

St Therese's Parish Essendon



19 and 20 December 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B



First Reading [2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16](#) A reading from the second book of Samuel

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

Gospel [Lk 1:26-38](#) A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

PASTORAL VISITATION A message from Fr John: *'I am always happy to visit any parishioners in hospital, if requested and if possible. Likewise, I am always happy to visit those who are not so well at home, and who cannot get to Mass, and we can arrange for more regular Communion visits by parish volunteer Eucharistic Ministers in the longer term. We just need to be informed. During the Christmas break, rather than ringing the parish office which is closed until Monday 11th January, please ring me directly on the after-hours parish mobile number 0490 956 610 and leave a message for me to get back to you. Thanks John Hannon PP'*

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES: For the support of our parish, clergy, visiting/supply priests, retired/sick and priests in needier or newer parishes are available from all church entry tables.

As we prepare for the birth of Jesus, let us turn to God with our prayers.

That everyone in the world will try to live in peace and friendship with one another

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer

For the Pope, our pastoral leader and guide: that the Lord will bless him as he seeks to continue to build the house of God. **Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer**

For all the bishops, priests and leaders in the Church: that they seek the discernment they need to exercise leadership with humility and respect for those entrusted to their care.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer

For all expectant mothers who are awaiting the arrival of their babies: may they joyfully welcome these very precious gifts this Christmas

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer

For those who are approaching Christmas full of anxiety and fear: may they be comforted and find new hope. **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, Jane Phelan, Yvonne McMahan.

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

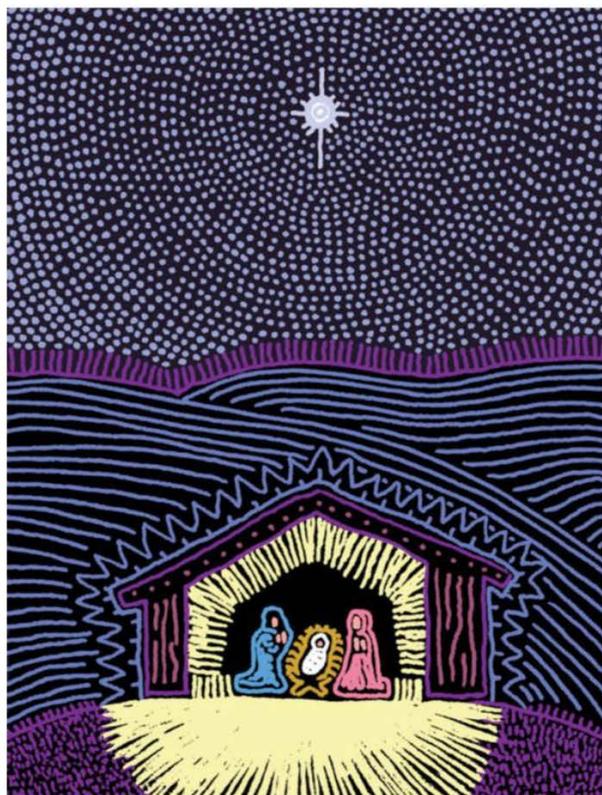
And those we remember at this time especially Aldo Koemtzopolous, Michele Noronha, Michele LaPorta, Giuseppe Camerotto, Bryan Barnes, Norma Thomas, Mary Farrelly, Phillip Kenny, Geoff O'Brien
May they rest peacefully in God's loving care.

Lord, hear us - Lord hear our prayer

Almighty and loving God, we thank you for your goodness and we ask you to hear our prayers as we wait for the coming of Christ our Lord.

Amen

HAPPY CHRISTMAS



PEACE + HOPE + JOY + LOVE

Dear friends at St Therese's and beyond,

Greetings in this strangest of years in all of our lives. As Christmas approaches, we can well wonder where 2020 has gone, with our protracted period of lockdown, 'Keeping apart to stay together', or something like that!! Frustrating as it all has been, here we are coming out of this dark period more or less in one piece, and perhaps a little more aware of the benefit of taking life at a quieter pace for a time.

It certainly hasn't been an easy year for families, with parents balancing school and work from home. At least we've been able to get out into the fresh air for a bit of exercise, some relief both physically and psychologically. And now we seem to have beaten the insidious coronavirus locally. Here's hoping it remains contained until an effective vaccine is available for all, as we continue to be cautious, with masks in confined spaces and physical distancing.

A complication as we approach Christmas is the limitation on numbers who can attend our church for services. This amounts to St Therese's Church holding 300 people at a maximum, which means the usual crowds cannot be admitted for Christmas Mass celebrations. We are required to have an electronic record of all attendees, so ask that you provide these details when you book online. For those parishioners who do not have access to the internet, we ask that you phone the parish office well ahead of time.

To relieve some of the strain on numbers, we have added an additional Mass on Christmas Eve and another on Christmas Day. Bookings can be made on our website: <https://www.stthereses.org.au/mass-prayer-times/booking-for-mass-at-st-thereses/>

Mass will be recorded and uploaded onto the parish website, after the 8.30pm Mass on Christmas Eve, so you would be welcome to participate virtually, by staying at home and tuning in, which many have done during the 8 months the church was closed. No-one is under any obligation to attend Christmas or Sunday Mass, as long as the present situation continues.

Wishing you all a very happy, healthy and safe Christmas with family and friends where possible, and the same for a Happy New Year in 2021, which has raced in on top of us as we work our way out of 2020!

Thanks to all for your co-operation and understanding, in our parish and school communities here in Essendon.

John Hannon Parish Priest

jbhannon@netspace.net.au



CHRISTMAS MASS BOOKINGS

While we do not need to book for our usual weekend and weekday Masses, we will need to book for Christmas Masses.

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

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

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 to book.

LINKS FOR BOOKING:

CHRISTMAS EVE: Thursday 24 December

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

6.00pm: **FULLY BOOKED**

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>

CHRISTMAS ROSTERS The volunteer roster for Christmas Masses is on the next page. There are still some gaps in the roster. We really need help with checking people in at Masses, with Eucharistic Ministry, operating the PowerPoint presentation and collecting. If you can help please contact the office ASAP.



PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD: Fr John's Christmas card message is above. Printed copies of the card are 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 This year SVDP have asked us to donate gift cards (Coles Myer, Target, fuel etc) which will be given to Companions (those supported by SVDP) to help with the expenses of the festive season. Please drop gift cards in the parish office drop box (next to office door) or place them in the collection at 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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS SO FAR FOR THE GIVING TREE with the amazingly generous support of our school families and with donation from parishioners, SVDP have so far collected over \$4,000 worth of gift cards to distribute to Companions.

2021 COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR AND CARDS ON SALE NOW SVDP are still selling Christmas Cards & Columban Art Calendars at the back of the Church after each weekend Mass **Cards:** pack of 8 for \$5.00, **Calendars** \$9.00

ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH WE'D LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU to the **St Vincent de Paul team** and the **Refugee and Asylum Seeker team** for the wonderful team effort throughout this challenging year with Covid and all its restrictions.



THANKS FOR SANITISING Thanks to all who are helping sanitise the pews, doors and sanctuary after Masses. If you are able to help out when you are at Mass, we have plenty of sanitiser, 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.

THANKS FOR KEEPING AN EYE OUT Parishioners have always been vigilant around the memorial garden, PACE and school especially when people are drinking alcohol around the back of the church, kicking balls in the Memorial Garden, using the fountain as a skateboard ramp etc. Please continue to keep an eye on the church during the school holidays.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS AND JANUARY Our office closes on Thursday 24 December at 1.00pm and reopens on Monday 11 January 2021. We will operate under reduced hours for the first couple of weeks back. If you need to come to the office, it will be open from 9am until 12 noon Monday to Friday. We will still be contactable during office hours via phone and email. If you need to speak to Fr John during the holiday period please call and leave a message or text on 0490 956 610 and he will get back to you as soon as he can.

WEEKDAY MASSES IN JANUARY Masses Wednesday, Thursday & Friday during January are unchanged at 10.00am.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY ROSTER

DATE AND TIME	LECTORS ↓	CHECK IN ↓	COLLECTORS ↓	POWERPOINT ↓	EUCCHARISTIC INISTERS
CHRISTMAS EVE 10AM	Anne Lechte, Christine Nelson	Kathy Gilmour Jac Radcliffe	TO BE FILLED	TO BE FILLED	TO BE FILLED
CHRISTMAS EVE 6PM	Tony Proctor John Harvey	Assunta Iacovino Murray Sykes	Pat Tempini, Murray Sykes	Annmaree Sharkey	TO BE FILLED
CHRISTMAS EVE 8PM	Lucy Angelico Mary Dowling	Leanne Torr Lucy Angelico	John Maslin	Cathy Fogarty	TO BE FILLED
CHRISTMAS EVE 11PM	Rosa Pierorazio TO BE FILLED	Irene Fritsche Tony Fritsche Alexandra Fritsche	TO BE FILLED	Edward Heath	TO BE FILLED
CHRISTMAS DAY 9AM	Eve Korytkowski Silvia Campo	Michael Fitzpatrick Eve Korytkowski	TO BE FILLED	TO BE FILLED	TO BE FILLED
CHRISTMAS DAY 10.30AM	Eve Korytkowski TO BE FILLED	Eve Korytkowski Michael Fitzpatrick	TO BE FILLED	TO BE FILLED	TO BE FILLED

DECEMBER and JANUARY CALENDAR

Date	Event	Time
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
Saturday 26 December	Boxing Day – Mass as usual**	6.00pm
Monday 11 January	Parish Office reopens – limited hours	9.30am to 12pm
Sunday 17 January	Welcoming Mass for Baptism families	10.30am
Sunday 24 January	Parish Baptisms	12noon
Monday 25 January	ANZAC Day. Parish office closed	
Tuesday 26 January	Parish office resumes usual hours	9am – 3pm
Thursday 28 January	Term 1 commences (Preps onsite)	

*All Christmas Masses will require booking. **No need to book for weekend Masses but QR sign in is required

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.

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 IF WE USE ELECTRONIC RECORD KEEPING OF CONTACT DETAILS.

- Our church 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 Christmas 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.
- If a distance of 1.5m cannot be maintained during Mass then you must wear a mask (unless you are people that live with each other, or have a lawful reason, or are children under 12 years of age) All Victorians must carry a face covering at all times
- 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.
- First and second collections are up and running again
- Only recorded music here at St Therese's for the foreseeable future
- The Offertory procession has recommenced
- Eucharistic Ministers 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

CONTACT TRACING FOR MASSES There is no need to book for our usual weekend Masses. The attendance cap of 300 means we can accommodate the usual number of people attending Mass on weekends. Instead, everyone attending church on the weekend is required to lodge their details using our QR code system. If you are not able to use the QR system, there will be door attendees who can 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

