

The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

7 & 8 November: Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Month of Remembrance

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon. Every Christian is meant to be a lamp-carrier, a bearer of the light of Christ to a darkened world. But like the bridesmaids we hear about in today's Gospel, we sometimes allow the precious light of Christ to grow dim, or even to go out altogether. Through a spirit of prayer and watchfulness, Christ will help us to keep his light burning brightly.

First Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is found by those who look for it.

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2
(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 24:42. 44

Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep.

But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie: Leo's Lens

'To welcome a person means to integrate them as if they were part of one's own family,' Pope Leo says, 'offering them the opportunity to develop their gifts, abilities and sensibilities, but also to enter into the life of the household.' While we all must attend to the oil in our lamps, we must also ensure others have opportunity to do likewise.
We live in an epoch of what the Pope characterises as 'unprecedented encounter between peoples and cultures.' This period, he says, 'calls us to rediscover our roots in new and creative ways, while at the same time listening carefully to others.'
As part of that, the Pope encourages us to reflect on how we are called to serve each other for the good of all. 'We need to commit ourselves to patient dialogue,' he says, 'to show courage in negotiation and to be willing to give up some positions for the greater good of peace.'
The Pope wants us to be true to our deepest values, open to the needs and gifts of others. In doing so, we become the illumination the world needs right now. The lamp we can light is that of kindness and compassion, humanity and common sense. Perhaps we can start by topping up the oil of welcome.
[Quotes from Address to the Robert Schuman Conference, 28 September 2026: https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/speeches/2026/september/documents/20260928-francia-radici-europa.html]

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

INTERCESSIONS

Brothers and sisters, let us lift up our hands in prayer and bring our needs to God who is our help and our strength.

That all the baptised will proclaim God's kingdom in their words and deeds.

That world leaders will work together to bring about peace and justice for all.

That organisations who work for the poor will be encouraged by our generous and prayerful support.

That our parish community will always remain awake and alert to the voice of God.

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: Jenny Langford, Cos Roda and Fr Brendan Lane.

This month, we pray for all those commemorated in our Book of Remembrance. And we pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially: Bernard O'Brien and Maria Mina.

Lord God, you teach us to be attentive in faith and heart. Hear our prayers, and help us to be ever watchful and always ready to respond to the Lord's call. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

To have names included in the weekend prayers and bulletin, submit the name(s) to the Parish Office by 3.00pm Wednesday.

KIDS AT MASS We welcome our Kids at Mass team at 6:00pm Mass this Saturday 7 November at St Therese's for their second-last session for 2026. The group will gather in PACE after the start of Mass. The final session for K@M this year will be held on Saturday 28 November.

SHARING MEMORIES GROUP FINAL SESSION FOR 2026 The final session for the year will be held on Tuesday 10 November at 10:30am in the parish office boardroom. The group will resume in February 2027.

PARISH FRIENDSHIP GROUP MORNING TEA Our monthly PFG morning tea is on Thursday 19 November and will follow a Mass of Anointing at St Therese's at 10:00am. This will be the final morning tea for 2026. The PFG will host Christmas lunch in December and then will have a break until the first morning tea for 2027 which will be on Shrove Tuesday 9 February.

OLN SCHOOL FUN FAIR Will be held on Sunday 22 November. Parishioners will be unable to park cars on the school grounds on either Saturday or Sunday of the weekend 21 & 22 November due to set up and operation of the fair. Access through the front yard of the church will be affected as a fair ride will be installed in the yard with surrounding safety fencing.

PARISH FRIENDSHIP GROUP CHRISTMAS LUNCH BOOKINGS OPEN NOW Christmas lunch this year will be on Thursday 3 December. See the ad on the next page for details. Book soon to avoid disappointment.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE Our Books of Remembrance, which hold the names of our beloved departed, are on display in our churches throughout November, the month of Remembrance. We do our best to transcribe handwritten names accurately, but some errors are inevitable. If you find an error or misspelling, please let the office know and we will correct it for next year.

NOVEMBER MASS ENVELOPES These are now available for private Mass intentions to be offered by Fr John during November. Please note that names written on November Mass envelopes are neither added to the Book of Remembrance nor read in the intercessions at Mass.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS WORKING BEE We'll hold our working bee on Saturday 12 December from 9:00am-11:00am to get our churches in order for Christmas. There will be cleaning and gardening jobs. If you can't make that date but would like to help, please contact the office. We have a list of tasks that can be done at a time to suit you.

ADVENT DAILY REFLECTIONS "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 of Brisbane. The parish has a limited number of copies of The Way of the Heart for sale at the church sacristies and the parish office for $5 each. See the ad on the next page.

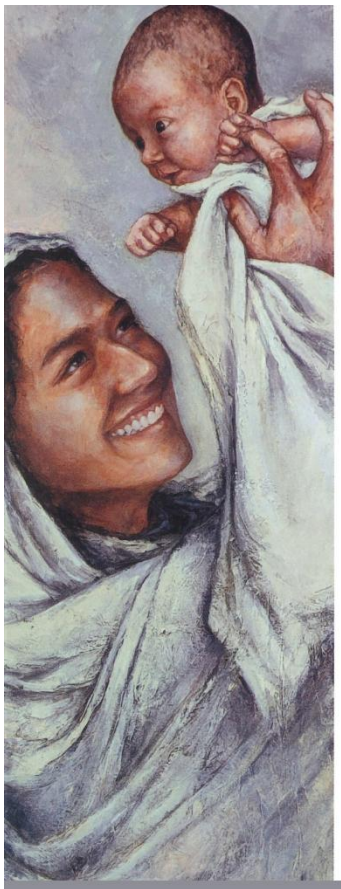
GOD'S WORD 2027 Copies of St Paul Publications' God's Word 2027 are available for the special price of $21.95. Call Jane on 0412 239 381.

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026 Synodality and courage Listening honestly may reveal uncomfortable truths. Synodality requires courage to face them with faith. 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.

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 ROSTER		
MASS	**THIS WEEKEND**	**NEXT WEEKEND**
OLN 5:00pm	Georgina Kucera & John Harris	Michael Portelli
OLN 10:00am	Natale Cutri	John McKibbin
St T's 6:00pm	John O'Connor	Alison Bretag
St T's 9:00am	Lynette Russo	John Harvey
St T's 10:30am	Lucy Angelico	Rosemary Patterson & Mary O'Brien
EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS ROSTER		
MASS	**THIS WEEKEND**	**NEXT WEEKEND**
OLN 5:00pm	Kathy Ferguson	Fred Grima
OLN 10:00am	Douglas D'Cruz	Mark Donahoo
St T's 6:00pm	Tony Proctor & Trish Giacomin	Tric Joseph & Trish Giacomin
St T's 9:00am	Tony Belcastro	Maria Cricri
St T's 10:30am	Rosa Pierorazio & Marg Moore	Cherrie Arnold & Therese Hanna



$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

KIDS AT MASS IS BACK
SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER
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
7 & 28 November

PARISH FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Christmas Lunch

THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER
PACE FUNCTION ROOM
Doors open 12:00pm

$30 PER PERSON

Two-course set menu Christmas lunch, a glass of wine (or soft drink) & entry into the lucky door prize draw

We've kept the price the same as last year with a subsidy paid by the Parish Friendship Group

NUMBERS ARE LIMITED AND PAYMENT IS REQUIRED AT TIME OF BOOKING

BOOK AND PAY AT THE PARISH OFFICE (CARD PAYMENT PREFERRED) BY FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER OR UNTIL SOLD OUT

BOOK NOW!!

THE PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST THERESE

SAFEGUARDING

ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST:

Hold a current Working With Children Check and list the parish as a place you volunteer

Complete the CAM Safeguarding Essentials Training Certification AND Acknowledge The Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct every three years

DOES THIS APPLY TO YOU?

YES

SCAN ME FOR DETAILS

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
Saturday 7 November	Kids at Mass	6:00pm	St Therese's
Monday 9 November	Statue of Our Lady: Carroll family		
Monday 9 November	Alpha Connect evening	7:00pm	PACE Function Room
Tuesday 10 November	Sharing Memories Group morning tea	10:30am	Parish boardroom
Tuesday 10 November	Mass at Ryman Aged Care	11:00am	Raelene Boyle Village
Tuesday 10 November	Centring Prayer group gathering	7:00pm	PACE Function Room
Wednesday 11 November	Italian Prayer Group Meet	9:00am	St Therese's Annex
Wednesday 11 November	Requiem Mass for Jenny Langford	11:00am	St Therese's church
Thursday 12 November	Gospel Reflections group meet	10:30am	PACE Meeting Room
Thursday 12 November	Mass at Trevi Court Aged Care	11:00am	Trevi Court Aged Care
Thursday 12 November	SVDP Regional Council meeting	7:00pm	PACE Function Room
Friday 13 November	Tiny Ts Playgroup	10:30am	PACE Function Room
Sunday 15 November	Parish Morning Tea after morning Masses		St Therese's annex
Sunday 15 November	Parish Morning Tea after 10:00am Mass		OLN
Sunday 15 November	Parish Baptism Welcoming Mass	10:30am	St Therese's church
Monday 16 November	Statue of Our Lady: La Terra family		
Monday 16 November	SVDP Essendon Conference meeting	7:00pm	PACE Function Room
Wednesday 18 November	Italian Prayer Group Meet	9:00am	St Therese's Annex
Wednesday 18 November	Men's Coffee Group	10:45am	Lincoln Food Store
Thursday 19 November	Mass of Anointing	10:00am	St Therese's church
Thursday 19 November	Parish Friendship Group morning tea	10:40am	PACE Function Room
Friday 20 November	Tiny Ts Playgroup	10:30am	PACE Function Room
Sunday 22 November	***Our Lord Jesus Christ, King Of The Universe***		
Sunday 22 November	***World Youth Day***		
Sunday 22 November	OLN School Family Fun Fair	11:00am	OLN school yard
Sunday 22 November	Parish Baptisms	12:00pm	St Therese's
Monday 23 November	Statue of Our Lady: Notaro family		
Tuesday 24 November	Centring Prayer group gathering	7:00pm	PACE Function Room

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://melbcatholic.org/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.