Arnold & Therese Hanna

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND 23 & 24 MAY (WEEK 4)

MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Michael Balia	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

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

PARISH CALENDAR

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 Requiem Mass for Karen Egan at St Therese's church	10:30am 11:30am
Weekend 23 & 24 May	Annual Parish Mass Count – Week 4 Presentation Masses for Sacrament of First Eucharist at OLN	All Masses
Sunday 24 May	Pentecost Sunday Laudato Si' Week ends Parish Baptisms at St Therese's	12:00pm
Monday 25 May	Our Lady, Help of Christians, Patron of Australia Statue of Our Lady moves to the Condillac family	
Tuesday 26 May	Centring Prayer group gathering in PACE function room	7:00pm
Wednesday 27 May	National Reconciliation Week begins Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
Thursday 28 May	Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room	10:30am
Friday 29 May	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room Sacrament of Confirmation at Our Lady of the Nativity Sacrament of Confirmation at Our Lady of the Nativity	10:30am 4:30pm 6:30pm
Weekend 30 & 31 May	Vinnies Winter Appeal Launch Weekend Candidate Masses for First Reconciliation at St Therese's	All Masses
Saturday 30 May	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
Sunday 31 May	The Most Holy Trinity Men's Choir singing at St Therese's	9:00am
Tuesday 2 June	Sharing Memories Group morning tea in the Annex Mass at Ryman Raelene Boyle Village Aged Care	10:30am 11:00am
Wednesday 3 June	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store Faith night for First Reconciliation at St Therese's	9:00am 10:45am 6:45pm

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.

Parish of
Our Lady and St Therese

MEN'S COFFEE GROUP

SAVE THE DATES

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



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 2 June

— YOU ARE WELCOME

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

Tiny Ts Playgroup

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



Friday Mornings in PACE

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

1226-2026

Franciscus

CELEBRATING 800 YEARS OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

THE CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN FRIARS WILL BE HOSTING A 2-DAY CONFERENCE

TO CELEBRATE THIS JUBILEE YEAR OF ST FRANCIS
TO REFLECT UPON AND SHARE ABOUT THE AMAZING LIFE
AND ENDURING LEGACY OF THIS GREAT SAINT.

30-31
MAY
2026



TO REGISTER

ST ANTHONY'S
CAPUCHIN FRIARY
CHURCH
182 POWER STREET
HAWTHORN VIC
3122



Melbourne Catholic Professionals 2026

Upcoming events:

Thursday 11 June • RACV City
Thursday 20 August • RACV City
Thursday 22 October • ZINC



Your membership also includes an additional member-only event.
Details to be announced shortly. See updates on our website:

melbournecatholic.org/mcp

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**

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

