



The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

11 & 12 July: Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Marriage and Family Sunday: Sea Sunday

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon. God speaks his word to us in many ways. Jesus compared the word of God to a seed which can make our lives fruitful. If a seed is to produce a harvest it must be planted in good soil so Jesus asked his disciples, and asks us today, to scatter God's word everywhere and to rejoice when it does find good soil and yields a rich harvest. Jesus makes clear that only some people are open to understanding the depth of the message contained within his parables. Some people will only ever hear the story and never hear the message.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11

The rain makes the earth fruitful.

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 64:10-14 R. Lk 8:8

(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

Gospel Acclamation: John 15:26. 27

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

A sower went out to sow.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the

sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

SUNDAY READINGS WITH REFLECTIONS: <https://sundayreadingsandreflections.a.weebly.com/Urtl0m1hb.html>

DAILY MASS READINGS: <https://melbournecatholic.org/connect/daily-mass-readings>

INTERCESSIONS

Dear friends, let us bring our intentions before the Lord, who teaches us through his word.

That, like Christ the sower, our Holy Father, Pope Leo, will continue to reveal God's word to all people.

That we will respect and protect human life in all its stages, recognising it as a gift from God. [*Pope Leo's prayer intention for July 2026*]

For married couples and families: grant them patience and joy in their daily lives. Bring healing to broken relationships, comfort the broken-hearted, and guide those navigating separation or divorce into a future filled with hope.

We pray for seafarers from every nation; men and women whose sacrifices keep our world moving; that their work will be acknowledged, and the spiritual and material needs of them and their families will be met.

We pray for those who are ill. We pray for those who have died recently especially Joe Misale and Maurie Doyle. And for those we remember at this time, especially: Tony Palumbo, Joseph Gaffero, Susan Bullen and John Lacy.

Loving God, you call us to walk together in faith and unity. Hear these prayers and guide us in your ways. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

SEA SUNDAY Australian Catholics are encouraged to reflect on the lives and experiences of mariners on Sea Sunday and to consider supporting the work of Stella Maris, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church.

Fr Tony Cox, the National director of Stella Maris Australia says 'Sea Sunday is a time when we reflect on the lives and the work of all the seafarers of our world. Stella Maris continues to serve our human family, no matter the nationality, creed or background. Every visit, every conversation, is a seed planted in a life that is often hard, isolated and unseen.' For more information visit <https://www.stellamaris.org.au/>

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SUNDAY Celebrates the Sacrament of marriage and the vital role families play in building up flourishing homes to sustain our parishes and society. The Archdiocese celebrates this Sunday with a special Mass at the Cathedral to honour significant marriage anniversaries. Here in our parish we pray for our married couples and families.

CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL NEXT WEEKEND This year marks 100 years of World Mission Day, a time in which the global Church celebrates God's mission through prayer and generosity. We will hold our annual appeal next weekend to support the work of Catholic Mission.

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC DIGEST-OUT NOW The latest edition of the Melbourne Catholic Digest is now available from some church entry tables. We have a limited number of printed copies available or read it online at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/melbourne-catholic-digest-archive>

OPENING THE DOORS FOUNDATION APPEAL

Thanks so much to all those who gave generously to our Opening the Doors Foundation appeal last weekend. We've so far raised a total of \$4572.70, made up of \$1297.70 cash and \$3275 on our online giving page. If you'd still like to contribute the website is: <https://opening-the-doors-foundation-together-we-walk-2026.raiselysite.com/t/parish-ofourlady-andsttherese>

ST THERESE'S ROOF Repairs are complete and the scaffolding will be removed Tuesday/Wednesday. We hope the painting inside will start soon.

PARISH SUPPORT OFFERING ENVELOPES. There are a few remaining sets of 2026/2027 envelopes still to be collected and we have moved these back to the parish office. Please get in touch to arrange collection.

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026 Synodality and joy. When people are invited to participate meaningfully, joy increases. A synodal Church is not weighed down by bureaucracy but energised by shared mission. You can learn more about the Melbourne Synod at <https://melbournecatholic.org/synod2026>

THEME PAPER RELEASE The first two theme papers for our Melbourne Synod consultation: *Formation and Participation* and *Mission Leadership* were this week released to parishes across Melbourne. We have published the papers on our parish website: <https://www.essendoncatholic.org.au/melbourne-synod-2026-theme-paper-release/>

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

PRIESTS' MASS SCHEDULE

MASS	THIS WEEKEND	NEXT WEEKEND
OLN 5:00pm	Fr John Hannon	Fr Tony Feeney
OLN 10:00am	Fr John Hannon	Fr Tony Feeney
St T's 6.00pm	Fr Tony Feeney	Fr John Hannon
St T's 9.00am	Fr John Hannon	Fr John Hannon
St T's 10.30am	Fr Tony Feeney	Fr John Hannon

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR THIS WEEKEND 11 & 12 JULY (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	Rosemary Patterson	Rosa Pierorazio & Marg Moore

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND 18 & 19 JULY (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

WE'RE LOOKING FOR

VOLUNTEERS FOR KEY ROLES

Help us deliver the Parish Strategic Plan by joining one of our new teams:

- Social Activities Team
- Communications Team
- Multicultural Team

Over the next weeks we'll be advertising for applicants in these key roles

For more information or to register your interest scan the QR code



REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW

→ ESSENDON@CAM.ORG.AU

OR SCAN THE QR CODE



Share Your
Time & Talents

Parish Friendship Group Morning Tea

PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS OF
OUR PARISH ARE INVITED TO

**Morning Tea in
PACE Function Room
Thursday 16 July
from 10:45am
After Mass of Anointing
at St Therese's Church**

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


Reach out. Give life.


ONE IN CHRIST
UNITED IN
Mission
100 YEARS OF WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

**Catholic Mission Appeal
Next Weekend
18 & 19 July**

**Carry Christ's Love
to Malawi's Children**

catholicmission.org.au/united

PARISH CALENDAR	Sunday 12 July	Marriage and Family Sunday The Mission to Seafarers: Sea Sunday	
	Monday 13 July	First day of school term 3 Statue of Our Lady moves to the Rosario family Alpha Connect evening in PACE function room	7:00pm
	Tuesday 14 July	Centring Prayer group gathering in PACE function room	7:00pm
	Wednesday 15 July	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store	9:00am 10:45am
	Thursday 16 July	Mass of Anointing at St Therese's Parish Friendship Group morning tea in PACE	10:00am 10:40am
	Friday 17 July	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room	10:30am
	Weekend 18 & 19 July	Catholic Mission: Propagation of the Faith Appeal	
	Saturday 18 July	Grade 5 students and families Mass at OLN	5:00pm
	Sunday 19 July	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 July	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Grima family SVDP Essendon Conference meeting in PACE	7:00pm
	Tuesday 21 July	Mass at Ryman Raelene Boyle Village Aged Care	11:00am
	Wednesday 22 July	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Faith night for Sacrament of Confirmation at St Therese's	9:00am 6:45pm
	Thursday 23 July	Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room Mass at Arcadia Aged Care	10:30am 11:00am
	Friday 24 July	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room	10:30am
	Weekend 25 & 26 July	Candidate Masses for Confirmation at St Therese's	All Masses
	Saturday 25 July	Men's Choir singing at Our Lady of the Nativity church	5:00pm
	Sunday 26 July	Parish Baptisms at St Therese's	12:00pm
	Monday 27 July	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Dang family	
	Tuesday 28 July	Liturgy of the Word replaces morning Mass at St Therese's Centring Prayer group gathering in PACE function room	10:00am 7:00pm
	Wednesday 29 July	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
	Thursday 30 July	Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room Sacrament of Confirmation at St Therese's Sacrament of Confirmation at St Therese's	10:30am 4:30pm 6:30pm
	Friday 31 July	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 <i>Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.</i> <i>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.</i>	