

The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

12 & 13 September: Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Season of Creation ~ Safeguarding Sunday

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon. During the Season of Creation we pray together:

Holy God, whose Spirit hovered over the waters at the beginning, we gather as part of your community of all creation.

We give thanks for the gift of water, the veins of our common home, that sustains the wattle and the whale, the pasture and the city.

We are grateful for the local waters that nourish our homelands and our fellow creatures.

We give thanks that in your well-watered garden, every drop is a sacred testament to your love. Amen.

First Reading: Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner.

He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins?

Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

Gospel Acclamation: John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:

love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

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

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

INTERCESSIONS

Trusting in the Lord who is kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion, and remembering that love always protects, we bring our prayers before God.

For the Church: That it will be transformed by Christ's redeeming love.

For children in our parish: may we all work to ensure the happiness and confidence of every child, and foster an environment of safety and protection where children flourish

For ourselves: That we will be generous in forgiving others and will have the courage to say we are sorry when we have done wrong.

We pray for communities where rising seas claim communities and ancestral lands, where saltwater invades freshwater wells, where graves are washed away with memory and belonging; for those who have contributed least to climate change, yet suffer first and most.

We pray for the children who are receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist at St Therese's church this weekend.

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 Luigi Laino and Doreen Sargentson and for those we remember at this time, especially: Sarina Adorno, Tony O'Brien, Arthur & Vera Fallon, Amelia Robson, Fr Des Magennis and Fred Whitty.

Merciful God, you hear the cry of the vulnerable before we do. Receive these prayers and make us instruments of your protecting love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY Catholics around Australia mark Safeguarding Sunday this weekend. The 2026 theme "Love Protects" recognises that safeguarding is a practical expression of Christian love.

When communities prioritise the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults, they embody the love and care that is at the heart of the Gospel.

On Safeguarding Sunday, we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by anyone in Church settings and acknowledge the vulnerability of some within our parishes and communities. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance.

FIRST EUCHARIST MASSES AT ST THERESE'S Fr John returns from leave to a busy weekend of First Eucharist Masses at St Therese's.

We welcome visitors and ask that you respect the solemnity of our Masses. Please remain seated throughout and wait for Fr John to process out of church before moving around and talking.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL FESTIVAL MASS Next Saturday 19 September, the 6:00pm Mass at St Therese's will celebrate the SVDP Essendon Regional Festival Mass, also marking 100 years of service to the community by our SVDP Essendon Conference. Members of the Conference will take part in the Mass through readings, Eucharistic ministry and the offertory procession. The Mass will include a blessing for Vinnies members and commissioning of roles.

SUNDAY MORNING TEA AND PLANT SWAP We're holding a plant swap at our usual monthly morning teas next Sunday 20 September! Morning tea will be in PACE at St Therese's, and in the church foyer at OLN.

Bring along a potted cutting (or cuttings) from your own garden to share with fellow parishioners — we'll set up a "pop-up" plant stall so everyone can take home a new addition for their garden. Come along for a cuppa, swap some plants, and share your gardening stories!

TUESDAY GARDENING GROUP Join us in the garden from 9:00am, followed by a special morning tea in PACE at 11:00am on Tuesday 29 September.

MULCHING DAY AT ST THERESE'S Wrapping up the Season of Creation, we'll hold a mulching day at St Therese's on Saturday 3 October from 9:30am, with morning tea provided in PACE from 11:30am. Everyone is welcome!

PILGRIMAGE PRAYERS Amy Gallina, Deputy Principal at OLN, will join Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) pilgrims to Greece and Turkey, carrying prayers from school families to the House of the Virgin Mary in Ephesus. If you'd like Amy to carry a prayer, please submit it to the parish or OLN school office by Thursday 17 September.

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026 Why participation matters. Participation helps people move from being passive recipients to active disciples. This deepens faith and strengthens mission. You can learn more here: <https://melbournecatholic.org/synod2026>

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 Tony Feeney	Fr John Hannon
OLN 10:00am	Fr Tony Feeney	Fr Tony Feeney	Fr John Hannon
St T's 6.00pm	Fr John Hannon	Fr John Hannon	Fr Tony Feeney
St T's 9.00am	Fr John Hannon	Fr John Hannon	Fr John Hannon
St T's 10.30am	Fr John Hannon	Fr John Hannon	Fr Tony Feeney

LECTORS/READERS MASS SCHEDULE

MASS	THIS WEEKEND	NEXT WEEKEND
OLN 5:00pm	Georgina Kucera & John Harris	Michael Portelli
OLN 10:00am	Natale Cutri	Mark Donahoo
St T's 6.00pm	St Therese's school students	SVDP Essendon Conference
St T's 9.00am	St Therese's school students	John Harvey
St T's 10.30am	St Therese's school students	Rosemary Patterson & Mary O'Brien

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS MASS SCHEDULE

MASS	THIS WEEKEND	NEXT WEEKEND
OLN 5:00pm	Kathy Ferguson	Fred Grima
OLN 10:00am	Douglas D'Cruz	No rostered minister – Volunteer needed
St T's 6.00pm	Tony Proctor & Trish Giacomini	SVDP Essendon Conference
St T's 9.00am	Tony Belcastro	Maria Cricri
St T's 10.30am	Rosa Pierorazio & Marg Moore	Cherrie Arnold & Therese Hanna

Season of Creation Morning Tea and Plant Swap

Sunday 20 September
After morning Masses

St Therese's PACE
and
OLN Church Foyer

Come along for a cuppa, swap
some plants, and share your
gardening stories!

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



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 17 September
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

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Weekend 12 & 13 September		First Eucharist Masses	St Therese's church
Saturday 12 September	5:00pm	Grade 1 students and families Mass	OLN church
Sunday 13 September		Safeguarding Sunday	
Monday 14 September		Statue of Our Lady: Rodrigues family	
Monday 14 September	10:30am	Requiem Mass for Luigi Laino	OLN church
Monday 14 September	7:00pm	Alpha Connect evening	PACE Function Room
Wednesday 16 September	9:00am	Italian Prayer Group	St Therese's Annex
Wednesday 16 September	10:45am	Men's Coffee Group	Lincoln Food Store
Thursday 17 September		Parish office closed for staff training	
Thursday 17 September	10:00am	Mass of Anointing	St Therese's church
Thursday 17 September	10:40am	Parish Friendship Group morning tea	PACE Function Room
Friday 18 September		Final day of school term 3	
Friday 18 September	10:00am	Whole School Mass for Season of Creation	St Therese's church
Friday 18 September	10:30am	Tiny Ts Playgroup	PACE Function Room
Saturday 19 September	6:00pm	SVDP Essendon Regional Festival Mass	St Therese's church
Saturday 19 September	7:00pm	SVDP Regional celebration	PACE Function Room
Sunday 20 September		CSSV – Social Services Sunday	
Sunday 20 September		Parish Morning Tea after morning Masses	Both churches
Sunday 20 September	10:30am	Parish Baptism Welcoming Mass	St Therese's church
Monday 21 September		Statue of Our Lady: Asher family	
Tuesday 22 September	11:00am	Mass at Ryman Aged Care	Raelene Boyle Village
Tuesday 22 September	7:00pm	Centring Prayer Group	PACE Function Room
Wednesday 23 September	9:00am	Italian Prayer Group	St Therese's Annex
Thursday 24 September	10:30am	Gospel Reflections	PACE Meeting Room
Thursday 24 September	11:00am	Mass at Arcadia Aged Care	Arcadia Aged Care

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>	

ECUMENICAL FAITH LEADERS INVITATION

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to contemplate and care for our common home, the **Oikos** of God.

The Season's "Celebration" begins on September 1, the day that several Christian denominations celebrate as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and others celebrate as the Feast of Creation. It ends on October 4, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, who is beloved by many Christian denominations.

This year, we will unite around the theme "Living Water", with the symbol "Immersion in Living Water", inspired by Ezekiel 47: 9 and 12.

Ecumenical faith leaders from across the world have prepared a special invitation for you and your community to take part in this season which you can watch here.

As a powerful statement to the importance of this ecumenical season of prayer and action for Creation, here are words from faith leaders of our Christian family, summoning us to this special season:



"Season of Creation [is] an ecumenical initiative to be celebrated from 1 September to 4 October (...). Environmental justice – implicitly proclaimed by the prophets – can no longer be regarded as an abstract concept or a distant goal. It is an urgent need that involves much more than simply protecting the environment. For it is a matter of justice – social, economic and human. For believers it is also a duty born of faith, since the universe reflects the face of Jesus Christ, in whom all things were created and redeemed."
(Taken from his Message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2025)

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV,
Bishop of Rome, Roman Catholic Church
Photo credits: Vatican Media

SEASON OF CREATION 2026 PRAYER

Living Water

Holy God, whose Spirit hovered over the waters at the beginning, we gather as part of your community of all creation, thirsty for your grace. We give thanks for the gift of water, the veins of our common home, that sustains the cedar and the whale, the pasture and the city. We are grateful for the local waters that nourish our homelands and our fellow creatures. We give thanks that in your well-watered garden, every drop is a sacred testament to your love.

Yet, we confess that we have treated this gift as a mere commodity. We have choked the seas with our waste and watched the warming tides rise in judgment. We lament the cracked earth of the drought-stricken and the salty tears of the climate refugee. Melt our frozen hearts, O God, and let the waters of repentance flow.

Lord of all Life, you promised that wherever the river flows, everything shall live. Stir in us a calling to care for the waters — to protect the watershed, defend the rights of water, and honor the dignity of the thirsty. May your Word be a spring within us, gushing forth for the healing of the nations.

May God our Father who brought water from the rock sustain us in the desert. May Christ our Lord who is Living Water refresh us for the work of restoration. And may the Holy Spirit carry us on currents of grace until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.



Photo credit: Johanan Celine Valeriano

PARISH GARDENING GROUP MULCHING DAY

Saturday 3 October

9:30am

St Therese's

It's the season for
MULCHING!

Join the gardening group
at St Therese's for a
morning of mulching and
tidying up of the gardens
BYO gardening tools
All welcome, especially
green thumbs!



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**



Victoria Police

Moonee Valley Neighbourhood Policing Forum



VICTORIA POLICE

The Victoria Police Neighbourhood Policing Forum welcomes local services and community members to talk with police about what issues are important in your community.

The forum will explore topics including:

- Current crime trends and crime prevention
- Young people
- Family violence
- Road policing
- Drugs and drug related crime.

The Neighbourhood Policing Forum will be run by a Victoria Police panel and questions will be taken from the audience throughout the event.

Registration is a must.

To attend, please register by sending your details to:

MOONEEPONDS-UNI-OIC@police.vic.gov.au

or scan the QR code.

To submit a question prior to the forum:

[MOONEE VALLEY NHP questions](#)

Event details

Date:

Wednesday 7th October 2026

Time:

6:00pm – 8:00pm

(Doors open 5:45pm)

Location:

**Moonee Valley City Council,
9 Kellaway Avenue,
Moonee Ponds, 3039**



**Scan here to
register your
attendance**



Got a question for police?

**Scan the QR code to submit
prior to the forum**



OUR VALUES



COMPASSION



RESPECT



INTEGRITY



PROFESSIONALISM



COURAGE