

The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

19 & 20 September: Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Season of Creation ~ Social Services 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: Isaiah 55:6-9

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18
(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

Gospel Acclamation: See Acts of the Apostles 16:14
Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16
Why are you jealous because I am generous?
Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

Lord, we ask for your blessing upon our efforts to serve others. May our actions be guided by your love and motivated by a genuine desire to make a difference in the lives of those around us.
We lift up our community into your loving hands, praying for its well-being and prosperity.
In your name, God, we pray for service to the community. May our hands be your hands, our feet be your feet, and our hearts be your hearts as we seek to serve others in your name. Amen.
Source: Prayer for Service to the Community, Common Good Magazine

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SUNDAY READINGS WITH REFLECTIONS: https://sundayreadingsandreflectionsa.weebly.com/Urtl0m1hb.html
DAILY MASS READINGS: https://melbournecatholic.org/connect/daily-mass-readings

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INTERCESSIONS

Brothers and sisters, let us open our hearts in prayer for God is near to all who call on him.

That our Holy Father Pope Leo and all our Church leaders, may serve God's people with justice.

That communities in troubled or warring countries will experience justice and freedom.

For those who face poverty, conflict, discrimination or lack of opportunities in their home countries. May paths of hope be opened, to allow for true life and dignity.

Help us to recognize the dignity and worth of every person we encounter. Help us to be agents of positive change, working together to build a community where all are valued, respected, and cared for.

We pray for the children who are welcomed into our parish this weekend in preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism.

[Pope Leo's prayer intention for September] For the care of water: We pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

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 Doreen Sargentson, Kathleen Cullen and Eileen Jolley and for those we remember at this time, especially: Domenic Tenuta, Salvatore Lagozzino, Pamela Penticoss, Merna Moloney, Magdalene D'Mello, John Van Rosmalen, Kruna Vukusic and Pat Torr.

Father, you are near to all and loving in your deeds. Hear our prayers and help us to always live by your ways as generous and compassionate people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY This Sunday, 20 September 2026, we give thanks for the thousands of staff and volunteers across Catholic social services who accompany people experiencing poverty, disadvantage and marginalisation throughout Victoria.
As we celebrate Social Services Sunday, we recognise the need for encounter. Our passion for connection and for meeting others creates the kinship that is vital in times of hardship and essential for building strong communities. Through these encounters, we recognise the dignity of every person and stand alongside those who may otherwise go unheard.
This Social Services Sunday, we are invited not only to give thanks for this work, but also to consider our own contribution: Who is experiencing hardship around us? Who is already walking beside them? How might we strengthen and support that work?
Find a list of Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) member organisations, and learn more about their work and how you can support them, on their website: https://css.org.au/service-providers/

St VINCENT DE PAUL FESTIVAL MASS It is fitting that, on the weekend of Social Services Sunday, we mark the Centenary of our St Vincent de Paul Essendon Conference with a Festival Mass at St Therese's this Saturday at 6:00pm. We welcome members from visiting St Vincent de Paul Conferences to our parish.

OLN LITURGICAL MINISTERS NEEDED We are facing a critical shortage of volunteers in ministry at OLN, with only a handful of people currently covering the rosters. We urgently need more volunteers to support our weekend Masses as well as funerals and special Masses. Please contact the office if you could assist as a Lector (reader), Eucharistic Minister or Sacristan.

SUNDAY MORNING TEA AND PLANT SWAP We're holding a plant swap at our usual monthly morning tea this Sunday! Morning tea will be in PACE at St Therese's, and in the church foyer at OLN. There'll be a "pop-up" plant stall — come along for a cuppa, swap some plants, and share your gardening stories!

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

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!

PARISH CENSUS IN OCTOBER We will hold a census over three weeks in October, where we ask everyone who attends Mass to fill in a census card.
The primary purpose of a parish census is to determine the demographic makeup of the parish community. By collecting data on variables such as age, gender and occupation, it helps parish leadership understand both the practical and spiritual needs of the community. It also sheds light on the diverse range of skills and talents within the broader community.
The census will be held on the second, third and fourth Sunday of October. More info to come.

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026 Synodality and Scripture.
From Abraham's journey to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, Scripture is full of stories of God walking with His people. Synodality places us within that biblical story. You can learn more and read the Synod theme papers 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.

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 John Hannon	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

LECTORS/READERS MASS SCHEDULE		
MASS	**THIS WEEKEND**	**NEXT WEEKEND**
OLN 5:00pm	Michael Portelli	Michael Balia
OLN 10:00am	Mark Donahoo	No rostered minister – Volunteer needed
St T's 6.00pm	SVDP Essendon Conference	Tric Joseph & Tony Proctor
St T's 9.00am	John Harvey	Bruce White & Christine Nelson
St T's 10.30am	Rosemary Patterson & Mary O'Brien	Jim Maderazo & Lanelle Eid
EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS MASS SCHEDULE		
MASS	**THIS WEEKEND**	**NEXT WEEKEND**
OLN 5:00pm	Fred Grima	Fred Grima
OLN 10:00am	No rostered minister – Volunteer needed	Michael Portelli
St T's 6.00pm	SVDP Essendon Conference	Kath Dobson
St T's 9.00am	Maria Cricri	Volunteer needed this week
St T's 10.30am	Cherrie Arnold & Therese Hanna	Marita Hassed-Dunne & Miriam Gandolfo

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

Catholic Social Services Victoria

Sunday 20 September 2026

Social Services Sunday

What is Social Services Sunday?

Social Services Sunday is an opportunity to recognise and thank the staff, volunteers and organisations who support people experiencing disadvantage and marginalisation.

As we celebrate Social Services Sunday, we recognise the need for encounter. Passion for connection and meeting others creates the kinship that is imperative in times of hardship and for building strong communities.

What have we achieved together?

Catholic social service organisations in Victoria support more than 300,000 Victorians across over 388 sites, drawing on the expertise and commitment of over 7,510 staff and more than 15,831 volunteers.



How can you get involved?

- Join with others in your parish or community to take action–big or small. Consider the particular needs in your area and ask: *What can we do together? How can we better love and serve our neighbours?*
- Consider volunteering your time, sharing your skills, making a donation, or advocating for people experiencing disadvantage
- Pray for social services and their staff and volunteers

Social Services Sunday Video, with a message from Fr John Petrulis, Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Services:

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
Saturday 19 September	6:00pm	SVDP Essendon Regional Festival Mass	St Therese's
Saturday 19 September	7:00pm	SVDP Regional celebration	PACE
Sunday 20 September		***Social Services Sunday***	
Sunday 20 September		Parish Morning Tea after morning Masses	St Therese's
Sunday 20 September		Parish Morning Tea after 10:00am Mass	OLN
Sunday 20 September	10:30am	Parish Baptism Welcoming Mass	St Therese's
Monday 21 September		Statue of Our Lady: Asher family	
Monday 21 September	7:00pm	SVDP Essendon Conference meeting	PACE
Tuesday 22 September	11:00am	Mass at Ryman Aged Care	Raelene Boyle Village
Tuesday 22 September	7:00pm	Centring Prayer group gathering	PACE Function Room
Wednesday 23 September	9:00am	Italian Prayer Group Meet	St Therese's Annex
Thursday 24 September	10:30am	Gospel Reflections	PACE Meeting Room
Friday 25 September		AFL Grand Final Public Holiday	
Sunday 27 September		***World Day for Migrants and Refugees***	
Sunday 27 September	12:00pm	Parish Baptisms	St Therese's
Monday 28 September		Statue of Our Lady: Sequeira family	
Wednesday 30 September	9:00am	Italian Prayer Group Meet	St Therese's Annex
Wednesday 30 September	10:45am	Men's Coffee Group	Lincoln Food Store
OCTOBER			
Thursday 1 October		***Feast of St Thérèse of Lisieux***	
Thursday 1 October	10:30am	Gospel Reflections	PACE Meeting Room
Thursday 1 October	11:00am	Mass at Trevi Court	Trevi Court Aged Care
Sunday 4 October		***Feast of St Francis of Assisi***	
Sunday 4 October	11:30am	80th Birthday celebration for Fr Tony Feeney	PACE
Monday 5 October		First day of school term 4	

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

Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

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.

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.

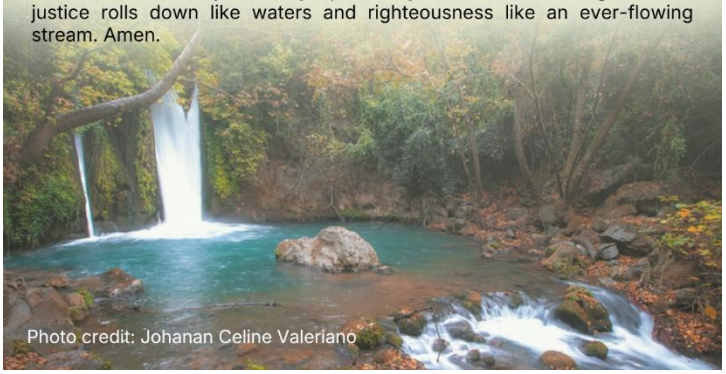


Photo credit: Johanan Celine Valeriano



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 6 October in the Annex (at the rear of St Therese's Church)

YOU ARE WELCOME

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