

# St Therese's Parish Essendon

26 & 27 Sept – Season of Creation – River Sunday

Migrant and Refugee Sunday

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



**First Reading** Ez 18:25-28 A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

*The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

**Gospel** Mt 21:28-32 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'



Like Jesus Christ, forced to flee

Father, you entrusted to Saint Joseph what you held most precious: the child Jesus and his Mother, in order to protect them from the dangers and threats of the wicked.

Grant that we may experience his protection and help. May he, who shared in the sufferings of those who flee from the hatred of the powerful, console and protect all our brothers and sisters driven by war, poverty and necessity to leave their homes and their lands to set out as refugees for safer places.

Help them, through the intercession of Saint Joseph, to find the strength to persevere, give them comfort in sorrows and courage amid their trials. Grant to those who welcome them some of the tender love of this just and wise father, who loved Jesus as a true son and sustained Mary at every step of the way.

May he, who earned his bread by the work of his hands, watch over those who have seen everything in life taken away and obtain for them the dignity of a job and the serenity of a home.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, whom Saint Joseph saved by fleeing to Egypt, and trusting in the intercession of the Virgin Mary, whom he loved as a faithful husband in accordance with your will.

Amen.

*La fuga in Egitto, Massimiliano Ungarelli 2019*



## MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY - 2020

On this 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, we remember, pray for, and commit to working to change the horrible reality of many in 'our own backyard'. We acknowledge and give thanks for the many parish communities across the state, along with those working within our Catholic social services and other organisations and community groups, who are making considerable efforts to assist people seeking asylum, refugees, and other migrants who hold temporary visas—many remain in harsh circumstances in detention centres, and the majority of the 115,000 living in the Australian community have been deemed ineligible for any federal government support payments during COVID-19, making many at risk of homelessness and despair.

In his message for World Day for Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis tells us, "You have to know in order to understand" and "It is necessary to be close, in order to serve". Only when different elements of the community work together — individuals, parishes, schools, universities and organisations — can we effectively advocate for systemic change and provide for people's immediate necessities and other spiritual and social needs.

### ST THERESE'S PARISH ESSENDON - REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS before and after COVID-19

*A note from Sr Margaret Moore*

*Recently I visited a family with two young children from a middle-eastern country who are living in this area. They have been waiting in the community for a visa for over seven years now and at present the mother is struggling with serious mental health issues and her husband with physical health issues. Refugee Legal (with the support of a generous local doner) is offering this family some assistance that they need in coping with the complex legal process for visa that asylum seekers are required to navigate.*

*They are just one family among many who are in this situation in Victoria. We, from the parish with your support, continue to offer practical assistance to a number of other families in similar situations of uncertainty.*

*I have also come to know a number of asylum seeker families who have been brought here from Nauru usually initially, for health reasons, but they do not have permission to work. This makes their life even more stressful. Our parish school and others in the community are assisting some of these families.*

*Through the parish refugee volunteer group we visit four families in this situation of need. There is little or no income support for them— they do not qualify for JobSeeker or JobKeeper or any other Government funding.*

*Our volunteer group have come to see first-hand the vulnerability, mental stress and related health difficulties that refugees and asylum seekers are all experiencing at this time. It is so difficult yet they are all so grateful for any small kindnesses.*

*On this World Day for Migrants and Refugees we ask you to continue to offer your support - every little bit is so helpful. Thank you.*

#### **Donations to the church account:**

Name: St Therese's Church

BSB: 083 347 Account number: 67640 1701 and use Reference: RAASG

*Brothers and sisters, let us bring our prayer before God who guides the humble and shows the path to those who stray.*

For the Church: for humble hearts committed to the Father's will.

**Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.**

For our prime minister and our premier: may they remain steadfast in their pledge to serve the common people.

**Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.**

For the sick and those near death, for deliverance from pain and suffering.

**Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died and those whose anniversaries we keep at this time: that they may enjoy the fruits of Christ's resurrection.

**Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.**

On this 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees we pray for those families seeking asylum, refugees, and other migrants who hold temporary visas

**Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Australian community that have been deemed ineligible for any federal government support payments during COVID-19, making many at risk of homelessness and despair.

**Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.**

That we may deepen our gratitude for nature's rich Web of Life within which we live and may grow in openness to wiser and more just ways of caring for it and sharing it.

**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, Pasquale Mammone  
**For those who have died recently**, Patricia Torr, Vincenzina Placanica, Patricia Clark and Sister Dawn Bang RSC

**And those whom we remember at this time** especially Eileen Morse and Domenico Germano

**Lord, hear us - Lord hear our prayer**

*God, keeper of the vineyard, you have promised salvation to those who turn back to you. Hear these prayers and help us to live not by our words but by our deeds. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*



Almighty and all-merciful God,  
Lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds,  
in whom there is no shadow of death,  
save us in this time of crisis;  
Grant wisdom and courage to our leaders;  
Watch over all medical people  
as they tend the sick and work for a cure;  
Stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation;  
If our doors are closed, let our hearts be open.  
By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear  
that hope may never die  
and the light of Easter, the triumph of life  
may shine upon us and the whole world.  
Through Jesus Christ, the Lord, risen from the dead  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.

*(Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane)*

**SEASON OF CREATION 1 SEPTEMBER TO 4 OCTOBER**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday - River Sunday**

*"As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning ... Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life." – From the Earth Charter, Quoted in Laudato si', #207*

In this Season of Creation, we have prayed over our calling to recognize the global climate emergency in which we are living and spread the word about the call to conversion and change that it presents. The ways the human family is living on the planet, 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.

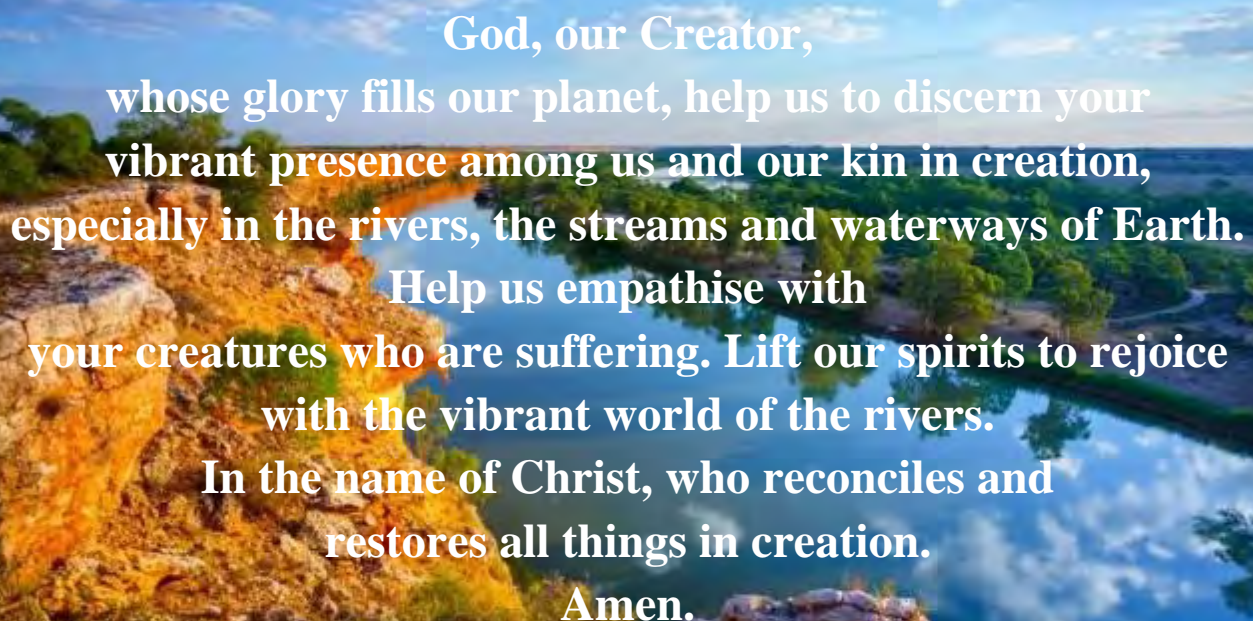
Earth is crying out. The poor are crying out. The existence and wellbeing of future generations is threatened. This all constitutes a strong and urgent call to conversion in all dimensions of life.

In today's readings, we hear clearly from Ezekiel that this conversion is the personal responsibility of each of us. God will judge us in the end upon the choices we each make of how we will live with each other in the community of creation. It is never too late to choose God's ways. God is always compassionate and forgiving, ready to teach us the way.

St. Paul reminds us that Christ Jesus is that teaching, is God's demonstration of the Way to live: serving everyone compassionately and generously, not competing for attention, appreciation, wealth or glory, humble and self-sacrificing, even to the point of death on a cross. For this God exalted him, glorifying him above every other. And in the gospel, Jesus warns that words, that simply saying the right things, is not enough. Our actions must show our conversion, a conversion that in these critical times in the history of our planet must be integral, a conversion to action in the ecological, social, economic, cultural, and political dimensions of our lives.

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

On this River Sunday. *'The river of God is full of water'. Psalm 65: 9*



**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 rivers, the streams and waterways of Earth.**  
**Help us empathise with**  
**your creatures who are suffering. Lift our spirits to rejoice**  
**with the vibrant world of the rivers.**  
**In the name of Christ, who reconciles and**  
**restores all things in creation.**  
**Amen.**

# PARISH LIFE IN ISO

*A conversation with my husband the other day got me thinking about the far-reaching mental health implications of our life in ISO. He was telling me how he felt kind of off, a bit down, nothing terrible but still, not himself. And he didn't understand why he felt this way since his work hasn't been affected, he's leaving the house every day and he's not a health worker dealing directly with the pandemic. He is by no means a model of stoicism, but it is unusual for him to discuss these types of feelings, with me or with anyone. It just goes to show that no one is travelling through this period of isolation and restriction unscathed.*

I had noticed he wasn't quite right, but in the midst of my own anxiety, being busy with kids and an enforced domestic life, his irritability, to be quite honest, was just another irritation to me.

It may sound strange, but I was delighted with this conversation because it opened a dialogue. We talked about our family trying to eat better and exercise more and about trying to keep our thoughts and our words positive. All the things that we know will help and that sometimes, when we get mired in the day to day, we forget to do.

Since that first conversation, when he asks me how I am sometimes I can truthfully say I'm ok and sometimes I tell him that my anxiety was bad today. And so, we've started to talk to each other about how we're feeling. And it helps.



*Photo by Finn on Unsplash*

This month we celebrated R U OK? Day to evoke discussion around mental health and encourage us to check in with our loved ones.

People are lonely. Frustrated. Anxious. Many are experiencing increased relationship strain. Parents are losing their mind with kids at home 24/7 and kids themselves are struggling with all the many ways Covid restrictions have impacted their life.

We need to be looking out for one another. There are thousands of people around us who are struggling right now, and unfortunately many of them may never open up about their internalised feelings or seek support. But if we can check in with our loved ones, our friends, and our neighbours to ask R U OK? we can take the first step in ensuring they get the support they need.

## ***Taking the first step***

It can be really difficult to ask someone if they are okay. It can be even more difficult to ask someone when you're not feeling okay yourself. So, some things to consider before asking someone if they are okay are to:

### ***Check in with yourself.***

If you're struggling with mental health issues or stress, seek help by talking to someone you trust or a professional. That way you can find the help you need AND discover how you can support others without detriment to your own wellbeing.

### ***Prepare to ask.***

If someone says they're not okay, will you know what to say? What if they aren't ready to talk? And what if they need professional help? Find these answers on the [R U OK? website](#).

### ***Pick a good time to chat.***

If you're going to ask someone R U OK? make sure that both you and the person have enough time to chat properly. You'll also need to pick a moment to bring the question up. You may find that there is never a 'right' time, or you might choose a moment and then feel too anxious to ask, but remember it's more important to ask than to worry about the minor things.

To learn how to ask someone R U OK? Check out these great tips on [R U OK?'s website](#).

For more in-depth tips and discussions, check out our articles below:

[When you ask R U OK? - what do you do if someone says 'no'?](#)

[Loved and Worthwhile - using the ALGEE method to ask about suicidal thoughts](#)

*Adapted from original writings of Liz Gellel, Communications Coordinator, Catholic Care.*

***We'd love to hear what you've been up to in ISO. Email [jac.radcliffe@cam.org.au](mailto:jac.radcliffe@cam.org.au) to contribute to Parish Life in ISO***



**BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE 2020** This year our perpetual Book of Remembrance will be published online on our website. To submit new names to the book, please follow this link: <https://forms.gle/26pCK8E5ovgFbDpv9> which will be active until 5pm on Wednesday 28 October. The book will be up on our website from the 1 November. **PLEASE NOTE: If you have submitted names in previous years there is no need to do it again as all names remain in the Book of Remembrance.**

**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.

**VISITATION** 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 Step 1 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](http://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](mailto:john.hannon@cam.org.au)

**Baptism – Pastoral Outreach:** Leanne Torr [leanne.torr@cam.org.au](mailto:leanne.torr@cam.org.au)

**Business Manager:** Kathy Gilmour [kathy.gilmour@cam.org.au](mailto:kathy.gilmour@cam.org.au)

**Function Manager:** Jac Radcliffe [jac.radcliffe@cam.org.au](mailto:jac.radcliffe@cam.org.au)

**Bookkeeper:** Irene Fritsche [irene.fritsche@cam.org.au](mailto:irene.fritsche@cam.org.au)

**Parish Leadership Team:** [essendon.plt@cam.org.au](mailto:essendon.plt@cam.org.au)

**Child Safety Officer:** Olivia Metcalf [essendon.safeguarding@cam.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:essendon@cam.org.au) Website: [www.stthereses.org.au](http://www.stthereses.org.au)

**School email:** [principal@stessendon.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@stessendon.catholic.edu.au)

**St Vincent de Paul helpline:** 1800 305 330 WEEKDAYS 10am–3pm

**Tiny T's Playgroup:** [stthereses.tinyts@gmail.com](mailto:stthereses.tinyts@gmail.com)



# Do the right thing



26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



## Make Good Choices

Jesus asks us to make good choices. Circle the good choices and cross out the poor choices.

### When my bedroom needs tidying, I should...



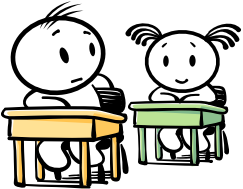
- ... go outside and play
- ... put some of my things away
- ... play with my computer
- ... sort out my rubbish

### When I accidentally bump into someone, I should...



- ... tell them it was their fault
- ... say "I'm sorry"
- ... ask them if they are okay
- ... run away quickly

### When someone new joins our class, I should...



- ... invite them to come and play
- ... look at them, but not talk to them
- ... ignore them completely
- ... welcome them to our class

## Gospel

Mt 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'



I tell you, \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_  
 the \_\_\_\_\_ of God before you!  
 For when \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_  
 showed you how to do \_\_\_\_\_,  
 you did not \_\_\_\_\_ him.

right    kingdom  
 Baptist    believe  
 sinners    John    enter

Find out what Jesus said to the pharisees using the words to fill in the blanks.

# Do the right thing

Jesus says it is better to have a change of heart than pretend to do what is right.  
Draw a picture of yourself doing something that you know is the right thing to do.



Colour in the picture of the two sons who were asked to work in their father's vineyard.  
Jesus wants us to be like the son who did the right thing and went to work for his father.

