

St Therese's Parish Essendon

12 and 13 December 2020

Third Sunday of Advent Year B

First Eucharist Masses / Melbourne Overseas Mission Appeal



First Reading - Is 61:1-2. 10-11 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I exult for joy in the Lord. The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Gospel - Jn 1:6-8. 19-28 A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me. A man came, sent by God.

His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.



MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSIONS (MOM) is a humanitarian organisation founded in 1968 by Cardinal James Knox to provide assistance to developing countries as an outreach of the Catholic Church community in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. MOM programs are based on a Christian motivation of commitment to the poor with strong objectives to encourage self-help and self-reliance, respect human rights and enhance gender equality.

Pope Francis reminds us of the many challenges our brothers and sisters face daily: '*In our reflection on the current global pandemic, we have seen that it has made us sensitive to an even graver virus affecting our world: that of social injustice, lack of equal opportunity and the marginalization of the poor and those in greatest need. Christ's example and teaching show us that a preferential option for the poor is an essential criterion of our authenticity as his followers.*'

Your support has made it possible to fund many projects for disadvantaged people in Papua New Guinea, Peru, West Africa, Pakistan, Palestine and the many Islands in the Pacific. Some \$200,000 has provided in clean water, health, education and improved living stands to people who would not otherwise have had this opportunity over the last year. This is especially in the areas of MOM activity, where the effect of the pandemic has been devastating. Please visit <https://mom.org.au> for more information or to donate

At Masses this weekend, First Eucharist candidates will be reading these special Prayers of the Faithful.

Sisters and brothers today, we pray together, especially for these children of our Catholic community who will receive the risen Lord, the Bread of Life, for the first time.

We pray for Francis our Pope, Peter our Archbishop, Father John and all the clergy; that they may continue to guide us wisely.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have helped us prepare for our First Eucharist; our families, our present and past teachers and the parishioners of St. Therese's. We are grateful for their love, encouragement and guidance.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all children receiving the Body of Christ for the first time and for those who will be sharing in the Eucharist today. May they grow in love for you and one another.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

As we approach international migrants' day, may we all reach out to our sisters and brothers in welcome, no matter where they are from

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray that this Advent season will be a time of reflection on the coming of Christ, filled with prayer, saying sorry and love for God and neighbour.

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 John Conlan and Jane Phelan

For those who have died recently, Jim Lynch, Kevin Hogan, Yvonne McCabe, Ann Petts (nee Hyland),

And those we remember at this time especially Ray Farrelly, Michael Heggarty, Rita Cassar, Monica Anele, Therese Dobbie, Fr Louis Catterall,

May they will rest peacefully in God's loving care.

Lord, hear us - Lord hear our prayer

Father, we ask you to hear the prayers we offer you today. Send your son, Jesus, to these children in a special way to help them grow in the spirit of your love. We make our prayers through Christ, your Son.

Amen



A PRAYER FOR CELEBRATING FIRST EUCHARIST SHARING WITH OTHERS

After Jesus nourishes us in the Eucharist, we are asked to go out to be "bread for the world." Eucharist calls us to help feed those around us who are hungry. Some people are hungry for food, others are hungry for love, or care, or friendship.

Some people in our world are hungry for food. They don't have enough to eat.

Open our hands, God. Help us to share what we have with others.

Some people in our world are hungry for care. They are sad or lonely. They need comfort and support.

Open our eyes, God. Help us to see the needs of those around us.

Some people in our world are hungry for friendship. They are excluded because others think they are "different" in some way.

Open our hearts, God. Help us to share your love with others.

Together, make a commitment to bring the love of Jesus to someone in need.

Someone we know who is in need of help is...

This person is hungry for (food, love, care, friendship, prayers)...

We will help bring Jesus' love and care to this person by...

from Sacred Times

CURRENT MASS GUIDELINES AT ST THERESE'S

For the time being, all Catholics in Melbourne continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further directed by the Archbishop.



ST THERESE'S CAN CURRENTLY HOST 300 PARTICIPANTS AT MASS.

- All places of worship including churches, adoration chapels and other church buildings used for public prayer and religious services may open for permitted religious ceremonies
- Religious gatherings can be held indoors or outdoors. We must apply the 1 person per two square metre rule to ensure people have enough room to maintain 1.5 metres distance between them. The square metre rule doesn't include babies under 12 months of age
- The two square metre rule can be used ONLY if electronic record keeping is used, otherwise, the four square metre rule must apply. Therefore, all people attending Mass at St Therese's must either book online or sign in via our QR code
- This record Keeping is required for all attendees beyond a 15-minute visit and must include: First Name, Contact Number, date and time at which the person attended St Therese's. Records are kept for 28 days
- Victorians must carry a face covering at all times. If a distance of 1.5m cannot be maintained, then face coverings must be worn (unless they are people that live with each other, or have a lawful reason, or are children under 12 years of age)
- Entry to the church is via the main doors at the corner of Lincoln Rd & Florence St. Only mobility-impaired person may enter via the West entrance. All other entrances will be closed
- All doors will be closed during Mass to prevent public access
- Attendees are asked to leave the church immediately after Mass has ended via any of the open exits
- Sanitiser must continue to be used regularly throughout the Liturgy and celebrants must visibly sanitise before and after the distribution of Holy Communion.
- Parish 1st and 2nd collections are up and running again
- Only recorded music here at St Therese's for the foreseeable future
- The Offertory procession has recommenced
- There will be only two Eucharistic Ministers required at each Mass who must sanitise their hands directly before distributing the Eucharist
- Public toilets at the rear of church are now open for Masses but closed at all other times
- Following each Mass, the church will be cleaned in accordance with routine environmental cleaning and disinfection in the community guidelines
- There will be no access to the church between Masses

BOOKING FOR MASSES There is no need to book for weekend Masses beginning next weekend (the 19th and 20th December.) Our attendance cap of 300 means we can accommodate the usual number of people attending Mass on weekends. Instead of booking, everyone coming to Mass on the weekend will need to log their details using our QR code system. If you are not able to use the QR system, there will be door attendees who will assist. As we are required to count the number of persons attending Mass, entrance will be only through the Florence/Lincoln doors unless you are a person of limited mobility.

MASS ONLINE is celebrated Wednesday to Friday along with our weekend Mass

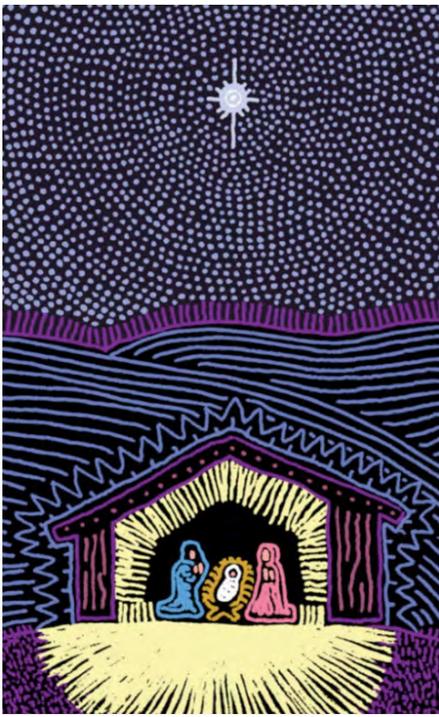


Under no circumstances should anyone awaiting test verification, including Clergy or Deacons, (even without presenting symptoms) attend a church or parish setting until a diagnosis is confirmed. Additionally, under no circumstances should anyone attend who is closely connected to people who are awaiting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

THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE provides regular pastoral updates on the COVID-19 situation on their new website: melbournecatholic.org



SANITISING Thank you to all who are helping sanitise the pews, doors and sanctuary. If you are able to help out when you are at Mass, there are lots of spray bottles, gloves and paper towel available at the front and back of church. Please come forward after Mass and grab some cleaning gear! We really appreciate everyone's efforts – many hands make light work.



CHRISTMAS MASS BOOKINGS

While we don't need to book for our usual weekend and weekday Masses, we will need to book for Christmas Masses.

BOOKINGS OPEN ON MONDAY 14 DECEMBER AT 10.00AM

Booking is via Eventbrite and you are required to enter the details of every person attending.

We have set aside a small number of places at each Mass for people who are unable to book online. These people may ring the office after 10am Monday to book.

WAITLIST Anyone missing out on a booking will be placed on the waitlist for any places that become available.

Links for booking are below

CHRISTMAS EVE: Thursday 24 December

10.00am: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/132514094223>

6.00pm: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/132514681981>

8.00pm: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/132515572645>

11.00pm: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/132515713065>

CHRISTMAS DAY: Friday 25 December

9.00am: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/132515875551>

10.30am: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/132516218577>

RECONCILIATION SERVICE Our annual Advent Communal Reconciliation service will be held this coming Thursday 17 December at 7.00pm. No need to book but all attendees will be required to use the QR code check in system.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD: Your Parish Christmas Card is available on the church entry tables. All the dates and times of our Christmas services are on the back of the card. We invite parishioners to deliver them on our behalf to their neighbours, especially if you know they are unable to get to church.



SVDP 'GIFT CARD' GIVING TREE please donate to SVDP this Christmas if you can. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year SVDP are asking us to donate gift cards (Coles Myer, Target etc) which will be included in hampers for Companions (those helped by SVDP). Please drop gift cards in the parish office drop box (next to office door) or place them in the collection boxes as you leave Mass. You can also donate cash in a clearly marked envelope. Donations are needed by Monday 14 December. Please don't leave gifts or gift cards under the tree.

2021 COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR AND CARDS ON SALE NOW – ST VINCENT DE PAUL: Selling Christmas Cards & Columban Calendars at the back of the Church after each weekend Mass **Cards:** pack of 8 for \$5.00, **Calendars** \$9.00 each.



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 Tash & Llew as they explore how it is through Jesus, that we know who we truly are. The Ready, Set, Pray! video 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, to sing, hear the Gospel, pray and respond creatively through an activity. <https://youtu.be/zipscJ2hE1w>



WORKING BEE. Our next working bee is on Saturday 19th December to polish up the church and surrounds for Christmas. If you can help please arrive at the church by 9am. You will need to sign in, via QR check in or by leaving your name and contact phone number on the register sheet at the church entry point. Please bring along your gloves and tools of trade. Volunteers for once-off events like this do not need to hold a WWCC

ROSTERS DATES AND CONTACTS

ROSTER FOR WEEKEND 19 & 20 DECEMBER 2020			
MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST*	DATA
6.00pm	Malise Ratnam Nathan Ratnam	Carrie Kennedy, Joanne Webster & Marie Ratnam	Julian Considine
9.00am	John Harvey	Marg O'Brien, Marg Tormey & Rosina Tempini	Edward Heath
10.30am	Sr Rosemary Patterson Lucy Angelico	Anna Mansbridge, David Gloury & Maria Giampiccolo	Paul Zammit / Ethan Mendez
*We have rostered three Eucharistic Ministers per Mass in case an extra person is required.			

DECEMBER CALENDAR		
Date	Event	Time
Saturday 12 December	First Eucharist Candidates at Mass*	6.00pm
Sunday 13 December	First Eucharist Candidates at Mass*	9.00am 10.30am
Tuesday 15 December	St Therese's School Grade 6 Graduation Liturgy**	4.00pm
Wednesday 16 December	Term 4 Concludes	1.00pm
Thursday 17 December	Communal Reconciliation	7.00pm
Saturday 19 December	Working Bee to polish up church and church surrounds for Christmas	9.00am
Thursday 24 December	Mass* Parish office closes until Monday 11 January Mass* Mass* Mass*	10.00am 1.00pm 6.00pm 8.00pm 11.00pm
Friday 25 December	Mass* Mass*	9.00am 10.30am
*Public Mass. Attendance will require booking. **Mass not open to the public – private celebration.		

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 – 3.00pm
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

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.

Prepare for the Lord Jesus

3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B



Who is John the Baptist?

Indicate whether each answer is either true or false



The cousin of Jesus

True
 False



A pharisee

True
 False



Elijah

True
 False



The son of Elizabeth

True
 False



A preacher

True
 False



The Messiah

True
 False

Gospel

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you - unknown to you - the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.



The third Sunday in Advent is called *Gaudete Sunday*; the Sunday of Joy! How can we share our joy for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas?

Prepare for the Lord Jesus

John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by telling people to turn back to God and baptising them. Draw a picture of a someone being baptised in the River Jordan.



Gaudete Sunday

The third Sunday in Advent is called Gaudete Sunday; the Sunday of Joy!

What are three things you can do to bring joy into the lives of others during this week of Advent?

1

2

3