



The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

24 & 25 October: Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon. Today's Gospel reminds us of the two great commandments: love of God and love of neighbour. We have been called into being by God's love; and we will only be happy if we live in that love. The only real failure for a Christian is the failure to love.

First Reading: Exodus 22:20-26

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2
(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

Gospel Acclamation: John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest

commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

LEO'S LENS: REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

'Are we content with material goods, immediate satisfactions, the countless little idols that promise us everything but leave our hearts empty?', Pope Leo asks.

Obviously not. 'We all long for happiness, love and fulfilment', he notes. Indeed, he affirms that 'only God can fill the emptiness within us.'

Reflecting on how 'Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, leads us, as a shepherd leads his sheep', the Pope reminds us that Jesus shows us how to love: 'He carries the weary and wounded sheep on his shoulders, and gently brings back those who have gone astray.'

Jesus' love is gentle and persistent, directed to each person in a unique manner. 'Jesus reveals God's unconditional love for us', the Pope reminds us. 'In his eyes, none of us is merely a number or an entry in a register, but a unique and irreplaceable person.'

Experiencing such divine love, we are called to share it with others. 'Do not keep this faith in Jesus Christ to yourselves', the Pope says. 'Let it overflow, so that those you meet may be refreshed and their thirst satisfied. You are called to bring hope wherever discouragement and spiritual dryness prevail.'

Each of us is called to live 'the holiness of those who worship the true God and generously serve their brothers and sisters in charity.'

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[Quotes from Homily, 26 September 2026, Place de la Concorde (Paris): <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2026/documents/20260926-francia-messa-parigi.html>]

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, the Lord is our fortress and our strength. Let us bring our needs before the God who saves us.

That the Church will guide all people in the great commandments of love for God and for our neighbour.

That nations and governments will act with the word of God in their heart.

That those who counsel and care for others will be richly blessed for their work.

That the community will be attentive to the needs of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

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 Maria De Leo, Maria Ambrosi, Carmelo Natale, Wilma Hodgson & Kevin Curtain and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially: Emmanuel Balia, Dorothy Stopford, Julie Vianello, Margaret Moloney, Antonio Legudi, Rupert Gilmore, Rosa Stivala and Noel Dunne.

Loving God, you are our mighty strength. Hear our prayers and help us to remain steadfast in our love for you and others. 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.

PARISH CENSUS We wrap up our Parish Census this weekend so that we can begin the important work of updating our parish records. We've had a fantastic response so far and thank everyone for their participation.

Data from the census will help us better understand our parish community and support our ongoing life and mission. It will also assist the parish to plan effectively for ministries, important events and future parish initiatives.

For those who missed out, there are still cards on church entrance tables. Please take a card, fill it out and put it on a collection plate this weekend.

There is an accessible online version of the census on our website: <https://www.essendoncatholic.org.au/our-parish/parish-census/> for those who have trouble filling in the printed form. If you use the online form you will need to send the answers to the parish in an email. Answers are not automatically sent to us.

Your privacy is essential, and all information will be treated with confidentiality.

MEN'S CHOIR AND GRADE TWO FAMILIES AT OLN

We welcome our Men's Choir and families of our Grade 2 students to 5:00pm Mass at OLN this Saturday.

NOVEMBER: MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE Our annual Masses of Remembrance will be held on Friday 30 October:

- **5:00pm** at Our Lady of the Nativity (OLN)
- **7:00pm** at St Therese's

The Memorial Garden at St Therese's will be blessed on **Sunday 1 November at 11:30am**. All are welcome.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE This year our Books of Remembrance are being combined into a single parish book, starting from last year's lists. A copy will be placed in each church on Friday 30 October.

To add new names, use the links on our website: www.essendoncatholic.org.au/remembrance-month

Please first check whether the name is already in our Perpetual Book of Remembrance, which is linked on the same page. Paper forms are also available on the clipboards at the entry tables in both churches. **New names close this Sunday 25 October.**

NOVEMBER MASS ENVELOPES Now available for private Mass intentions to be offered by Fr John during November. Names written on November Mass envelopes are not added to the Book of Remembrance nor read in the intercessions at Mass.

ADVENT DAILY REFLECTIONS "Advent invites us to listen again to the quiet movements of the heart. In these weeks of waiting, longing and hope, the Church asks us not simply to prepare our homes and our celebrations, but to allow the Lord to prepare within us a place where he may be welcomed more deeply. The resource The Way of the Heart, offers a timely companion for that journey." Archbishop Shane Mackinlay, Archbishop of Brisbane. The parish has a limited number of The Way of the Heart books for sale from church sacristies or from the parish office. \$5 per copy. See the ad on the next page.

GOD'S WORD 2027 Copies of St Paul Publications' God's Word 2027 are available for the special price of \$21.95. Call Jane on 0412 239 381.

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026 Synodality and mission beyond the Church. A synodal Church listens not only inwardly but outwardly, engaging respectfully with society and culture. You can learn more about the Synod on the Archdiocese website here: <http://www.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
OLN 5:00pm	Fr Tony Feeney	Fr John Hannon
OLN 10:00am	Fr Tony Feeney	Fr John Hannon
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

LECTORS/READERS MASS SCHEDULE

MASS	THIS WEEKEND	NEXT WEEKEND
OLN 5:00pm	Michael Balia	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	Marg Tormey	Carmen Merrigan & Rosina Tempini
St T's 10:30am	Marita Hassed-Dunne & Miriam Gandolfo	Miriam Gandolfo

Blessing and Prayers for All Souls

St Therese's Memorial Garden
Sunday 1 November
after 10:30am Mass

We invite family and friends whose loved ones are interred or memorialised in our garden to attend the annual blessing

An Invitation to Attend Mass of Remembrance

Masses of Remembrance are held each year in our parish to mark

All Saints & All Souls Days
and the beginning of the
Month of Remembrance

Our Lady of the Nativity

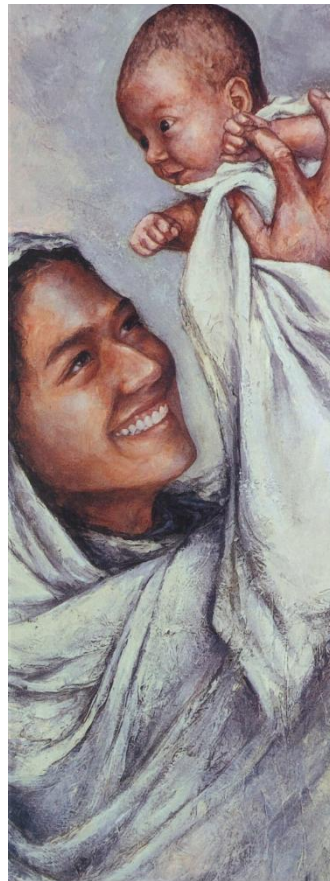
Friday 30th October at 5:00pm

and

St Therese's

Friday 30th October at 7:00pm

These Masses are a time to remember and give thanks for those who have gone before us. We especially remember those we've lost since last year's All Saints/All Souls



\$5
per copy

THE WAY OF THE HEART

DAILY REFLECTIONS
FOR ADVENT
Year B 2026

Available from the parish office (payment by card preferred) or from church sacristies at Mass if you have correct money. No cash is kept at the parish

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	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Weekend 24 & 25 October	Parish Census	All Masses	
Saturday 24 October	Men's Choir singing at Mass	5:00pm	OLN church
Saturday 24 October	Grade 2 students and families Mass	5:00pm	OLN church
Sunday 25 October	Parish Baptisms	12:00pm	St Therese's
Monday 26 October	Statue of Our Lady: D'Cruz family		
Tuesday 27 October	Funeral service for Maria De Leo	11:00am	St Therese's church
Tuesday 27 October	Centring Prayer group gathering	7:00pm	PACE Function Room
Wednesday 28 October	Italian Prayer Group Meet	9:00am	St Therese's Annex
Wednesday 28 October	Rosary & Requiem Mass for Carmelo Natale	11:30am	St Therese's church
Wednesday 28 October	Rosary & Requiem Mass for Maria Ambrosi	11:45am	OLN church
Thursday 29 October	Liturgy of the Word replaces morning Mass	10:00am	St Therese's church
Thursday 29 October	Gospel Reflections Group Meet	10:30am	PACE Meeting Room
Friday 30 October	School Mass Years 2 & 3	10:00am	St Therese's church
Friday 30 October	Tiny Ts Playgroup	10:30am	PACE Function Room
Friday 30 October	Mass of Remembrance	5:00pm	OLN church
Friday 30 October	Mass of Remembrance	7:00pm	St Therese's church
Sunday 1 November	All Saints Day		
Sunday 1 November	Blessing of the Memorial Garden	11:30am	St Therese's
Monday 2 November	All Souls Day		
Monday 2 November	Statue of Our Lady: D'Cruz family		
Tuesday 3 November	Melbourne Cup Day public holiday		
Wednesday 4 November	Italian Prayer Group Meet	9:00am	St Therese's Annex
Wednesday 4 November	Men's Coffee Group	10:45am	Lincoln Food Store
Thursday 5 November	Gospel Reflections Group Meet	10:30am	PACE Meeting Room
Friday 6 November	Tiny Ts Playgroup	10:30am	PACE Function Room
Saturday 7 November	Kids at Mass	6:00pm	St Therese's
Monday 9 November	Statue of Our Lady: Carroll 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 CANDIDATE FORUM

St Thomas', Anglican Parish, Moonee Ponds
Sunday, 8 Nov

St Thomas', Anglican Parish, Moonee Ponds is hosting a “meet the candidates forum” for all churches and Christians in the electorate of Essendon.

Come and hear from the candidates on issues that matter to Christians, with time to ask your own questions.

Sunday, 8 Nov, 11.30am

St Thomas', Anglican Parish, Moonee Ponds

756760 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds

You can find more information about this event, or forums for other electorates at:

MEET*your***CANDIDATES.ORG.AU**