

St Therese's Parish Essendon



13 and 14 February 2021
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time -Year B



First Reading [Lv 13:1-2. 44-46](#)

A reading from the book of Leviticus

As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

Gospel [Mk 1:40-45](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The leprosy left him and he was cured.

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

SHUTDOWN From Saturday 13 February Victoria will enter a 5 day lockdown and as a result our church is closed and Masses are cancelled. This will include Ash Wednesday Masses. As of the announcement on Friday 12 February we expect our church to reopen for morning Mass on Thursday the 18 February.

Fr John will upload a Mass to our website for the weekend and on Tuesday and Wednesday. Please visit our website to view Mass online. Our parish office will close Monday to Wednesday but will be contactable via email and phone while we once again work from home. For urgent matters please call Fr John on our after hours number 0490 956 610. We hope to see you back at Mass soon.



ASH WEDNESDAY – 17TH FEBRUARY 2021 This coming week the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal. Donations to Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice.

We encourage you to put your compassion into action this Lent by supporting Project Compassion. Saint Oscar Romero is our inspiration for Project Compassion 2021, so in his words let's "Aspire not to have more, but to be more."

Project Compassion boxes and envelopes will be available for collection at each of the entry doors once our church reopens for Masses or you can donate online via the Caritas Australia website at: lent.caritas.org.au



SIMPLY JESUS: REFLECT. RENEW. RECOMMIT. This Lent, across our archdiocese, we are being invited to reflect on the way and person of Jesus, renew ourselves in his love, and recommit ourselves to the path of discipleship. After a year where the regular structures that help us live a life of faith and grow in our relationship with Jesus were largely absent, we are encouraged to use Lent to reflect more deeply on our relationship with Jesus and be more attentive to nurturing its growth. To aid us in this, a Way of the Cross resource has been developed incorporating images, Scripture, music, reflection and prayer. The resource provides a meaningful way into the powerful story of Jesus' Passion, inviting a new or renewed intimacy with him. Along with other resources, it can be accessed at: www.melbournecatholic.org/lent2021

VIRTUAL LENTEN PROGRAMME is a series of Lent talks from four Australian biblical scholars at Yarra Theological Union, a College of the University of Divinity. Each week this group of accomplished guides will work together to explore the readings for the week. For details and to register online visit: <https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/blog/post/virtual-lent-series-2021/>

INTERCESSIONS

Brothers and sisters, God's wisdom and compassion are limitless. Let us bring our needs and those of the world before the Lord.

We pray for Our Holy Father, the Pope: that he may continue to lead is in building a Church of openness and compassion. Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all parents: that they may raise their children in a spirit of wisdom, freedom and love. Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all those who are lonely as a result of the Covid changes imposed upon us all. May the community be moved to provide a helping hand when needed. Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all Australians stuck overseas unable to get home to family, security and safety: may the Holy Spirit strengthen their patience and resolve to get home in one piece. Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are ill, especially: Frances Sneddan, Callum O'Dwyer, Stuart O'Dwyer, Alyse Baldry we pray for our own special needs. Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died recently: Marilyn Black, Mary Smirnis, Monica Dempsey, Caidan Potter

And for those whom we remember at this time, especially: William Joseph O'Dwyer, Molly Agnes Scully, Marie O'Brien Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving God, your son healed the sick and gave hope to the broken hearted. Hear our prayer and free us from self concern that we may proclaim your good news with compassion and mercy. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

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

PARISH CONTACTS

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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.