



The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

22 & 23 August: Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon.

The readings [this week] highlight two different but related themes: the character of our understanding of Christ, and our understanding of discipleship that flows from it. Christological reflections reach a climax in the question posed to the disciples: Who do you say I am? In this liturgical context, the same question is posed to us. Who is this one who multiplies loaves of bread, who walks on turbulent waters, who breaks the boundaries that separate insider from outsider? It is none other than the messiah.

When Peter testified to Jesus' identity, it was a relevant religious and political statement, for messianic expectation was a burning question at that time. But what does it mean for the average Christian today? Many believers consider messianic expectation a theological theme that belongs to the past. They feel that it is difficult to get excited about the coming of someone who we believe has already come and gone. If Jesus were to pose this question today, how would we answer?

Like Peter, we too may have good intentions, but when they are put to the test we realise that that was all that they were – good intentions. Still, we should not be discouraged by our weaknesses, for just as Peter's failure did not deter God from entrusting him with power and authority, so our failures need not be obstacles to God's grace in our lives. We watch God entrust the church to individuals who are weak and undependable, and we realise that judgments are inscrutable and God's ways unsearchable. © Dianne Bergant

First Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;

and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open,
no one shall close,
should he close,
no one shall open.

I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become
a throne of glory for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8
(R.) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work
of your hands.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

*You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom
of heaven.*

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

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

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

INTERCESSIONS

Brothers and sisters, let us bring our prayers before God, the source of all wisdom.

That those who serve the Church as leaders will be faithful and courageous.

That those who work in public or national office will make decisions wisely and justly.

That regimes built on repression and violence will be transformed by the desire for trust and peace.

That those who search for meaning will find wisdom and knowledge in God who knows all things.

We pray for those who are ill, that they will be raised in health and spirit.

We pray for those who have died recently especially: Antonietta Carrazza. And for those we remember at this time, especially: Leigh Wallmeyer, Patricia Hartnett, Isabella Campo, Ivor Pereira, Domenico Germano and Rupert & Mary Gilmore.

Loving God, your wisdom is beyond our understanding. Hear our prayers and help us to always praise you in the depths of our heart. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

YOUTH MASS THIS SUNDAY We welcome our young singers, musicians and readers to Mass at St Therese's this Sunday at 10:30am.

ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN Thank you to everyone who has so generously already made a pledge or gift to the 2026 Archbishop's Campaign. Every gift, large or small, is greatly appreciated! If you are yet to make a gift, you can still do so. This campaign supports the vital ministries of the Church in our Archdiocese. Online (direct debit or credit card) donations are the most secure and preferred method of donating, or you can use the campaign envelopes with tear-off pledge cards.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE A reminder that the strategic plan can be read on our website at: <https://www.essendoncatholic.org.au/our-parish/looking-ahead-parish-strategic-plan/>

Pivotal to the success of the strategic plan is recruitment of volunteers to roles advertised on the next page of the bulletin. Please take time to read the role descriptions to see if you could be a part of our new teams.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ESSENDON CONFERENCE QUARTERLY REPORT From 1 April to 30 June 2026, SVDP Essendon Conference members made 39 home visits, assisting 49 adults and 19 children. Over the quarter, SVDP provided \$5,386 in essential furniture items, food vouchers and Vinnies store vouchers to assist those in need within our Parish.

Our recent SVDP Winter Appeal raised just over \$14,700 through the generous support of our parishioners! A wonderful effort - thankyou!

We are looking forward to running our next Bunnings BBQ at Maribyrnong store on Sunday 27 September

2026 and we are hoping to donate the profits to Assist a Student Program.

If anyone is interested in knowing some more about our SVDP activities or joining our Conference, please contact Wendy at esdon.conf.pres@svdp-vic.org.au

VINNIES VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY The St Vincent de Paul Society is seeking a Regional Treasurer for the Essendon Region to prepare monthly financial reports and assist with budgeting. The role requires a commitment of approximately 4 to 6 hrs per month. Training, support and SVDP laptop are provided.

SVDP Membership, Working with Children and a Police check are required. For further information please contact Richard Turnbull on 0438 377 510.

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026 Synodality is demanding. Walking together takes patience, time, and effort. But the Gospel has never promised an easy path—only a fruitful one.

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>

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.

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

LECTORS/READERS MASS SCHEDULE

MASS	THIS WEEKEND	NEXT WEEKEND
OLN 5:00pm	Michael Balia	Paul Whiting
OLN 10:00am	Adrian Commadeur	Coral D'Cruz
St T's 6.00pm	Tric Joseph & Tony Proctor	Anne Lechte & Eve Korytkowski
St T's 9.00am	Bruce White & Christine Nelson	Margaret Kerr & Olivia Thompson
St T's 10.30am	Jim Maderazo & Lanelle Eid	Rosa Pierorazio

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS MASS SCHEDULE

MASS	THIS WEEKEND	NEXT WEEKEND
OLN 5:00pm	Fred Grima	Kathy Ferguson
OLN 10:00am	Michael Portelli	Doug D'Cruz
St T's 6.00pm	Joe Fittipaldi & Kath Dobson	Teresa Pong
St T's 9.00am	Marg Tormey	Marg Tormey & Tony Belcastro
St T's 10.30am	Marita Hased-Dunne & Miriam Gandolfo	Marita Hased-Dunne

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

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
at 10:30am

Next date: Tuesday 1 September
in the Annex
(at the rear of St Therese's Church)

— YOU ARE WELCOME

PARISH CALENDAR	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	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Morning Mass at St Therese's with Fr Frank Buhagiar	9:00am 10:00am
	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 Requiem Mass for Antonietta Carrazza at St Therese's	10:00am
	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 Faith night for Sacrament of First Eucharist at St Therese's	9:00am 10:00am 10:45am 6:45pm
	Thursday 3 September	Morning Mass at St Therese's with Fr Frank Buhagiar Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room	10:00am 10:30am
	Friday 4 September	Morning Mass at St Therese's with Fr Frank Buhagiar Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room	10:00am 10:30am
	Saturday 5 September	Kids at Mass at St Therese's	6:00pm
	Sunday 6 September	Father's Day Men's Choir singing at St Therese's	9:00am
	Monday 7 September	Statue of Our Lady moves to the O'Neil family	
	Tuesday 8 September	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Morning Mass at St Therese's with Fr Frank Buhagiar Centring Prayer group gathering in PACE function room	10:00am 7:00pm
	Wednesday 9 September	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Morning Mass at St Therese's with Fr Frank Buhagiar	9:00am 10:00am

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
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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>	
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We proclaim a crucified Christ

1Cor1.23

19 August 2026

PRAYER SERVICE of LAMENT
15 September 2026
St Patrick's Cathedral Grounds, East Melbourne: 4.00pm

Dear Fathers, Deacons, and Parish Communities,

The Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows invites us to stand with Mary at the foot of the Cross. There we see a mother who remains close to her Son in His suffering, steadfast in faith and open to the hope that God alone can bring. In Mary, the Church learns not to turn away from suffering, but to remain present with compassion, humility and prayer.

In 2026, on this memorial we will gather as the Church in Melbourne for our annual Service of Lament for survivors of abuse.

I invite you, your parish leaders, and representatives of your parish community to join me on **Tuesday 15 September 2026 at 4.00pm in the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral** as we come before the Lord in prayer and lament.

This Service is an occasion to humbly stand alongside those who have suffered abuse, and all who continue to carry its lasting effects. It is for us, as the Body of Christ, to acknowledge and lament sincerely and with humility the failures that have caused such profound harm, and to place before the Lord our prayer for healing, justice and the ongoing conversion of His Church.

Survivors and their loved ones remain at the heart of this gathering. Through the proclamation of God's Word, silence, music and symbolic ritual, we will commend to the Lord all who have been harmed by abuse, asking that His healing mercy bring light where there has been darkness, hope where there has been despair, and renewed trust where trust has been broken.

In the days leading to the Service, I invite our Parish communities to unite in prayer across the Archdiocese. Resources will be made available to assist parishes in remembering survivors and all those affected by abuse within parish liturgies and personal prayer. I encourage you to share

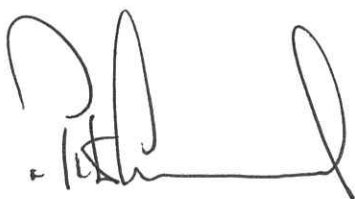
this invitation with your community so that those who wish to participate, either in person or online, may do so.

Mindful that this gathering is first and foremost a place of prayer for survivors and their families, and wishing to preserve a quiet and respectful atmosphere, I ask each Parish to nominate a few representatives to attend on behalf of the parish community. The Service will also be livestreamed, enabling many others to join us in prayer from across the Archdiocese.

As we stand with Mary at the foot of the Cross, may we allow the Lord to deepen within us hearts that listen with compassion, seek the truth with humility, and remain steadfast in the ongoing work of healing and reconciliation. May this shared act of lament become another step in our ongoing journey of conversion, as together we entrust ourselves and our Church to the mercy of Christ.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter A Comensoli', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne