

St Therese's Parish Essendon

12 & 13 Sept – Season of Creation - Land Sunday

Child Protection Sunday

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



First Reading Sir 27:30 – 28:7 A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner.

He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Gospel Mt 18:21-35 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

*This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks **Child Protection Sunday**, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. The Church takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk.*

Conscious that the life and death of each person is precious in the eyes of the Lord, let us place our prayers before God who is kind and merciful, and rich in compassion.

For Church leaders, especially Pope Francis, Leaders of Religious Congregations, lay leaders of Church organisations and all entrusted with ministry and pastoral care in the Church: that they will continue to help build stronger faith communities that will promote the safety of children and vulnerable adults. **Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.**

That people of all faiths use the Season of Creation as a time to remember, respect, pray and act for the good of all of creation. **Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.**

For families: that they may grow stronger and more resilient in their love and care for one another so that children are raised in safe and nurturing environments. **Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.**

For those whose lives have been traumatised through abuse: that they may find the courage to share their story and to find lasting peace and healing. **Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.**

For all the parishioners of our parish here at St Therese's: that we mirror God's mercy in the way we care for one another. **Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for our own special intentions: **Lord, hear us - Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray for those who are ill, especially Jorge Arenivar, Jacinta Hyland, Marty O'Donnell, Lolita Fajardo, Marg Kovacs, Jane Phelan, Joan Kennedy, Gerard O'Brien

For those who have died recently, Angelo Iacobacci, Alirio Sanchez, Isabella Campo, Dominico Germano, Kevin Carmody, Majella O'Donnell, Fred Whitty, Mary Falkland, Patrice Wringe

And those whom we remember at this time especially Marie Peevers, Joy Banks, Tony O'Brien, Mario Campo

Lord, hear us - Lord hear our prayer

Gracious and loving God, source of all truth, justice and healing, we implore you to hear the prayers we offer and to look favourably on the pleas of your people. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen



Gracious God,
We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.
We prayerfully seek your grace amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.
We pray for those in need of healing.
We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.
We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response.
We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders.
We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable.
This prayer for our nation in the family of nations with all that is in our hearts, we gather now and pray
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

(Ecumenical prayer from the National Council of Churches)

SEASON OF CREATION 1 SEPTEMBER TO 4 OCTOBER

Respect for the Planet's Resources -Pope's Prayer Intention for September 2020

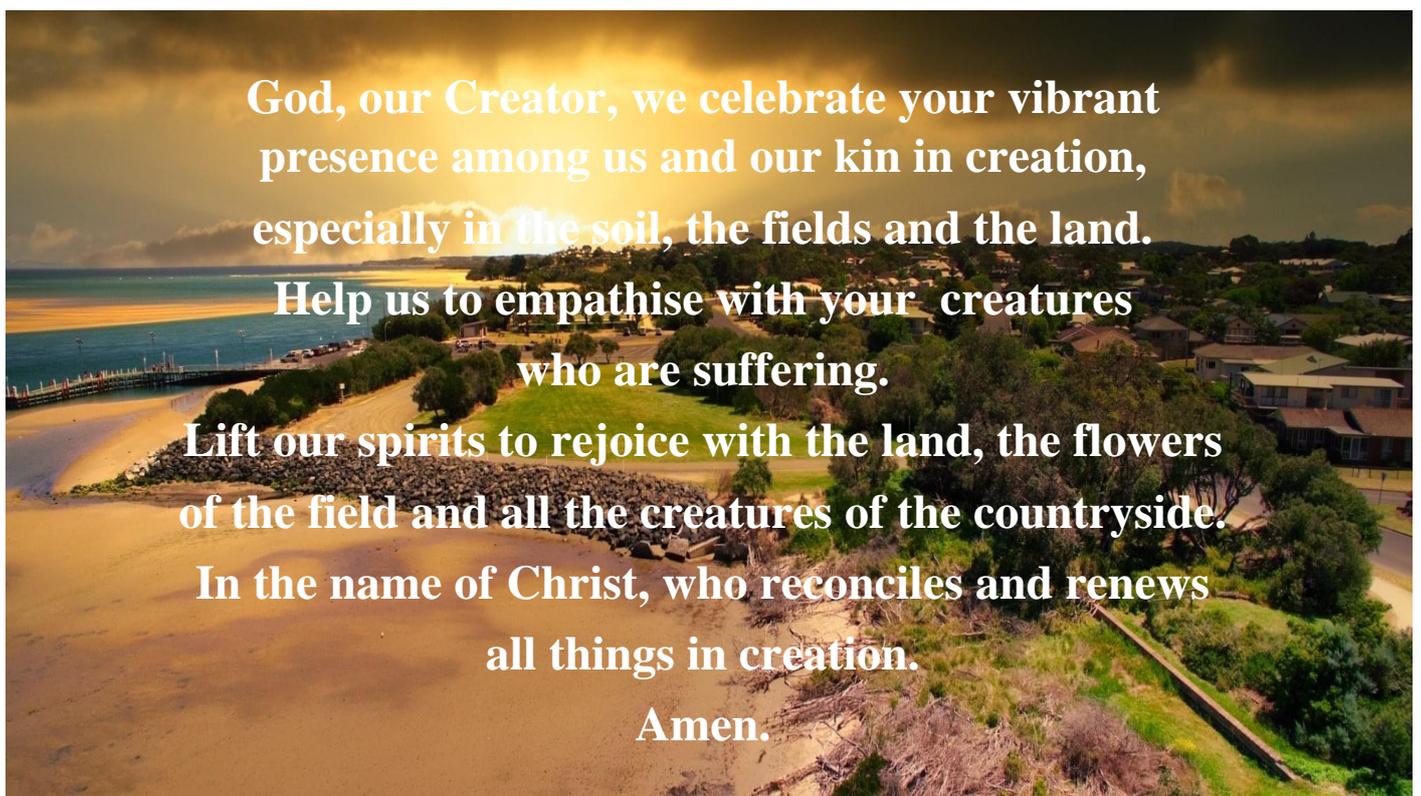


'We need to grow in the conviction that a decrease in the pace of production and consumption can at times give rise to another form of progress and development.' Pope Francis explains to us that it is impossible for the most developed countries to maintain their current level of consumption at the cost of exploiting the natural resources of the rest of the planet. We have to abandon the throw-away culture and end the commercial imbalances that have so many negative consequences for the environment.

'We are squeezing out the planet's goods. Squeezing them out, as if the earth were an orange. Countries and businesses from the global north have enriched themselves by exploiting the natural resources of the south, creating an "ecological debt." Who is going to pay this debt? In addition, this "ecological debt" is increased when multinationals do abroad what they would never be allowed to do in their own countries. It's scandalous.

Today, not tomorrow; today, we have to take care of Creation responsibly. Let us pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner. No to plundering; yes to sharing.'

This Sunday is Land Sunday. *'Let the field exult and everything in it'. Psalm 96:12*





I have always been struck by a parent's unwavering commitment to keep their child safe from harm. As a parent, you play the most vital role as your child's first and most enduring educator – shaping their ability to love, care for others and navigate life's journey. We in the Archdiocese wish to play our part in supporting parents in their role by striving to create safe and spiritually enriching environments for children and seek opportunities within the context of God's love and his teachings to build their confidence.

The [Protecting God's Children resource](#) has been adapted to provide a valuable and important resource for parents across the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. Whilst focused on the prevention of child sexual abuse, this resource supports parents to teach their children a range of skills to better respond to a range of unsafe situations.

Safety must underpin our ministries with children and we need to empower children to recognise their right to safety, to act to avoid unsafe situations, to speak up and tell a trusted adult when they feel unsafe. Our willingness to engage in discussion about this important topic, demonstrates to children that "we will listen".

Whilst we as adults must accept ultimate responsibility for keeping children safe, teaching personal safety skills plays an important role in protecting God's children.

I commend this resource to you and hope that you will find it useful.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne

Many parents would be aware of distressing video content which has recently been circulating on social media platforms. Excellent resources for reporting and dealing with inappropriate content and for help in keeping our children safe online can be found at the Australian government [eSafety Commissioner website](#) and at [ConnectSafely](#) a US-based not for profit dedicated to educating users of connected technology about safety, privacy and security.



A PRAYER FOR CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY

Gracious God, you love and care for all of your children, especially the smallest and most vulnerable.

We entrust to you the lives of children and adults at risk who have been sexually abused, and whose trust and innocence have been destroyed.

Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take responsibility for those whose lives have been broken.

Help us to recognise the hurt felt by those wounded by abuse, and the failure to be heard.

We pray that with the help of your grace communities and families will find understanding and support, so that now and in the future their wounds may be healed and they may find lasting peace.

Let your grace and love fall gently now upon our children, giving them the inner strength, peace and resilience to seek out assistance when required.

We ask this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.
Amen

PARISH LIFE AFTER ISO

A change this week as we look forward to what our parish life could look like after ISO. The following questions are designed to facilitate prayerful reflection and discussion about the effects of the Coronavirus Lockdown, and how God wants us to move forward. Having the time and space to do this is a gift! What is God asking us to do NOW, to prepare for a world emerging from the pandemic?

"I encourage each of you to consider these questions and share your thoughts with us by submitting your responses via the link provided. This will enable us to plan and position our parish to positively respond to the needs of our community in a post-pandemic world."

Fr John Hannon

THE LOCKDOWN AND ME

"Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins." Matthew 9:17

1. How has the lockdown impacted my experience of God in my life?
2. Where and how did you encounter God during this time?
3. What has changed in your journey with God over this time and is it something you want to continue?

THE LOCKDOWN AND OUR CHURCH

"When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed Him to stay with them." Luke 24:28

1. What have I missed most about not being able to go to our Church?
2. Are there any things I am not missing?
3. What kinds of 'spiritual support' have I offered to, or received from, others during the lockdown?
4. How has the church/parish adapted to the limitations imposed by the lockdown?
5. What positive changes should the church/parish keep going forward?

EXITING LOCKDOWN AND BEYOND

"Do not forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" Isaiah 43:18-19

1. What should we celebrate as a church/parish following the lockdown and pandemic?
2. Are there new / different things God is calling us to consider in the post-pandemic world?
3. During the lockdown period, people have become more familiar with connecting on-line. How can we effectively use this new way of communicating in our church/parish?
4. What may be the enduring pastoral, economic and spiritual needs of our parish community following the lockdown?
5. How can we share the joy of the Gospel in the post-pandemic context?

"Indeed, those who enjoy life most are those are those who leave security on the shore and become excited by the mission of communicating life to others."

(The Joy of the Gospel -Pope Francis.)



Click here to [respond to our online survey](#)

Or use [this printable sheet](#) and then post your answers to the parish at 48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon. Or you can email your responses to essendon@cam.org.au

If you are interested in participating in small group discussions around these questions please register your interest by emailing essendon@cam.org.au. Meetings will take place when we can gather again.

We'd love to hear what you've been up to in ISO. Email jac.radcliffe@cam.org.au to contribute to Parish Life in ISO

INTERESTING ARTICLES We are curating a collection of articles we think our parishioners might find interesting, uplifting, informative or all of the above. Check out the [parish website here](#) to find out more.

MENTAL HEALTH AND COVID19 In this prolonged period of isolation many people may be experiencing feelings of anxiety and concern. You can visit the [DHHS website](#) for advice on caring for yourself during ISO and links to useful mental health support services.

ASSISTING ISOLATED PARISHIONERS If you know of a parishioner, or if you are a parishioner who could use our help, please contact the office confidentially.



STAGE 4 RESTRICTIONS AT ST THERESE'S

OUR CHURCH REMAINS CLOSED. FUNERALS are limited to 10 mourners plus the minimum number required to conduct the funeral. **BAPTISMS** are postponed, unless there is a grave pastoral need. **WEDDINGS** are not permitted.

VISITATIONS to homes are not permitted unless for grave reasons. Only Fr John may visit. Holy Communion is not to be given to anyone in their homes or care facilities, except as Viaticum for the dying.

Mass online is celebrated Wednesday to Friday along with our weekend Mass.

PACE REMAINS CLOSED

PARISH OFFICE OPERATES REMOTELY You can call us weekdays 9am until 3pm or send us an email. For those needing to speak to Fr John, appointments can be made over the phone or via email. Onsite meetings are not permitted.

EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS contact number for Fr John: 0490 956 610

For the full details of Stage 4 restrictions you should visit the [DHHS website](#).

THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE provides regular pastoral updates on the COVID-19 situation on the CAM website: www.cam.org.au

PARISH GIVING DURING COVID19 If you usually support the parish with envelopes at Masses and would like to continue your payments, you can deposit your PSP donations directly to the parish accounts. Note there are separate accounts for church and clergy.

Contributions to the church account:

Name: St Therese's Church
BSB: 083 347
Account number: 67640 1701

Contributions towards supporting the clergy:

Account Name: St Therese's Church
BSB: 083 347
A/C number: 67616 4988

Any deposit should be referenced with your FIRST INITIAL and SURNAME so that we know that the money is a PSP payment attributed to you.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: John Hannon john.hannon@cam.org.au
Baptism – Pastoral Outreach: Leanne Torr leanne.torr@cam.org.au
Business Manager: Kathy Gilmour kathy.gilmour@cam.org.au
Function Manager: Jac Radcliffe jac.radcliffe@cam.org.au
Bookkeeper: Irene Fritsche irene.fritsche@cam.org.au
Parish Leadership Team: essendon.plt@cam.org.au
Child Safety Officer: Olivia Metcalf essendon.safeguarding@cam.org.au
Office opening hours - Monday to Friday 9.00am – 3.30pm
Office Telephone: 9401 6330 – after hours Fr John: 0490 956 610
Office email: essendon@cam.org.au Website: www.stthereses.org.au
School email: principal@stessendon.catholic.edu.au
St Vincent de Paul helpline: 1800 305 330 WEEKDAYS 10am–3pm
Tiny T's Playgroup: stthereses.tinyts@gmail.com



We forgive others as God forgives us

7x77x777x77



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Gospel Mt 18:21-35

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet.

"Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him

one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

Show Forgiveness

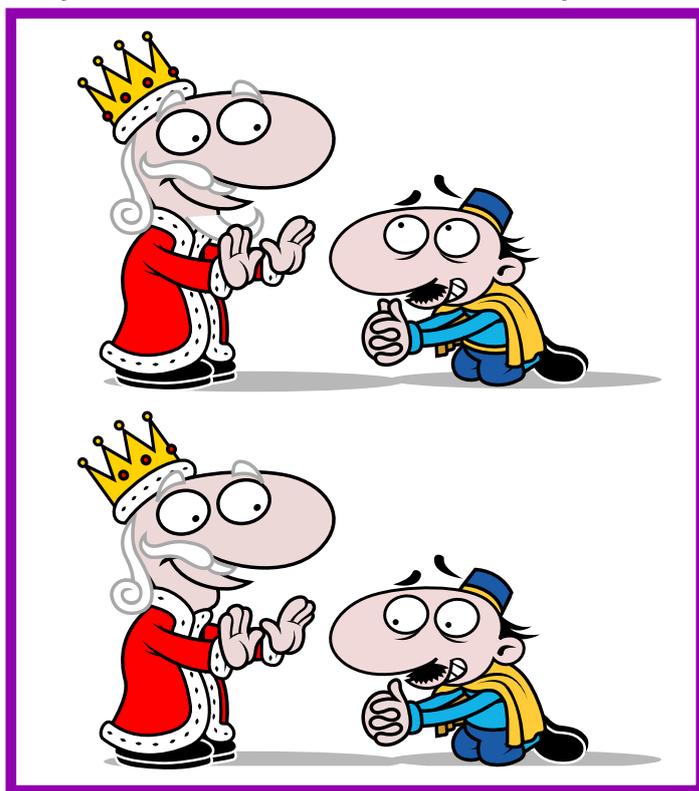
How does God forgive us when we do wrong things?



How can we show forgiveness to others?



Spot the 7 differences between these pictures



We forgive others as God forgives us

Mt 18:21-35

My name is

Draw a picture of Jesus talking to Peter about forgiveness.

Lord, if someone sins against me, how often should I forgive them? As many as seven times?

Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.



Spot the 7 differences between these pictures.

