



The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

26 & 27 September: Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Season of Creation ~ World Day for Migrants & Refugees

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: Ezekiel 18:25-28

The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard

today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

SEASON OF CREATION REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

In today's parable where a son said yes but did nothing, Jesus offers a striking indictment of empty lip-service. In our age, one of the Church's most insistent calls has been for people to work for the protection of the vineyard of the earth. Speaking of climate change, deforestation and chemical pollution, Pope Saint John Paul II declared in 1990 'that the ecological crisis is a moral issue' and called on all people to 'recognise their obligation to contribute to the restoration of a healthy environment'. In 2009 Pope Benedict XVI insisted that 'technologically advanced societies can and must lower their domestic energy consumption'. In 2015 Pope Francis called on all of humanity 'to recognise the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming' of the world's climate which we are currently facing.

Successive Popes have therefore called us all to work for the protection of our planet and its people. But it is up to every Christian to ensure that these words are not just empty rhetoric. © Nick Brodie

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.

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 prayer before God who guides the humble and shows the path to those who stray.

That the Holy Church will be united as one in the spirit of forgiveness and healing.

That our parish community may first consider those who are less fortunate or in need.

For children forced to leave their homes or separated from their families because of war, poverty, violence, environmental disasters or other tragedies. May they be protected during their travels and may we help them find safety and peace.

That nations will be good stewards of the earth's resources.

We pray for the children who are initiated into our Church this weekend at the Sacrament of Baptism.

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 Silvester Tomsic and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially: Jack Dobson, Jackie Isabella, Jennifer Riley, Bruno Martino, Pasquale Monteleone, Giuseppina Barillaro, Celine Pereira, Leonila Albasin, Kevin Malouf, Trish Rocca, Marg Kovacs, Virgilio Giuffre, Domenico Lizio and Angela Faraco.

Loving God, we turn to you with our hearts and minds. Hear our prayers and help us to do your will as we live each day in praise of your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please note: To have the name of someone who has recently died, or whose anniversary falls this week, included in the weekend Mass and bulletin, please submit the name(s) to the Parish Office by 3.00pm Wednesday. Names submitted later will be included the following week.

WORLD DAY FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES An excerpt of message from Pope Leo for the 112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees is below. Read the full message on our website here:

<https://www.essendoncatholic.org.au/112th-world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees/>

"Each year the World Day of Migrants and Refugees invites us to turn our attention to different aspects of the complex phenomenon of migration. For this 112th World Day, the theme, "Even just one of these children," draws our attention to the minors directly involved in the experience of migration and flight, to the care owed to them, and to the Lord's promise that "whoever receives one such child in my name receives me" (Mk 9:37).

...The cry of displaced children rises to God today, just as did the cry heard in the Book of Exodus: "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them" (Ex 3:7-8). God hears their cry and, in order to bring about liberation, he forcefully appeals to the conscience and action of each one of us, just as he did with Moses. We cannot remain indifferent, nor can we become accustomed to such suffering."

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.

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.

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!

FR TONY'S 80TH BIRTHDAY Next Sunday we look forward to marking Fr Tony Feeney's 80th birthday at 10:30am Mass at St Therese's followed by a celebratory morning tea in PACE. All are welcome.

ST MONICA'S PRAYER GROUP Looking for more joy, peace, purpose? You are invited to join St Monica's Prayer Group at 'New Life in God's Spirit'. For 8 weeks on Thursdays at 7:30pm beginning 1 October. Symons Centre, St Monica's Moonee Ponds. Come along!

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026 Synodality is not uniformity. Different cultures, communities, and parishes will live synodality in different ways. Unity does not require sameness. You can learn more about the Synod 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 Tony Feeney	Fr John Hannon
OLN 10:00am	Fr Tony Feeney	Fr Bernie Lane
St T's 6.00pm	Fr John Hannon	Fr Tony Feeney
St T's 9.00am	Fr John Hannon	Fr John Hannon
St T's 10.30am	Fr John Hannon	Fr Tony Feeney & Fr John Hannon

LECTORS/READERS MASS SCHEDULE		
MASS	THIS WEEKEND	NEXT WEEKEND
OLN 5:00pm	John Harris	Jon Fleming
OLN 10:00am	Mark Donahoo	Paula O'Byrne
St T's 6.00pm	Tric Joseph & Tony Proctor	Eve Korytkowski
St T's 9.00am	Bruce White & Christine Nelson	Mary Dowling & Margaret Kerr
St T's 10.30am	Jim Maderazo & Lanelle Eid	Silvia Campo & George Jungwirt

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS MASS SCHEDULE		
MASS	THIS WEEKEND	NEXT WEEKEND
OLN 5:00pm	Fred Grima	Tatiana Polizzi
OLN 10:00am	Michael Portelli	Trish Giacomini
St T's 6.00pm	Kath Dobson	Gina Bell & Maggie Catterall
St T's 9.00am	Volunteer needed this week please	Carmen Merrigan & Rosina Tempini
St T's 10.30am	Marita Hassed-Dunne & Miriam Gandolfo	Miriam Gandolfo

You are Invited to
Celebrate
Fr Tony's
80th Birthday
Sunday 4 October
10:30am Mass
at St Therese's

with
Morning Tea
in PACE
after Mass

All welcome!



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!



World Day of
Migrants and
Refugees
27-IX-2026



"Even just one of these children"



Even just one
of these children.

*"Whoever welcomes one
such child in my name
welcomes me"*
(Mt 18:5)

Sunday,
27 September 2026



IF YOU CAN MAKE IT
PLEASE SUPPORT OUR
ESSENDON PARISH VINNIES TEAM
AT THEIR

Vinnies Fundraiser Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER
BUNNINGS MARIBYRNONG

**Cnr Rosamond Rd & Williamson Rd
Maribyrnong
9am until 4pm**

**Our Vinnies team will be fundraising
at Bunnings Maribyrnong**

Come along and buy a sausage in support the
great work of our SVDP Essendon Conference

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
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	
Monday 5 October		Statue of Our Lady: Misquitta family	
Tuesday 6 October	9:00am	Tuesday Gardening Group	St Therese's
Tuesday 6 October	10:30am	Sharing Memories Group morning tea	The Annex
Tuesday 6 October	11:00am	Funeral for Silvester Tomsic	St Therese's
Wednesday 7 October	9:00am	Italian Prayer Group Meet	St Therese's Annex
Wednesday 7 October	7:00pm	Parish Leadership Team Meeting	
Thursday 8 October	10:30am	Gospel Reflections	PACE Meeting Room
Thursday 8 October	7:00pm	SVDP Regional Council meeting	PACE
Friday 9 October	10:00am	Whole School Mass for Feast of St Therese	
Friday 9 October	10:30am	Tiny Ts Playgroup	PACE Function Room
Weekend 10 & 11 October	All Masses	Parish Census	
Saturday 10 October	6:00pm	Kids at Mass	St Therese's
Monday 12 October		Statue of Our Lady: Xerri family	

MASSES	ST THERESE'S CHURCH 48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon	OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH 31 Fawkner St, Aberfeldie
	Weekday Services: Tuesday to Friday 10:00am	Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:00pm
	Weekend Masses: Saturday 6:00pm	Sunday 10:00am
	Sunday 9:00am & 10:30am	Reconciliation: Saturday 4:45pm
	Reconciliation: Saturday 5:45pm	

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>



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

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

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

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

Knox Public Lecture 2026

Synodality: Global and Local

Most Reverend Patrick O'Regan DD
Archbishop of Adelaide



In conversation with
Bishop Martin Ashe
Ms Cathy Jenkins

About the presenter

Archbishop Patrick O'Regan is the ninth Archbishop of Adelaide, appointed in 2020. He serves on the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference on the Permanent Committee, the Bishops' Commission for Liturgy, the National Liturgical Commission, the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, and the Joint Lectionary Project.

He was a delegate of the ACBC to both assemblies of the global Synod on Synodality (2023-2024). In 2026, he presided over the Synod of the Archdiocese of Adelaide. He is experienced in pastoral ministry and liturgical leadership. He completed a Licentiate in Liturgical and Sacramental Theology at the Institute Catholique Paris. His areas of interest are pastoral liturgy, theology of the eucharist, and liturgical music. He has lectured at Charles Sturt University and the Catholic Institute of Sydney.



Thursday, 22 October 2026
7:00 pm



Knox Room
Catholic Theological College
278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne

REGISTER NOW

Go to [2026
Knox Lecture](#)

or

Scan the QR code



RSVP by Thursday 15 October 2026

Light refreshments will be served
following the lecture.

ENQUIRIES:



ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/knox-public-lecture/



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[Contact us](#)