

St Therese's Parish Essendon



5 and 6 December 2020
Second Sunday of Advent Year B
First Eucharist Masses



First Reading - Is 40:1-5. 9-11 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes

Gospel -Mk 1:1-8 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



This weekend and next our grade four students will experience a very special day in their lives. It is the day on which they will be making their First Holy Communion (Eucharist). Our Catechism teaches that the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. When we receive the Lord in the Eucharist, it is an act of thanksgiving to God. It recalls the Lord's Supper with his Apostles.

Pope Francis refers to the Eucharist as a gift. He reminds us about how important the Eucharist is to our faith journey. He encourages us to receive the Eucharist as a family as often as possible if we are so disposed and in the state of grace. Our Holy Father spoke to a group of children in Italy as he recalled his First Holy Communion many years ago. He addressed the children and stated, "You will make your First Communion, always remember that day your whole life: the first day that Jesus came to us. He comes, makes himself one with us, makes himself our food, our nourishment to give us strength.



BOOKINGS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

SECOND WEEKEND ADVENT

Saturday 5 December 6pm: [Click here to book](#)

Sunday 6 December 9am: [Click here to book](#)

Sunday 6 December 10.30am: [Click here to book](#)

THIRD WEEKEND ADVENT

Saturday 12 December 6pm: [Click here to book](#)

Sunday 13 December 9am: [Click here to book](#)

Sunday 13 December 10.30am: [Click here to book](#)

Please note, the Masses on Week 2 & 3 of Advent will host school candidates celebrating the Sacrament of First Eucharist. These school families will have allocated seating.

WAITLIST Anyone missing out on a booking will be placed on the waitlist and will have priority for the next available Masses.

More Masses will be become available next week and booking links will be on our website here: <https://www.stthereses.org.au/return-to-weekend-masses/>

INTERCESSIONS

6 December 2020

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.

We pray for the people in the world who are struggling in what has been a difficult year. Bless them with strength and guidance. May we always know peace can be found in your loving arms.

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 Marty O'Donnell, Jane Phelan, Nancy & Ken Eastburn

For those who have died recently, Monica Fitzpatrick, Jim Lynch

And those we remember at this time especially Leon Morel, Maria Vitiello, Clarice Hutton, Matthew Ryan, Tony Burke, Ronald Wilson, Claire Gleeson, Carlo Meoli, Claire Hughes, Michael Heggarty, Rita Cassar, Elsie Reddoch, Paul Sapiano,
May they will rest peacefully in God's loving care.

Lord, hear us - Lord hear our prayer

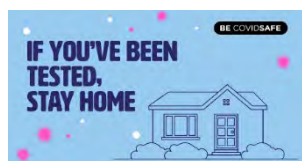
Father, we ask you to hear the prayers we offer you today. Send your son, Jesus, to these children in a special way to help them grow in the spirit of your love. We make our prayers through Christ, your Son.

Amen

ST THERESE'S ROADMAP TO REOPENING CURRENT MASS GUIDELINES AT ST THERESE'S



- No more than 150 persons may attend Mass as well as the priest.
- We highly recommend booking for Saturday and Sunday Masses to save disappointment.
- Entry to the church is via the main double doors at the Florence St/Lincoln Rd intersection. Mobility impaired persons may enter via the Lincoln Rd door in the west transept. (Weekday Masses enter through west door also)
- 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.
- Contact details are required for all attendees and these will be collected at the time of booking or can be entered via a QR code displayed at the entrance.
- 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.
- Communicants must queue single-file to receive Eucharist and must keep their mask on until after receiving Eucharist in their hand and must maintain 1.5 metres distance from each other, Fr John and Eucharistic ministers.
- Seating areas in the church have been marked as per social distancing requirements and some areas of the church are off limits.
- All attendees must sit 1.5 metres apart unless they are from the same household.
- Only recorded music is allowed.
- There will be no Offertory Procession during Masses.
- There will be only two Eucharistic Ministers required at each Mass who must sanitise their hands directly before distributing the Eucharist.
- There will be no Altar Servers at Masses.
- There will be no collection during Masses. PSP envelopes and cash donations can be deposited in collection boxes before exiting the church.
- 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.
- 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



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.



OTHER CURRENT COVID RESTRICTIONS

PACE REMAINS CLOSED as it is classified as a community venue. Hospitality rules do not apply. PACE will not be available for hire for functions until the 4m² per person requirement is relaxed or lifted.

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



Our parish is built on, and is sustained by, thousands and thousands of hours of volunteered time. Volunteers are the lifeblood of parish life and we are more than grateful for the contribution of all our generous and committed volunteers. The evidence of your contribution is all around us, in our beautifully tended gardens, at our Masses and in our parish facilities. This week we offer our heartfelt thanks to two volunteers who contributed many of those thousands of hours. To Carole Hardwick, who retired from lector duties this week after 40 years in the role, we say thank you. Forty years is an incredible contribution! And to Claire Ross who also retired from lector duties recently after nearly twenty years. We're sorry to see you both retire, grateful for your service and happy to see you both still here at Mass.



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 To purchase a calendar from SVDP or Christmas cards please contact the office either by email 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.



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



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 Tara and Andrew as they explore how we are called to be messengers this Advent Season. 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.



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

ROSTER FOR WEEKEND 12&13 DECEMBER 2020

MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST	DATA
6.00pm	Marion & Frank Camiller	Carmen Merrigan, Tony Proctor & Keron McCallum-Gaul	School
9.00am	Judi Pickett	Tony Belcastro, Kath Rohan & Mary Ruth	School
10.30am	Ryan & Anna English	Rosa Pierorazio, Therese Hanna & Isabel Salpietro	School
1st Reading 2nd Reading: Gospel:			

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Date	Event	Time
Saturday 5 December	First Eucharist Candidates at Mass*	6.00pm
Sunday 6 December	First Eucharist Candidates at Mass*	9.00am 10.30am
Tuesday 8 December	Sacrament of Confirmation School Students**	5.30pm
Wednesday 9 December	Sacrament of Confirmation School and RE Students**	5.30pm
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
Saturday 19 December	Working Bee to polish up church and church surrounds for Christmas	9.00am
* Public Mass. Attendance will require booking. ** Mass are not open to the public – private celebration.		

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

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 – 3.30pm

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.

My name is

Make a straight path for the Lord


Who is John the Baptist?

Circle the correct answers.

 He wore clothes made of... **horse hair** / **camel hair**

 He baptised people with... **water** / **fire**

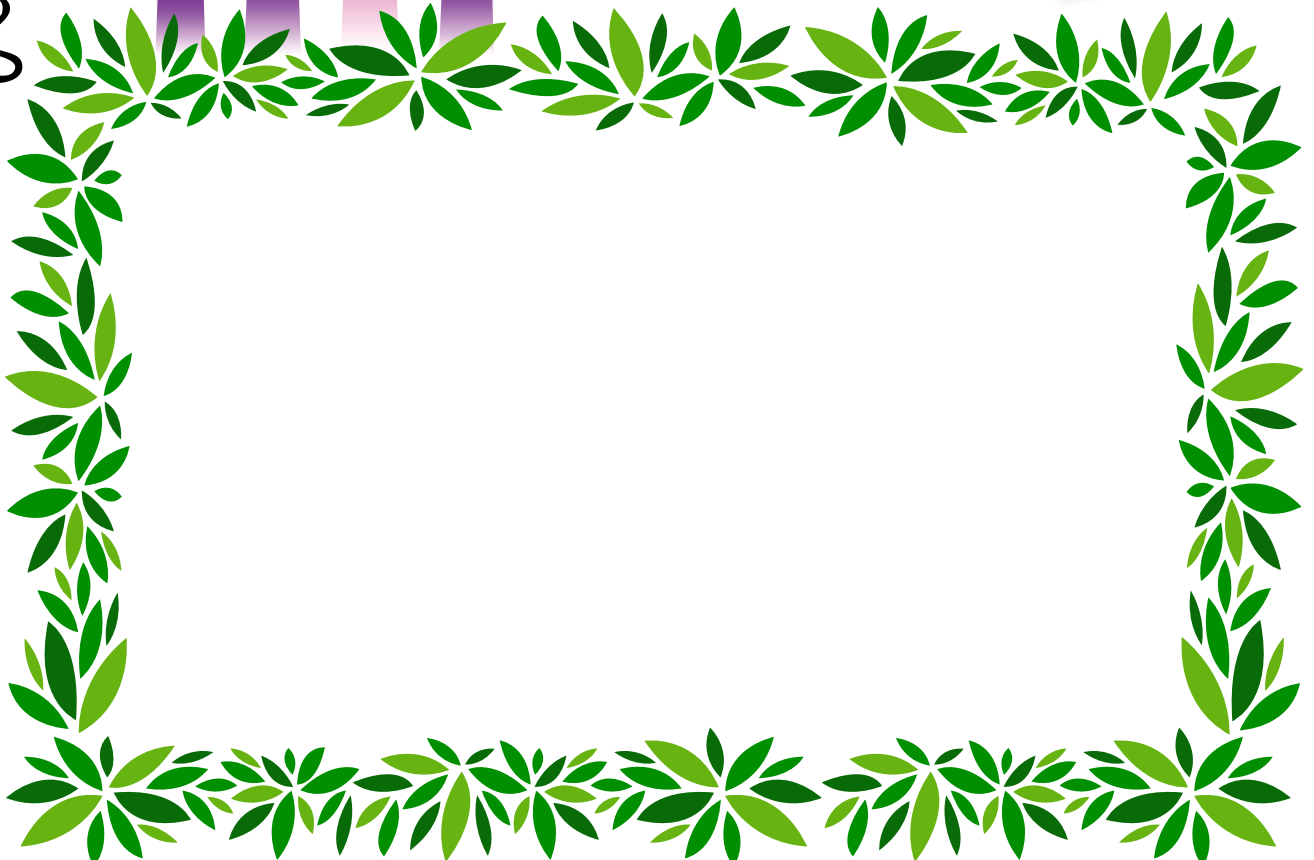
 He ate grasshoppers and... **bread** / **wild honey**

 He baptised people in the... **river** / **church**



John the Baptist told people they must be sorry for the things they had done wrong so they could be ready to meet Jesus.

Draw a picture of something you can do to be ready for Jesus during this second week of Advent.



Make a straight path for the Lord



2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B



What are three things you can do to be ready for Jesus during this second week of Advent?

Three empty rectangular boxes for writing answers.

Gospel

Mk 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.
A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The prophet Isaiah wrote:

"I am _____ my
_____ ahead of you,
who will _____ your way;
the _____ of one _____ out
in the _____:
'Prepare the _____ of the _____',
make his paths _____'"

crying
straight
way
voice
sending
prepare
wilderness
messenger
Lord