



The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

29 & 30 August: Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon. To follow Christ is sometimes to suffer but there are great rewards too. We are invited to take up our cross and follow Jesus but we never do it alone. Christ is with us every step of the way.

We are invited, by Jesus, to see the burden of suffering in our lives as an opportunity to be faithful to his example. It also gives us an opportunity to be in solidarity with all those who suffer in our world.

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;

you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2
(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Gospel Acclamation: See Ephesians 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the
eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was
destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the
hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be

put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then,
taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him.
'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not
happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get
behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path,
because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'
Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be
a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take
up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to
save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for
my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he
wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a
man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his
Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will
reward each one according to his behaviour.'

LEO'S LENS: REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

Pope Leo regularly demonstrates how it is possible to
call out misbehaviour without making it about the
misbehaving persons. In a world of big personalities,
this Pope has a knack for keeping his focus on the
issues.

Trying to stop some renegade clergy, for instance, the
Pope wrote to them 'filled with Christian affection'. He
did not look the other way and pretend there was no
problem. Rather, he faced the issue head on in a spirit
of charity. 'I plead with you', he told them, 'and ask you
with all my heart: please turn back!'

Urging his readers 'to consider carefully the spiritual
good of the faithful', the Pope also explained that he was
praying for them 'because to tear the seamless garment
of Christ is a sin of extreme gravity.' Such was the spirit
in which Jesus rebuked Peter – a kind sort of blunt.

Through this instance the Pope shows us the need to
confront the tempters of our own age. Both 'sorrowful
yet hopeful', he prayed that consciences be enlightened
and hearts awakened. Whether as confronters or
confronted, we do not always like confrontation – but
there are times when it is good for us in the long run.

[Quotes from Letter, 29 June 2026:
<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/letters/2026/documents/20260629-lettera-fraternita-sanpiox.html>]

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

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

INTERCESSIONS

Sisters and brothers, as we walk in the footsteps of Christ, let us bring our prayers before God.

That the Church will never grow weary of self-sacrifice and concern for the poor.

That those who are burdened by sadness or grief will be comforted by Christ who walked the path of suffering.

That those who are making a new start will set out with confidence and courage.

That people who work in the care and service of others will be renewed and strengthened.

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 Pat Trethowan. And for those we remember at this time, especially: Helen Sully, Pasquale (Pat) Monteleone, Archer Phillips, Ofelia Cadeliña, Paul Malouf, Hyacinth D'Cruz, Andrew Bastian, Anne Whiting, Giuseppina Zocco and Patricia Hartnett.

Loving God, we discover your will through the Cross. Hear our prayers and help us to live as a pilgrim people, following in the steps of your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

MEN'S CHOIR We welcome our Men's Choir to Mass at St Therese's this Sunday at 10:30am.

SHARING MEMORIES GROUP Our Sharing Memories group meet on the first Tuesday of each month. The group supports parishioners through life changes including grief, death and separation. Next date is this coming Tuesday 1 September.

TUESDAY GARDENING GROUP Tuesday Gardening Group meet each Tuesday at 9:00am at St Therese's.

MEN'S COFFEE GROUP The Men's coffee group meet at Lincoln Food Store on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 10:45am. Next date is 2 September.

KIDS AT MASS We'll welcome our Kids at Mass team back next Saturday 5 September at 6:00pm Mass.

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS GROUP Meet weekly on Thursdays in PACE Meeting Room after morning Mass.

TINY TS PLAYGROUP Meets weekly on Fridays in PACE function room at 10:30am during school terms. Playgroup is free to attend and we welcome grandparents and other carers.

PARISH FRIENDSHIP GROUP Holds monthly morning teas on the third Thursday of each month. The next gathering will be Thursday 17 September.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE We welcome members of the Parish Leadership Team who will speak at Masses this weekend with an update on progress of the parish strategic plan which 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. 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 material assistance. Our recent SVDP Winter Appeal raised just over \$14,700 through the generous support of our parishioners.

Our next BBQ at Bunnings Maribyrnong is on Sunday 27 September with profits going to the Assist a Student Program.

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

VINNIES VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY The SVDP 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 4-6 hours per month. For further information, please contact Richard Turnbull on 0438 377 510.

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026 Synodality and the Holy Spirit. At the heart of synodality is trust in the Holy Spirit. Without prayer, synodality becomes mere strategy. With prayer, it becomes a path of grace. You can learn more and read the Synod theme papers here: <https://melbournecatholic.org/synod2026>

FR JOHN ON LEAVE There is no after-hours pastoral support available while Fr John is on leave. Fr John will be back and presiding at Mass from Saturday 12 September.

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

LECTORS/READERS MASS SCHEDULE

MASS	THIS WEEKEND	NEXT WEEKEND
OLN 5:00pm	Paul Whiting	John Harris
OLN 10:00am	Coral D'Cruz	Paula O'Byrne
St T's 6.00pm	Anne Lechte & Eve Korytkowski	Eve Korytkowski
St T's 9.00am	Margaret Kerr & Olivia Thompson	Mary Dowling & Margaret Kerr
St T's 10.30am	Rosa Pierorazio	Silvia Campo & George Jungwirt

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS MASS SCHEDULE

MASS	THIS WEEKEND	NEXT WEEKEND
OLN 5:00pm	Kathy Ferguson	Tatiana Polizzi
OLN 10:00am	Doug D'Cruz	No rostered minister – Volunteer needed
St T's 6.00pm	Teresa Pong	Gina Bell & Maggie Catterall
St T's 9.00am	Marg Tormey & Tony Belcastro	Carmen Merrigan & Rosina Tempini
St T's 10.30am	Marita Hased-Dunne	Miriam Gandolfo & Maria Giampiccolo

WE'RE LOOKING FOR

COMMUNICATIONS WIZARDS

Help us deliver the Parish Strategic Plan by joining our Communications Team

We need volunteers who:

- Can create engaging and shareable content
- Can develop and manage parish communications and social media strategies
- Are excited by the possibility of engaging a broad community using a variety of platforms

Design and build new ways of engaging with our Parish community



REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW

→ ESSENDON@CAM.ORG.AU

OR SCAN THE QR CODE

Volunteer

Share Your
Time & Talents

WE'RE LOOKING FOR

SOCIAL BUTTERFLIES

Help us deliver the Parish Strategic Plan by joining our Social Activities Team

We need volunteers who:

- Have an interest in building happy communities
- Enjoy planning and organising events
- Can work in a team to create fun for others
- Enjoy a challenge!

Identify, design, plan and deliver a range of social activities to engage and involve parishioners of all ages



REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW

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Volunteer

Share Your
Time & Talents

WE'RE LOOKING FOR

CULTURAL AMBASSADORS

Help us deliver the Parish Strategic Plan by joining our Multicultural Team

We need volunteers who:

- Represent the diversity of cultures in our parish
- Have an interest in building and sharing cultural awareness and traditions
- Enjoy engaging others in planning and organising events

Help identify, design, plan and deliver events which celebrate our community's diverse cultures



REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW

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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 CALENDAR	Weekend 29 & 30 August	Candidate Masses for First Eucharist at St Therese's	All Masses
	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
	Thursday 10 September	Morning Mass at St Therese's with Fr Frank Buhagiar Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room SVDP Regional Council meeting in PACE	10:00am 10:30am 7:00pm
	Friday 11 September	Morning Mass at St Therese's with Fr Frank Buhagiar Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room	10:00am 10:30am
	Weekend 12 & 13 September	Sacrament of First Eucharist at St Therese's	All Masses
	Saturday 12 September	Grade 1 students and families Mass at OLN	5:00pm
	Sunday 13 September	Safeguarding Sunday	
	Monday 14 September	Exaltation of the Holy Cross Statue of Our Lady moves to the Rodrigues family Alpha Connect evening in PACE function room	7:00pm

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

SAVE THE DATES
2 & 16 September
7 & 21 October
4 & 18 November
2 & 16 December

1st & 3rd
Wednesday
each month
from 10:45am
Lincoln Food Store
105 Lincoln Rd
Essendon



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**

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

KIDS AT MASS IS BACK SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER AT ST THERESE'S 6:00PM MASS



Primary school-aged children can listen to Jesus' message in a child friendly and engaging way. Children who are not yet at school should be accompanied by parent/s

REMAINING DATES FOR 2026
Saturdays 6:00pm
5 September, 10 October, 7 & 28 November