

# St Therese's Parish Essendon



24 & 25 October 2020

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A  
World Mission Month



## First Reading Ex 22:20-26 A reading from the book of Exodus

*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."

## Gospel Mt 22:34-40 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*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.'



**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> The link will be active until 5pm on Wednesday 28 October.

If you would like to submit names via email then please send them to [essendon@cam.org.au](mailto:essendon@cam.org.au).

You can alternatively phone the parish office during business hours or drop a printed note into the office letterbox.

Entries in the book are sorted alphabetically by last name so any emails or handwritten notes should clearly show the first name and the last name.

The book will be up on our website from next Sunday 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.**

*Let us bring our needs before the God who loves us.*

That the Church's work will be built on God's law of love.

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

We pray for the Pope and our bishops: that they may lead by example in following God's commandment to love one another as thy self.

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

We pray for the unloved people of this world: that they may find compassionate friends.

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

We pray for all those in leadership roles in our community, within Church and the levels of government: may they have the compassion and love to give priority to the common good.

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

For World Disarmament Week: May our leaders everywhere have the strength and humility to turn the other cheek as we seek to limit, and eventually abolish weapon usage.

**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, Marty O'Donnell, Lolita Fajardo, Jane Phelan and Joan Kennedy

**For those who have died recently** Betty Hannon, Sven Nilsson and Br Gerard O'Brien

**And those we remember at this time** especially Margie Moloney, Michael Wilkinson, Noel Langford, Laurie Dwyer, Irene Marantelli, Bridget Reddoch and Frank Egan

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

*Loving God, you are a refuge for the poor and helpless. Hear our prayers and help us to live your commandment of love. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.*

**Amen**

### PRAYER FOR UNITY



Lord, during this pandemic, we entrust ourselves to You, together in one boat.

You shine on our lives as a sign of salvation and hope, together in one boat.

You give us the strength to sit with those suffering in this crisis, together in one boat.

We ask You to bless those who have little and have shown by example the meaning of sharing with others, together in one boat.

We take comfort Lord, in knowing that we are together with You in one boat.

Amen.

*Originally published in Far East*

# PARISH LIFE ISO

*Spring is definitely here and it's time to stop and smell the roses! Our church gardens are verdant and perfumed at the moment. Make sure you enjoy the gardens when you're out walking in the neighbourhood. Watch out for the strange garden gnome!*







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

*In case you missed it we're republishing Fr John's letter from last week.*

## **A LETTER FROM FR JOHN**

**16 October 2020**

**Dear friends at St Therese's Parish,**

*As time goes by, the days get longer in terms of light, and springtime colours bursting forth, here we are still in lockdown, hoping for some relief before too long now. The roses in the parish gardens, especially thanks to Bryan Guiney, our volunteer parish green thumb, are looking particularly bright.*

*Last week, our school students celebrated the Feast of our parish patron saint Therésè also known as “The Little Flower”, suitable for springtime too! I was pleased to be able to play a part in the paraliturgy by reading a story about flowers and bees brightening the world around us, as Therese did through her little good deeds and words. Then, when I was out for a long walk (within 5km!) with my friend Father Tony Feeney, parish priest at Moonee Ponds, we were surprised and pleased to come across some terrific chalk drawings and writing along the footpath and driveways, reflecting the thoughts and artistic skills of our students. A great job was done by those who contributed to brightening the neighbourhood and making others aware of the positive influence and goodness of St Therésè, who was a great example of the saying: “From little things, big things grow”!*

*At last school is back and our friendly and enthusiastic young people can get together with their friends and share classroom activities and fun outside as we get into gear for the final term for 2020. When I walked through the playground this week. I sensed a real happiness and joy in being back together with friends and teachers face to face, even with masks for the seniors! Let's hope we can continue to gradually open up to the freedoms we have been familiar with before this unprecedented time of 2020.*

*I guess we'll always have plenty of stories to tell about how life changed for a time, and we just had to adapt and get used to it for the benefit of all, in terms of public health and the common good of all in our community.*

*We've all had opportunities to try to use our time well, finding things to do and activities to pursue, even if not with our friends as we have been accustomed. My piano playing has improved a bit, and I've managed a few challenging jigsaws, and there are always more books to read on my Kindle, as well as more time to reflect and think. And then there is ZOOM for virtual meetings, and dinner on Sunday evenings with a few priest friends on the iPad at the dinner table, continuing our normal conversation on-line. At least we can do that these days near and far.*

*It has been strange having the church closed to normal activities for over 6 months, and pastoral visits being very much restricted also, but we have had to accept that this has all been for the common good and health of all. This pervasive coronavirus knows no boundaries, and the numbers have slowly been improving in the right direction for resumption of some sort of normality.*

*Nothing is certain about when and how we can reopen for resumption of weekday and weekend Masses, with numbers likely to be restricted at least for some time. With Christmas coming, we can't really guess how and when and even where we might come together to celebrate. Then there are the deferred Baptisms, weddings and memorial Masses for those who have had bereavements with limited numbers for funerals in this recent time.*

*As for sacramental celebrations, particularly for our First Communion and Confirmation candidates, we may just have to wait until 2021, which is fast approaching anyway! I can only surmise that larger gatherings will not be permitted for some time yet, and we may have to look at new ways of gathering in smaller groups. At present, I can't say what we will do. I do appreciate the frustration and disappointment of those students and their families at not being able to do things as usual and missing the usual celebrations that we have for these important occasions.*

We are learning to wait with patience and accepting the uncertainty at present. At the same time, we have learned to do things in new ways, with on-line learning, teachers and parents working from home, and being creative with communication and activities.

At the parish we have tried to provide a service and ongoing communication through the parish website, with Masses being videoed and uploaded for weekdays and weekends on the parish website at [stthereses.org.au](http://stthereses.org.au). And there is the weekly parish bulletin online as well, to keep you updated on current information and items of interest.

If you wish to receive the parish newsletter via weekly email you can [click here to subscribe](#) or send your request via email to [essendon@cam.org.au](mailto:essendon@cam.org.au).

I particularly thank our school community, with Michael Di Nuzzo as Principal, his leadership team and all involved, for the dedication they have shown and the great work they have done in this time of home schooling on-line. I also acknowledge and thank our parish team of Kathy, Jac, Irene and Leanne, who have continued to work from home during this period, trying to keep me organized and things ticking over in this quieter time.

I also understand that it has been a very difficult time for many who have suffered the effects of closure, particularly those of you who have had small business concerns, and those whose employment has been adversely affected, where it has not been possible to continue operating and making ends meet. As time goes by, this has no doubt created financial pressures and anxiety. If this is an issue, you need to talk about it. Our thoughts are with you and hope that things can resume sooner than later for all. We are here to listen and help in any way we can, so feel free to make contact if you wish to have a chat.

Finally, I offer a bit of wisdom from my favourite author, yes, Dr Seuss!

**"Life is too short to wake up in the morning with regrets. So, love the people who treat you right, forgive the ones that don't and believe that everything happens for a reason. If you get the chance, take it. If it changes your life, let it. Nobody said it would be easy; they just promised it would be worth it."**

On a sad note, my one and only aunt Betty died peacefully this morning, after happily celebrating her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday only two weeks ago. Over the past three years, she has enjoyed coming to St Therese's and staying with me and appreciated the welcome, warmth and hospitality of the parish community, particularly the Senior Friendship Group.

Once again, I thank you all for your patience and understanding in this extended period of uncertainty and anxiety.

With warmest wishes to all.



John Hannon  
Parish Priest

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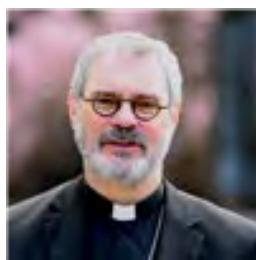


**MASS OF THANKSGIVING** for the life of Fr John's dear aunt (Mary Elizabeth) Betty Hannon will be held at St Therese's on Monday 26 October at 10.45am. The service will be live-streamed at <https://www.belindajanevideo.com/client-video/betty-hannon/>. Following the service, the footage will be posted and you can watch at a later time if you are unable to watch at the time of the service. There is an online guest book if you wish to send Betty's family a message. Fr John thanks you all for your prayers and messages of condolence.

## **People of faith deserve hope, not exile: Archbishop Comensoli**

The following text originally appeared in the *Herald Sun* (19 October 2020):

*People of faith have co-operated with COVID restrictions at every stage this year in Victoria and have been publicly recognised for these efforts. We were ready for glimmers of hope from Daniel Andrews on Sunday, but we were left feeling pushed out, writes Archbishop Peter Comensoli.*



*Sunday was not a great day for people of faith in Victoria, but it should have been.*

In announcing the next step of Victoria's COVID-19 road map, the government eased some restrictions. People were ready for glimmers of hope, but there was not much hope offered to people of faith.

We weren't expecting a great opening up of every sector. However, it was noticeable that additions to step two restrictions allowed for a return to pet groomers, swimming pools and locations 25km from your home, but no return to your place of worship in any meaningful sense.

Presently, in step two of the COVID-19 road map, Melbourne's doors of faith are closed. Churches, synagogues, temples and mosques are shut, pending a government announcement that they can open again.

These are not places of mere formality, but of lively and attentive care to vulnerable people, and of support to those facing sickness, loneliness, grief and death. They are places of hope and wellbeing, and of spiritual friendship.

Sadly, what is worse is that when we look ahead to step three there is very little for faith communities. Parity with other sectors seems denied even when we reach COVID-normal. The spectre of our places of worship remaining closed except for "private prayer" leaves our people feeling exiled and pushed outside.

And frankly, given our weather sometimes, Victorian people of faith aren't too pleased at being forced to stand outside the doors of their sacred places to celebrate the most important dimensions of their fundamental beliefs and commitments.

If they are gathering outside in the wind and rain, looking over at their locked doors, it's pretty hard to explain why the doors of the cafe across the road are invitingly open.

People of faith have joined in the common work of co-operation with COVID restrictions at every stage this year. We've proven ourselves to be fair-minded and civil, patient and prepared.

We've worked closely with the health department, local police, government authorities and other faith leaders to be safe and responsible. We have been publicly recognised for these efforts.

Churches may not be licensed premises, but they are highly regulated spaces, especially during times of worship.

It is now seven months since people of faith have been able to gather together in prayer. Like every other sector of life, this has had a major impact on the wellbeing of a very large sector of our community. For many of those who are affected, this is one of their principal opportunities for social interaction and personal activity.

Why would pool water shared by 30 swimmers at a time be considered safer than baptism water poured over one infant child?

Why would sitting down without a mask and socialising informally with up to 40 strangers inside an eatery be considered less risky than the formalised, masked and appropriately spaced gathering of a faith community?

Why would public health advisers tell the government that religious worship is an inherently higher risk than other sectors?

It is a relief for all of us that our places of sporting, hospitality and community gathering are being allowed to open. It is just that none of this passes the pub test (literally!) when it comes to places of worship remaining closed.

I have been inundated with calls for accountability on the COVID road map and of answers to obvious questions. Profoundly, some of the loudest voices in my own archdiocese have been from our young people. While our elderly and more isolated parishioners have suffered from being closed out of their churches, young people have been speaking on their behalf, concerned for their wellbeing, requesting that the government show us a measure of fairness and equality in each step of restrictions.

Our young people and young priests are looking to the future, and they can see that closing off churches is cutting off a source of spiritual care that cannot be overlooked, and of social and mental health supports that nobody else can provide.

For us, prayer with others is essential. It is a powerful help in our troubles that has nothing comparable in the secular and medical parallels of a visit to the doctor, however important that is.

If there really is health advice suggesting places of worship are inherently riskier, I respectfully request to see it.

If there is data that backs up the suspicion being thrown on communities of faith in this pandemic, I am only too pleased to sit down and talk it through with experts. We can manage all the steps required to be COVID-safe.

The quiet and patient prayers and hopes of people of faith have been constant this year.

But now they deserve the opportunity to step forward hopefully.

**ALL SAINTS / ALL SOULS MASSES** This year our All Saints Day will be celebrated on Sunday 1 November and Fr John will record Mass as usual for that weekend. All Souls Day will be on Monday 2 November and Fr John will upload a special Mass on that date. Our Book of Remembrance will be published on 1 November online and a hard copy will be placed in the church. Fr John will remember our deceased friends and family at all Masses in November.



Click the image to watch this week's video

### **READY, SET, PRAY! CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD**

While we are exiled from gathering as parish communities, COVID is offering an opportunity for praying together in our homes. The Ready, Set, Pray! Children's Liturgy of the Word @ Home video series provides an engaging space for families to encounter Jesus through the Sunday gospel. Each week, families are invited to create and gather in their own prayer space, to sing, hear the Gospel, pray and respond creatively through an activity. The series commenced Sunday, 18 October and will continue each Sunday until Christmas. The series is produced by Proclaim: The Office for Mission Renewal.



Click the image to watch Bishop Kike's video

those living with the devastating effects of landmines, that the Arrupe Centre was established in 2001. The recognition of God's presence in all who use the Arrupe Centre is at the heart of its mission to restore the dignity and rights of those affected by landmines by giving them the opportunity to study, work and build their lives. For the past 20 years this approach has seen the Arrupe Centre and the Church in Battambang grow and expand their support work to provide services such as education programs, social enterprises and more. "The future of the Arrupe Centre will be one that the needs of the society determines. If tomorrow or in ten years we don't have a hostel, we will be very happy because that means that all the children can grow in their own homes and families. But the Arrupe Centre will be always a welcoming place for people with disabilities." By [donating today](#) to the 2020 Catholic Mission Cambodia Appeal, you can help restore dignity and empower people living with a disability in Cambodia.

### **WORLD MISSION MONTH: THE BISHOP OF WHEELCHAIRS**

The man that all at the Arrupe Centre, know as Bishop "Kike", was born Enrique Figaredo Alvargonzalez, in the north of Spain. He felt a strong calling to the priesthood after attending a youth synod in Taizé, France. This epiphany eventually led him to Cambodia, where he began working with refugees in the Thai border camps during the tumultuous years of civil war in the late 1980s. He immediately returned to his missionary work in Cambodia after being ordained a priest with the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits, in 1992. Bishop Kike has been leading the Church in Battambang, in Cambodia's north-west, for over twenty years. It was in response to the needs of

the needs of the society determines. If tomorrow or in ten years we don't have a hostel, we will be very happy because that means that all the children can grow in their own homes and families. But the Arrupe Centre will be always a welcoming place for people with disabilities." By [donating today](#) to the 2020 Catholic Mission Cambodia Appeal, you can help restore dignity and empower people living with a disability in Cambodia.

**POPE FRANCIS' NEW ENCYCLICAL** Pope Francis has written his third encyclical entitled *Fratelli tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship), which he addresses to all people of goodwill and offers as a proposal for a way of life 'marked by the flavour of the Gospel'. Visit our website to read the [full encyclical](#) or a [summary](#). We also have some [interesting articles](#) relating to Fratelli tutti on the website.



**COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR 2021** Our St Vincent De Paul Society conference will be selling Columban Art Calendars this year. If you would like to purchase a calendar please contact the office either by email [essendon@cam.org.au](mailto:essendon@cam.org.au) or by phoning 9401 6330 during office hours. Details on how to collect the calendars will be finalised once more information about the Metropolitan Melbourne roadmap are released.  
Proceeds from sales support the works of our SVDP Essendon conference.

**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.**



## CURRENT COVID RESTRICTIONS AT ST THERESE'S Our church remains closed except for permitted ceremonies.

**RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS:** permitted outdoors with a limit of 5 people, plus one faith leader. Must be adjacent to the place of worship.

**FUNERALS:** limited to 10 mourners (infants under 12 months of age not included in this number). A separate grouping of mourners may not come in to remove the coffin from the church. You can travel to a funeral outside of metropolitan Melbourne.

**WEDDINGS:** permitted in outdoor public spaces with a maximum of 5 attendees, including the couple and two witnesses, but not including the celebrant. Children under 12 months are exempted from the number.

**BAPTISMS:** may be celebrated under the outdoor gathering limits. This allows for 5 people including the faith leader outdoors (a child under 12 months not included).

## REQUESTS FOR OUTDOOR RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES WILL BE CONSIDERED ON A CASE-BY-CASE, PASTORAL BASIS.

**VISITATIONS: Homes:** Faith leaders may visit someone in their home on request to share spiritual ministry (or equivalent religious services) to provide care and support to a person who is at the end of their life. Travel to the person's home and the visit are limited to what is reasonably required and necessary.

**Hospitals or Care Facilities:** Faith leaders may visit someone in a hospital or care facility to share spiritual ministry to those who are at the end of their life, or if it would support a patient or resident with their emotional or mental wellbeing, in line with other visiting restrictions and if this support cannot be provided remotely. Strict limits on visitors apply in these circumstances. It is critical measures like face coverings and physical distancing are observed and these visits are limited to what is reasonably required and necessary.

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

## PACE REMAINS CLOSED

**PARISH OFFICE OPERATES REMOTELY** Phone us weekdays 9am until 3pm or send 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 web site](#).

**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 CONTACTS

**Parish Priest:** John Hannon [john.hannon@cam.org.au](mailto:john.hannon@cam.org.au)

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**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)

To have our newsletter delivered direct to your inbox, subscribe by [clicking here](#)

*St Therese's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.*

*We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country of the land on which our church stands and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures and to Elders past and present.*

# Jesus' law of love

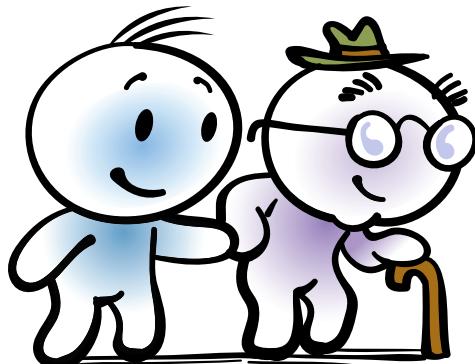
An expert in the Jewish law tried to test Jesus by asking him, "What is the most important commandment?". Draw Jesus giving his answer to that question.

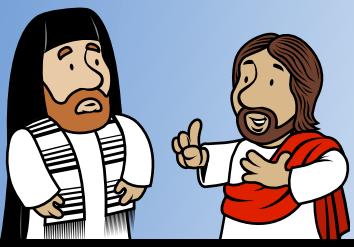
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind." This is the first and most important commandment. The second is like it: "Love your neighbour as much as you love yourself".



Whenever we show kindness, love and respect for others, we are loving God.

Draw a picture of yourself doing something that shows love for God.





# Jesus' law of love



30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

## Gospel

Mt 22:34-40

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.'

Fill in the missing words to complete the story.

love  
second  
God  
answered  
yourself  
teacher  
heart  
first  
test  
commandment

An expert in the Jewish law tried to ----- Jesus. He asked, "-----, what is the most important ----- ? "



## Show your love

I show love for God when I ....

I show love for others when I ....

Jesus ----- : "Love the Lord your ----- with all your ----- , soul and mind." This is the ----- and most important commandment. The ----- is like it : " ----- your neighbour as much as you love ----- ."

