

The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

15 & 16 August: Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon. In today's Gospel we meet a pagan woman who has the most extraordinary faith in Jesus, a faith that is rewarded with the cure of her sick daughter. During Mass let us, with faith, bring our needs and concerns to God, whose children we are.

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1.6-7

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4
(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his

feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

GOSPEL REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel provides a fascinating illustration of Jesus' response to those in need. Jesus has travelled to the area of Tyre and Sidon – part of modern day Lebanon. He was physically removing himself from the place of his very active ministry and taking a break. When the Canaanite woman approaches Jesus and his disciples, she is an interruption; a nuisance. Jesus is very abrupt with her. He tells her simply that his ministry is to the house of Israel – the Jews – and is not for her. But the woman is persistent and again asks Jesus to help her. Jesus is even more abrupt and tells her that it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs. Through this use of metaphor, Jesus refers to the children of Israel (the Jews) and to the gentiles and pagans – sometimes referred to as 'dogs' to reflect their lowly status in the eyes of the Jewish tradition. Still the woman persists and turns Jesus' metaphor back on him, saying that even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table.

The woman's persistence and faith pay off. Jesus is moved by her faith and through that faith heals the woman's daughter. Despite his initial abruptness and reluctance, Jesus responds with compassion to the woman's request. It is as though she needed to demonstrate that she was really serious and that she did in fact believe that Jesus could make a difference in her life and the life of her daughter. This is an important story in Matthew's gospel. This gospel was written predominantly for Jewish Christians but this story reveals that the ministry of Jesus and the reign of God is open to anyone who believes. © Greg Sunter

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

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

INTERCESSIONS

Dear friends, with great faith in our hearts, we bring our intentions before the Lord.

That the holy Church will be united in one universal mission for all people.

That nations will remove injustice caused by gender, racial or religious prejudice.

That the boundaries which constrain outsiders and the marginalised will be dissolved by hospitality and friendship.

We pray for the vital ministries of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, that they may continue to flourish and bear abundant fruit. We pray for our seminarians, our retired priests, and all who serve in these important works. May the Archbishop's Campaign be met with the generous support of the faithful, and may all who labour in these ministries, especially our seminarians and our priests, including those now retired after years of faithful service, be sustained and filled with the light of God's love.

We pray for those who are ill. We pray for those who have died recently especially:

And for those we remember at this time, especially: Michael John Tighe, Bill & Millie O'Connor, Francesco Norello, Jim & Sheila O'Brien, Kata Corluka, Robert John Iles and Palma Monardo.

Loving God, your son preached the Good News of your kingdom. Hear our prayers and help us to deepen our faith as we live in praise of your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN The 2026 Archbishop's Campaign is underway, and we are asked to prayerfully consider a pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese.

Tax-deductible donations go to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund, which supports the Priests Retirement Foundation, the Corpus Christi College Building Fund, CatholicCare Victoria's Chaplaincy Program, Melbourne Overseas Mission, the John Pierce Centre, and the University of Divinity (for the Catholic Theological College), as well as Catholic community agencies and service organisations through annual grants.

Non-tax-deductible donations go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious Projects Fund, supporting seminarian formation.

Tear-off pledge cards are attached to the campaign envelopes in the church. You can also give online at melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign, via the QR codes on campaign materials, or by placing a campaign envelope (or anonymous cash gift) directly into THIS WEEKEND'S LEAVING COLLECTION.

FR JOHN ON LEAVE Fr Bernie Lane, Fr Tony Feeney, Fr Tony Cox and Bishop Terry Curtin will preside at weekend Masses during his absence. Fr Frank Buhagiar will preside at weekday Masses. There is no after-hours pastoral support available while Fr John is on leave.

MORNING MASS AT OLN NEXT WEEK St Therese's church is undergoing painting works until Friday 21 August. Read below to see how church closure affects weekday Masses.

Weekend 15 & 16 August: St Therese's church will open for Saturday Vigil and Sunday morning Masses with limited seating and protective timber floor covering

in some areas. Access will be difficult for mobility-impaired parishioners. Please consider attending OLN church instead.

Tuesday 17 to Friday 21 August: St Therese's church closed. Morning Mass held at OLN at 10:00am with Fr Frank Buhagiar presiding.

PFG MORNING TEA CANCELLED Please note that there will be no Parish Friendship Group morning tea this month while St Therese's church is closed. The next PFG morning tea will be on Thursday 17 September following a Mass of Anointing at 10:00am.

YOUTH MASS: CALLING ALL YOUNG MUSICIANS AND SINGERS The Liturgy team is organising a Youth Mass on Sunday August 23 at 10:30am at St Therese's. Two rehearsals will be held, on Thursday 13 and Thursday 20 August, both from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in St Therese's Church. All musicians and singers are welcome. For more information, contact Mark Hyland via email at mark.hyland31@gmail.com

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026 Synodality and trust. Trust grows when people know their voices matter. Synodality helps rebuild trust within the Church and between the Church and society.

You can learn more and read the Synod theme papers here: <https://melbournecatholic.org/synod2026>

An attendee report on the Regional Synod Consultation session is also available on our website: <https://www.essendoncatholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Melb-Synod-Form-Part.pdf>

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	FOLLOWING WEEKEND
OLN 5:00pm	Fr Tony Feeney	Fr Bernie Lane	Bishop Terry Curtin
OLN 10:00am	Fr Tony Feeney	Fr Bernie Lane	Bishop Terry Curtin
St T's 6.00pm	Fr Tony Cox	Fr Tony Feeney	Fr Bernie Lane
St T's 9.00am	Fr Bernie Lane	Fr Tony Feeney	Fr Bernie Lane
St T's 10.30am	Fr Bernie Lane	Fr Tony Feeney	Fr Bernie Lane

LECTORS/READERS MASS SCHEDULE

MASS	THIS WEEKEND	NEXT WEEKEND
OLN 5:00pm	Michael Portelli	Michael Balia
OLN 10:00am	Mark Donahoo	Adrian Commadeur
St T's 6.00pm	Alison Bretag	Tric Joseph & Tony Proctor
St T's 9.00am	Maureen Jansen	Bruce White & Christine Nelson
St T's 10.30am	Rosemary Patterson & Mary O'Brien	Jim Maderazo & Lanelle Eid

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS MASS SCHEDULE

MASS	THIS WEEKEND	NEXT WEEKEND
OLN 5:00pm	Fred Grima	Fred Grima
OLN 10:00am	Adrian Commadeur	Michael Portelli
St T's 6.00pm	Tric Joseph & Trish Giacomini	Joe Fittipaldi & Kath Dobson
St T's 9.00am	Maria Cricri	Marg Tormey
St T's 10.30am	Cherrie Arnold & Therese Hanna	Marita Hassed-Dunne & Miriam Gandolfo

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

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

Volunteer

Share Your
Time & Talents

Your generous gift supports
ministries across the Archdiocese
—bringing the Good News to life
not only in word, but in action.

Thank you.



DONATE
ONLINE

THE
ARCHBISHOP'S
CAMPAIGN
2026



melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign

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

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

SAVE THE DATES

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



PARISH CALENDAR	Weekend 15 & 16 August	The Archbishop's Campaign	
	Saturday 15 August	Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass celebrated by Fr Frank Buhagiar at OLN church	10:00am
	Monday 17 August	Statue of Our Lady moves to the D'Cruz family SVDP Essendon Conference meeting in PACE	7:00pm
	Tuesday 18 August	St Therese's church closed Morning Mass at OLN church with Fr Frank Buhagiar	10:00am
	Wednesday 19 August	St Therese's church closed Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Morning Mass at OLN church with Fr Frank Buhagiar Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store	9:00am 10:00am 10:45am
	Thursday 20 August	St Therese's church closed Parish Friendship Group morning tea CANCELLED Morning Mass at OLN church with Fr Frank Buhagiar Youth Mass music rehearsal at St Therese's church	10:00am 7:00pm
	Friday 21 August	St Therese's church closed Morning Mass at OLN church with Fr Frank Buhagiar Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room	10:00am 10:30am
	Weekend 22 & 23 August	The Archbishop's Campaign final weekend	
	Sunday 23 August	Youth Mass at St Therese's	10:30am
	Monday 24 August	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Neenan family	
	Tuesday 25 August	Morning Mass at St Therese's with Fr Frank Buhagiar Centring Prayer group gathering in PACE function room	7:00pm
	Wednesday 26 August	Morning Mass at St Therese's with Fr Frank Buhagiar Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
	Thursday 27 August	Morning Mass at St Therese's with Fr Frank Buhagiar Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room	10:00am 10:30am
	Friday 28 August	Morning Mass at St Therese's with Fr Frank Buhagiar Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room	10:00am 10:30am
	Sunday 30 August	Social Justice Sunday Men's Choir singing at St Therese's	10:30am
	Monday 31 August	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Bacak family	
	Tuesday 1 September	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation Season of Creation Begins Tuesday Gardening Group at St Therese's Liturgy of the Word replaces morning Mass at St Therese's Sharing Memories Group morning tea in the Annex	9:00am 10:00am 10:30am
	Wednesday 2 September	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Morning Mass at St Therese's with Fr Frank Buhagiar Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store	9:00am 10:00am 10:45am

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 (currently on leave) 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 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>	