

St Therese's Parish Essendon

19 & 20 Sept – Season of Creation – Wilderness/Outback Sunday

Social Services Sunday

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



First Reading Is 55:6-9 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Gospel Mt 20:1-16 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

On 20th September 2020, we mark Social Services Sunday within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we are invited to give thanks and pray for all who stand with and provide support to those who are marginalised and vulnerable within our communities. We recognise with deep gratitude, those working within Catholic Social Services Victoria's 45 member organisations, the 7,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers, who together, serve more than 200,000 people in need each year. We also give thanks for all in our parishes, who are so often at the forefront of providing practical support and care to those in need within their local communities, and beyond. With the overlay of COVID-19, the impact on already marginalised and disadvantaged groups is compounded; it is more necessary than ever to work together to fulfil the Gospel imperatives to stand with and serve the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised; and work for a just, equitable and compassionate society.

Brothers and sisters, let us open our hearts in prayer for God is near to all who call on him.

For the Pope, our bishops, priests, deacons, and religious and faithful people: that we may live out the love and mercy of God.

Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.

For our parish at St Therese's: that we may be welcoming and open to all whom the Lord is calling into his kingdom.

Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.

For all those affected by Coronavirus: may the Lord provide physical and spiritual succour so we can grow as individuals and as a community.

Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.

We pray that our farmers receive the rains they need this season and may they enjoy the fruits of their labours.

Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for Jenny and Clarry Answerth who celebrated 60 years of marriage this week. May God keep them together and bless their union for many more years.

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 Fred Whitty, Patrice Wringe

And those whom we remember at this time especially Marie Peevers, Joy Banks, Tony O'Brien, Isabella Campo, Ted Marantelli, Phil Grimsey, Desmond Walker, Philip Murcutt, Cecila Feeny, John Zagame, Blair Tyler, Margaret Cooper

Lord, hear us - Lord hear our prayer

God, how generous is your love for us. Hear the prayer of your people and help us to work unceasingly in the vineyard for the coming of your kingdom. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen



Prayer for Courage and Compassion

Compassionate God,

Your unconditional love for all inspires our hearts and empowers our actions for those who are most vulnerable.

May we boldly and humbly serve one another and be steadfast in our work for justice for all people.

Keep our hearts open to the joys and the hopes of our world, and our ears ready to hear your call to truth, justice and reconciliation.

Let us continue to draw inspiration and strength from those, like St Mary MacKillop, on whose shoulders we stand.

We gather in Jesus' name to be nourished and to move forward together in hope and joy.

Amen

This prayer was the 2020 National Catholic Social Services Conference prayer held in February 2020 in Melbourne. The Conference was convened by Catholic Social Services Victoria and Catholic Social Services Australia.

SEASON OF CREATION 1 SEPTEMBER TO 4 OCTOBER
3rd Sunday - Wilderness/Outback Sunday

"Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain. We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth. The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet's capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes ... The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action here and now." – Laudato si', #161

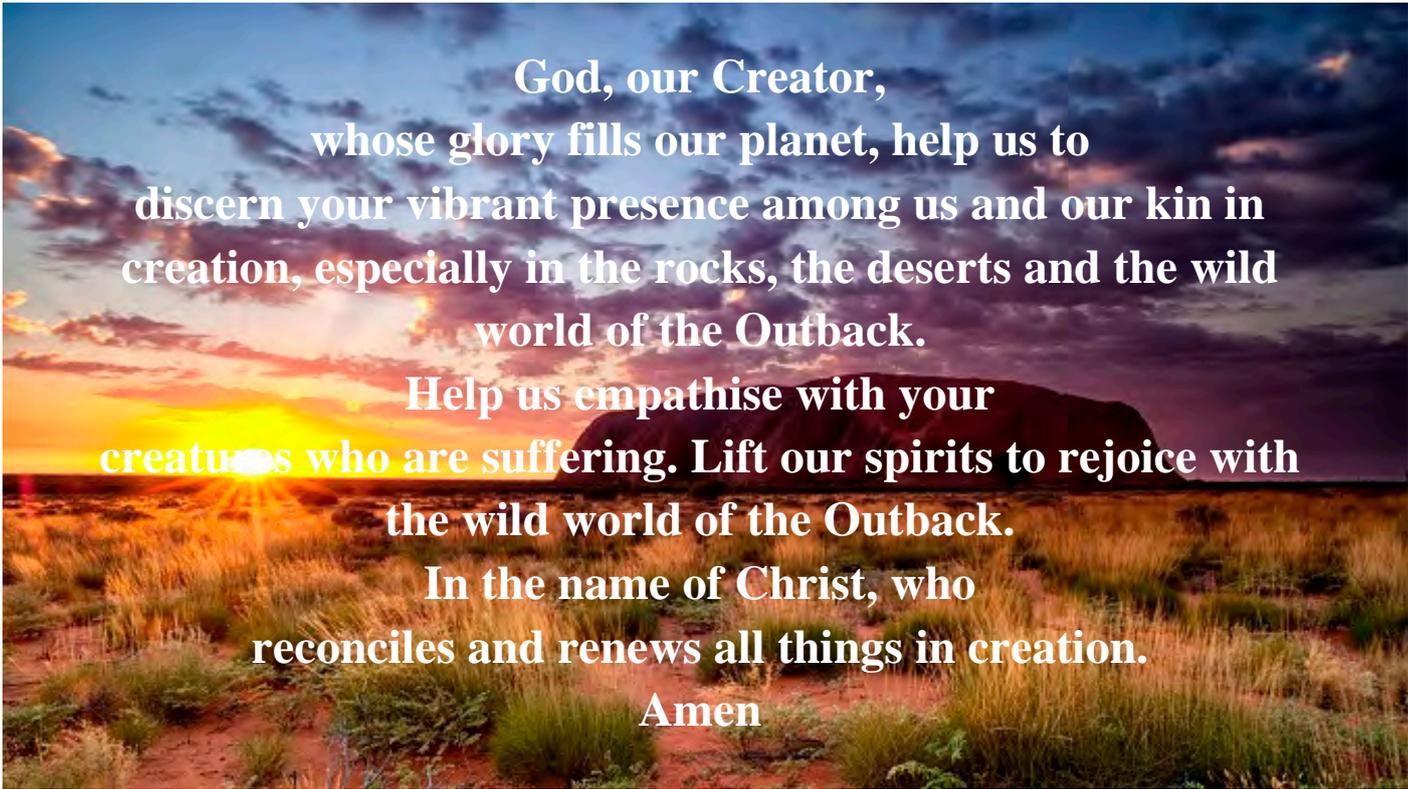
Today we hear from Isaiah God's message: "As high as the heavens are above the Earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts." In this Season of Creation, we are being called to recognize the global climate emergency in which we are living. The planet is warming dangerously because of our use of fossil fuels and our systems of production and consumption. The ways our economies function and the values they serve are depleting and wasting Earth's resources, creating great inequalities, suffering and injustice, and exceeding Earth's regenerative capacity. Earth is crying out, the poor are crying out, the existence and wellbeing of future generations is threatened.

Climate experts continue to warn of devastating, severe and destructive changes to all dimensions of life within a decade unless the global community makes dramatic changes urgently.

In this Season of Creation, we are being called to take up our prophetic responsibility in love to spread the word and to transform the ways we are living upon Earth. We must acknowledge our failures to care for creation and embrace God's ways.

(LISTEN: Laudato si' International Scholars Tertiary Education Network)

On this Wilderness/Outback Sunday. 'Let the wilderness lift up its voice'. Isaiah 42:11



**God, our Creator,
whose glory fills our planet, help us to
discern your vibrant presence among us and our kin in
creation, especially in the rocks, the deserts and the wild
world of the Outback.**

**Help us empathise with your
creatures who are suffering. Lift our spirits to rejoice with
the wild world of the Outback.**

**In the name of Christ, who
reconciles and renews all things in creation.**

Amen

PARISH LIFE IN ISO

Milestones. Many have been reached during our time in ISO when celebrations have had to be very low key, if they are allowed at all. This week in a special two-page edition of Parish Life in ISO we acknowledge and celebrate the milestones of a few of our parishioners. We also hear from Assunta Iacovino who is celebrating a professional milestone and offers real insight into the challenges faced by schools during ISO.

Pamela and John Penticoss this week celebrate 50 years in Australia, and as Essendon parishioners.

Jenny and Clarry Answerth celebrated 60 years of marriage on Thursday this week.



Jenny and Clarry Answerth

The couple have a long history with our parish, having met playing tennis at St Therese's tennis club where Clarry volunteered as Secretary of the club. Clarry also played the drums in a band, 'The Jesters' where many parishioners got together for Saturday night dances in the 1960s

Jenny and Clarry were married on 17 September 1960 at St Therese's when it rained all day! Jenny worked as a teacher at our school and still volunteers for the Senior Friendship Group.



Jenny and Clarry on their wedding day 17 September 1960

The Answerths have lived in the same home in Essendon all their married life and have raised six children.

One of our long-term parishioners reached a rather grand milestone during ISO. Many happy returns to *Fred Carisse* who celebrated his 101st birthday on 29th August!



Fred Carisse at 101

Dear Parishioners of St Therese's,

My name is Assunta Iacovino and I am a member of the Parish Leadership Team.



I have been asked to share my ISO news with you. Two weeks ago, I received news that my application for Principal of Mother of God Primary School, Ardeer, had been successful. I will commence my new appointment in 2021. I ask you to pray for me as I enter this new phase of my professional life, which comes after many years in leadership roles in Catholic Education. I am currently Deputy Principal of St Catherine of Siena in Melton West. Other leadership roles I have held have been in the areas of Religious Education, Learning and Teaching, Numeracy and Learning Diversity.

ISO has been difficult for everyone and, as you can appreciate, has impacted schools very significantly. My current school community is very diverse. Many cultures are represented and there are pockets of disadvantage. Some of our families are large, with parents who speak little English and have limited access to digital devices. As you can imagine, this would make for a very challenging setting for home learning!

As a school, we have had to overcome these challenges and continue to engage the children in continuing their education online. We have supported families and facilitated home learning by lending them school laptops, preparing resource packs and by, both leaders and teachers, keeping in almost daily contact throughout.

Our families have provided feedback that they have been amazed at the quality of learning that has been delivered and the efforts that the school has made to support wellbeing during these difficult times. The comment most often made is "We now have a new appreciation for the work that teachers and schools do."

Schools have always had a large focus on wellbeing. As educators, we know that building positive relationships with students and families, supporting connectedness and

community engagement, engendering a sense of safety and providing opportunities that challenge and extend our students as learners, all lead to better outcomes. These factors contribute significantly to improving engagement, wellbeing and academic achievement. The ISO experience has further reinforced the importance of this.

For the remainder of this year, there will be a very small window of opportunity for students and families to reconnect 'face-to-face' and to experience some of the things we do in Term 4 to celebrate and express our gratitude for the school year that has been. Events such as Year 6 Graduation, end of year Mass and end of year Picnic may occur, but they may look and feel quite different compared to past years. So, we will need to continue to restore and replenish our social connections when school restarts next year. God willing, we hope to be able to operate under 'Covid normal' conditions and to provide all the experiences of onsite schooling without interruption!

At Mother of God School there is already a very strong focus on community and wellbeing. Gerard Broadfoot, the current Principal, has described it to me as 'a beautiful school community'. I will bring my newly informed and energised understanding of the importance of community relationships to MOGS to continue to build on this.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr John and the team at St Therese's for keeping parishioners connected to parish life and to the liturgy through recordings and publications. I look forward to the time when we can all meet in person 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



A reminder that you can still respond to our parish survey – what will life AFTER ISO look like? – by clicking on the linked picture above.

INTERESTING READING 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.



MELBOURNE STEP 1 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 aged care and private homes is permitted 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

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God is generous

Jesus wants us to be generous like the farmer who paid all his workers equally, even though some worked fewer hours. Draw the farmer giving money to the worker who came last.



They worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who worked all day in the scorching heat.

I choose to give to the last-starter the same as I give to you.



Use the words below to find out what Jesus said.



IS	NOW																		
WILL																			

LAST EVERYONE BE WHO FIRST