

# St Therese's Parish Essendon

7 and 8 November 2020

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



**First Reading** - Wis 6:12-16 - A reading from the book of Wisdom

*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.

**Gospel** Mt 25:1-13 - A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*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.'



*Book of Remembrance*

2020



*Click the picture to go to the online book*

**OUR BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE** is now published online and a hard copy has been placed in our church where it will remain throughout November.

**NOVEMBER OFFERING:** Envelopes for November Masses can be placed in the drop box beside the parish office front door. Fr John will remember our deceased friends and family at all Masses in November.

*Let us now thank God for all the blessings in our lives and turn to him with our needs and the needs of others.*

We pray for all who are pastors in the Church: May they minister to God’s people in a spirit of wisdom, humility and loving service. **Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.**

That the veterans who give service to our country receive the honour and appreciation they are due. **Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are facing death: may their lives end in a spirit of peace and reconciliation without fear or regret. **Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.**

For those who are lonely: that this community may show them friendship. **Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for all the children in our parish: In this time of hardship may they receive the support they need to grow in resilience and confidence to love one another as themselves. **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 Marty O’Donnell, Lolita Fajardo, and Jane Phelan

**For those who have died recently**, Joyce McDowell, Joan Kennedy

**And those we remember at this time** especially Ken Stout, Lois Farrelly, Bernard Doolan, Maureen Farrelly, Norma Griggs, Bernard (Bernie) O’Brien, Frances Hogan Sweeney

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

*O God, hear our prayers and help us to be wise and always ready for Christ’s coming. We make our prayer in Jesus’ name.*

**Amen**



**MY MASK**

Holy God, you see me and you hear me.  
Through my mask, you see if I smile or if I scowl.  
Through my mask, you hear me if I whisper a brief prayer or mutter a muffled curse.  
My friends don’t see or hear or know; nor do my family; nor my colleagues.  
But you do.



This mask takes away power – the power of clear communication but also the possibility to infect.  
But it also grants a freedom to be with.  
My smiles, my thoughts, my mumbles, though – these I know, but they are a greater mystery to others now.  
But not to you, Lord. You see past my mask, you hear through it, you know.



But your mask, Lord, what about your mask? Who can see through your mask? Hear through it?  
I cannot.  
I cannot see if you smile or if you scowl.



I cannot hear if you whisper an answer to my prayer or brush off my curse.  
I cannot sense if you are pleased with me or if you are waiting for me to do much better.  
Can we all take off our masks, Lord? Put them away?



When the disease that moves us to mask our faces for safety fades away, will our eyes and our ears be stronger, better able to see and to hear the smiles and the frowns, the cries and the whispers of those Who fill our lives? Who make our lives worth living?

Will we see, Lord, that what we think of as your mask is really also our own, our inability to find you in the rush of our lives, our failure to see you in all the wonders you show us, our incapacity to hear your gentle voice in the tumult that surrounds us.

Can we know, Lord, that we put on many masks so we can cope, avoid, pretend, be acceptable? (What scar did the Phantom’s mask hide? “Who was that masked man?”)

Help us, Lord, to move beyond our masks. You are here for us to see and to hear. Help us. Let us take off our masks.



### **OPENING THE DOORS FOUNDATION CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS**

The festive gum nut decorations are made from Australian timbers. Each one is 7.5cm in diameter and comes in a giftbox. As every tree has unique markings, each ornament has a unique colour and pattern. Each ornament is signed by the Foundation on the back. Ornaments cost \$30 with every dollar going to support Aboriginal students to reach their potential by providing them with important educational needs. To purchase go to <https://www.openingthedoors.org.au/christmas> or phone the foundation on 9443 9070.



### **CURRENT COVID RESTRICTIONS AT ST THERESE'S As at 27 October 2020**

#### **OUR CHURCH REMAINS CLOSED EXCEPT FOR FUNERALS.**

**RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES: Outdoor religious ceremonies:** permitted with up to 20 people plus a faith leader. Must be adjacent to the place of worship. **Indoor religious ceremonies:** permitted with up to 10 people plus a faith leader. **Note:** Indoor and Outdoor services are not to be held

concurrently, it is only one group permitted at a time. Plus, Parish needs to have prepared a COVID-safe plan outlining how they will manage gatherings.

**WEDDINGS:** may be held indoors or outdoors with up to ten people (including two witnesses) plus the couple, the celebrant and a photographer. Infants under 12 months of age are not included in this cap.

**FUNERALS:** Allowed indoors with up to 20 mourners. Infants under 12 months and people required to conduct the funeral not included in the cap. 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.

**BAPTISMS:** may be celebrated under the indoor/outdoor gathering limits. This allows for 10 people including the faith leader outdoors (a child under 12 months not included).

**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.

**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** as it is classified as a community venue. Hospitality rules do not apply.

**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 2 restrictions you should visit the [DHHS web site](#).

**THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE provides regular pastoral updates on the COVID-19 situation on their new website:** [melbournecatholic.org](http://melbournecatholic.org)

**PARISH LIFE IN ISO** PLI is taking a break while we prepare for the re-opening of our church.



**CORRECTION** from last week's bulletin. We will NOT be opening for weekday Mass on Tuesdays as printed last week. Weekday Masses will be Wednesday to Friday. We will not reopen for weekend Masses until we are allowed 50 attendees at Mass. Check the website for the most up to date information.



## ST THERESE'S ROADMAP TO REOPENING

**On Wednesday 11 November we are reopening for WEEKDAY MASSES ONLY on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.**

We will be live-streaming weekday Masses. Weekend Masses will remain online until we can have 50 attendees at indoor religious services.

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL** and will open on Monday 9 November at 9am. BOOKINGS MUST BE MADE OVER THE PHONE. Booking queries sent via email will not be accepted and will not be responded to. With attendee allowances at 20, parishioners will only be able to book for one Mass per week.

Below are the Mass guidelines which (at time of publishing) will be correct as of Monday 9 November 2020.

### **WEEKDAY MASS GUIDELINES AT ST THERESE'S ESSENDON:**

- No more than 20 persons may attend Mass as well as the priest.
- Entry to the church is via the Lincoln Rd door located in the west transept.
- The church will open 15 minutes prior to the start of Mass. There will be no access before this time.
- You must check in at the entry door. Door attendants will have a list of names which will be ticked off as people arrive.
- All persons attending Mass must use the hand sanitiser provided as they enter the church.
- All persons attending Mass must wear a mask unless a lawful exception applies
- Seating areas in the church have been marked as per social distancing requirements and some areas of the church are off limits. Every second row of the pews is out of use.
- Only recorded music is allowed until attendance numbers increase.
- The sacristy is off-limits unless there is an emergency.
- There will be no sacristans required and Fr John will set up for Masses.
- There will be no Offertory Procession during Masses.
- There will be no Eucharistic Ministers at Masses.
- Fr John will distribute communion. Before communion hands must be sanitised. Masks must be worn until you reach the front of the queue.
- There will be no Altar Servers at Masses.
- There is no collection during weekday Masses. PSP envelopes can be deposited in the drop box at the front office door.
- All doors will be closed during Mass to prevent public access.
- Attendees are asked to leave the church immediately after Mass has ended.
- Prayer candles are not available for use.
- There is no holy water available at Masses.
- There is no contact permitted with any of the statues inside the church.
- Exit from the church is via the Lincoln Rd door in the west transept. No other doors will be open and attendees must not open them.
- Public toilets at the rear of church will remain closed. The PACE disabled toilet may be used in an emergency.
- Following each Mass, the church and PACE toilet will be cleaned in accordance with routine environmental cleaning and disinfection in the community guidelines.
- Excepting the disabled toilet, all areas of PACE are off limits to Mass attendees.
- There will be no access to the church between Masses.
- No gatherings are permitted outside the church following Mass

## BOOKING FOR WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST THERESE'S ESSENDON

Bookings open Monday 9 November at 9am for the following four weeks of weekday Masses

### NOTES:

- Usual Mass attendance at St Therese's for each weekday Mass is approximately 40 persons.
- As of Monday 9 November only 20 people may attend each weekday Mass.
- Mass times remain Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 10am.
- Weekday Masses will be livestreamed

### BOOKING GUIDELINES:

- Bookings can ONLY be made by phoning 9401 6330.
- Emails or phone messages received before Monday 9 November at 9.00am will be disregarded.
- Bookings will be made on a first come, first served basis.
- Please book for the Mass you usually attend.
- At this stage parishioners are allowed to book for ONE weekday Mass EACH WEEK for the next four weeks.
- When booking you must supply the first name and contact number for EACH person attending.
- Include any children attending in your booking (infants under 12 months of age not counted in attendance numbers.)

### BEFORE ATTENDING MASS:

**IMPORTANT** Please read the [Weekday Mass Guidelines at St Therese's Essendon](#) and make yourself familiar with the expectations of attending Mass at St Therese's.

### WAITLIST:

The parish office will maintain a waitlist for weekday Masses and will fill available places from the waitlist as they become available.

Anyone missing out on a booking in the first 4 weeks will be placed on the waitlist and will have priority for the next available Masses.

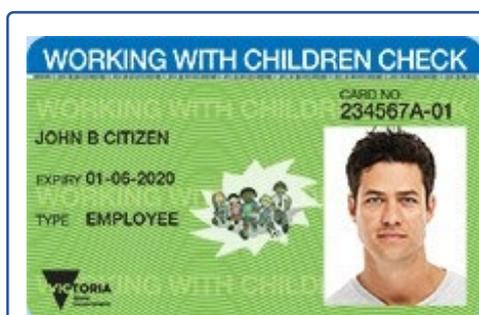
Parishioners may add their names to a waitlist for additional Mass attendance once they have booked their allocated FOUR Masses.



Under no circumstances should anyone awaiting test verification, including Clergy or Deacons, (even without presenting symptoms) attend a church or parish setting until a diagnosis is confirmed. Additionally, under no circumstances should anyone attend who is closely connected to people who are awaiting test results or who have tested positive.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** Getting back to Mass will mean our church and toilets will need cleaning and sanitising after each Mass. If you are willing and able to help out please let the parish office know. We will provide training on what is required. There will be further requirements for volunteers at Masses once we can reopen for bigger services so if you can't make it to weekday Masses but can help out on weekends please also let the office know.



### SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE:

#### IS YOUR WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK UP TO DATE?

As we return to Masses and our parish life slowly turns to a new 'Covid Normal' it is a timely reminder that **ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST HOLD A WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK**. There are no exceptions and we are required by law to enforce this requirement. Please update your WWCC to include St Therese's as a location where you volunteer, or apply for a new WWCC at <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>



**READY, SET, PRAY! CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD.** Join Rachael & Leanne as they explore the kingdom of heaven. The Ready, Set, Pray! series has been created to provide an engaging space for families to encounter Jesus through the Sunday gospel. Each week includes an invitation for families to create and gather in their own prayer space. The series runs each Sunday until Christmas. Series produced by Proclaim: The Office for Mission Renewal.

Click the image to watch this week's



**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 including a study guide from Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns.



**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. A representative from our SVDP Essendon conference will be in touch to arrange pick up or delivery. 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.**

**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)

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.*

# Be prepared!

Like the wise bridesmaids waiting for the groom to arrive, how can we be alert and ready to meet Jesus among us?

Draw a picture of yourself doing something that helps you to be ready!



Which two of these lamps are exactly the same?

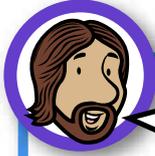




# Be prepared!

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Help Jesus tell the story of the girls with oil lamps. Add words and pictures to the story.



Ten girls went to a \_\_\_\_\_ and waited for the groom.

Five were foolish. They took their lamps but no extra \_\_\_\_\_.

Five were \_\_\_\_\_. They took extra oil for their lamps.

The \_\_\_\_\_ was late. The foolish girls asked for some oil, but the wise girls did not have enough to share.

While the \_\_\_\_\_ girls were buying more oil, the groom arrived. Everyone went inside and closed the doors.

The foolish girls returned. They shouted, "Open the \_\_\_\_\_!", but they were not allowed inside.

What words would you use to describe the wise girls and the foolish girls?

The wise girls

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The foolish girls

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