



The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

5 & 6 September: Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Season of Creation ~ Fathers Day

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon. This week we began the Season of Creation, a season of prayer and action for our common home. The theme for the Season of Creation this year is "Living Water." During the season we begin our weekend Masses praying 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 33:7-9

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8

(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation: 2 Corinthians 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

Father's Day Reflection by Greg Sunter

For most of us, Father's Day is a special opportunity to let our dads and grandads know how much we love them and how grateful we are for them and for all they do for us.

But for some of us, Father's Day carries a feeling of sadness. This day might be a reminder that our dad or grandad has passed away, or that we don't have the opportunity to see our dad as often as we'd like, or that our relationship with our dad is not as good as it might be. Today, we hold both the joy and the sadness of Father's Day in our hearts as we pray.

In the gospel stories and parables that Jesus told, we get an image of God as a loving parent – a father – who only wants the best for us and whose love is greater than anything we can measure. So, let's remind ourselves of the extraordinary, boundless love of our God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

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

INTERCESSIONS

Let us turn to the Lord and place our needs before the God who saves us.

That the Church will actively seek reconciliation and work collaboratively.

That we may recognise people of all nations as our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In this Season of Creation, where we use water without reverence, teach us to protect it as a gift entrusted to every generation and honour water as a source of life for all.

For fathers and grandfathers: Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience, give them ability to love in a way that reflects your love.

For all who have died in the tragic floods in Nepal, for those who remain missing and for families who wait for news. For medical personnel and rescuers working tirelessly. For the injured, the homeless, and the vulnerable.

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

We pray for those who have died recently and for those we remember at this time, especially: Sven Nilsson, Famiglia Borrello, Carmel Heenan, Luisa Bottecchia, Angela De Fazio, Paul & Joan Sapiano, Tony, Charlie & Leo Cefai, Tony Camilleri, Salvatore and Giuseppe Ganci, Paolo Garro, Giacomina Milici and Joseph Ciantar.

Loving Father, you give us grace as we gather in the midst of Christ. Hear our prayers and help us to live by your laws as we praise you, our Father in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

SEASON OF CREATION 2026 This year we will be guided by the vision of the prophet Ezekiel (47:1–12): a river flowing from the temple of God, which grows without stopping and brings life where everything seems barren. Water heals, restores, and makes creation flourish. But it also challenges us: to recognize ecological damage, to embrace our interconnectedness, and to immerse ourselves in the responsibility of caring for and restoring our Common Home. May this Season of Creation be a path for the healing of the Earth and human well-being to flourish together.

PARISH EVENTS FOR SEASON OF CREATION We have a few things happening in the parish to mark the Season of Creation — come along and get involved!

SUNDAY MORNING TEA AND PLANT SWAP We're holding a plant swap at our usual monthly morning teas on 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 FOR ST THERESE'S GARDENS

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!

THANKS FOR HELPING US CARE FOR CREATION We thank the many volunteers who give their time and energy to keep our gardens and grounds in order. We hope you can join us for a cuppa during the Season of Creation.

KIDS AT MASS We welcome our Kids at Mass team at 6:00pm Mass this Saturday 5 September at St Therese's.

MEN'S CHOIR Our Men's Choir will be singing this Sunday at 9:00am Mass at St Therese's.

STRATEGIC PLAN The parish strategic plan can be read on our website:

<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.

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.

PRIESTS' MASS SCHEDULE

MASS	THIS WEEKEND	NEXT WEEKEND	FOLLOWING WEEKEND
OLN 5:00pm	Fr Bernie Lane	Fr Tony Feeney	Fr John Hannon
OLN 10:00am	Fr Bernie Lane	Fr Tony Feeney	Fr John Hannon
St T's 6.00pm	Bishop Terry Curtin	Fr John Hannon	Fr Tony Feeney
St T's 9.00am	Bishop Terry Curtin	Fr John Hannon	Fr John Hannon
St T's 10.30am	Bishop Terry Curtin	Fr John Hannon	Fr Tony Feeney

LECTORS/READERS MASS SCHEDULE

MASS	THIS WEEKEND	NEXT WEEKEND
OLN 5:00pm	John Harris	Georgina Kucera & John Harris
OLN 10:00am	Paula O'Byrne	Natale Cutri
St T's 6.00pm	Eve Korytkowski	St Therese's school students
St T's 9.00am	Mary Dowling & Margaret Kerr	St Therese's school students
St T's 10.30am	Silvia Campo & George Jungwirt	St Therese's school students

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS MASS SCHEDULE

MASS	THIS WEEKEND	NEXT WEEKEND
OLN 5:00pm	Tatiana Polizzi	Kathy Ferguson
OLN 10:00am	No rostered minister – Volunteer needed	Douglas D'Cruz
St T's 6.00pm	Gina Bell & Maggie Catterall	Tony Proctor & Trish Giacomini
St T's 9.00am	Carmen Merrigan & Rosina Tempini	Tony Belcastro
St T's 10.30am	Miriam Gandolfo & Maria Giampiccolo	Rosa Pierorazio & Marg Moore

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

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

PARISH CALENDAR	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
	Wednesday 16 September	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store	9:00am 10:45am
	Thursday 17 September	Parish office closed for offsite staff training Mass of Anointing at St Therese's Parish Friendship Group morning tea in PACE	10:00am 10:45am
	Friday 18 September	Final day of school term 3 Whole School Mass for Season of Creation at St Therese's Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room	10:00am 10:30am
	Saturday 19 September	SVDP Essendon Regional Festival Mass at St Therese's SVDP Regional celebration in PACE	6:00pm 7:00pm
	Sunday 20 September	CSSV – Social Services Sunday Parish Morning Tea after morning Masses at St Therese's Parish Morning Tea after 10:00am Mass at OLN Parish Baptism Welcoming Mass at St Therese's	10:30am
	Monday 21 September	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Asher family SVDP Essendon Conference meeting in PACE	7:00pm
	Tuesday 22 September	Mass at Ryman Raelene Boyle Village Aged Care Centring Prayer group gathering in PACE function room	11:00am 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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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!



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!

