

St Therese's Parish Essendon



20 and 21 February 2021
1st Sunday of Lent -Year B



First Reading Gen 9:8-15 A reading from the book of Genesis

I will recall the covenant between myself and you... the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

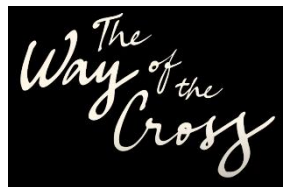
God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

Gospel Mk 1:12-15 - A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'



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 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. Watch The Way of the Cross at <https://melbournecatholic.org/learn/lent-2021>



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/>



PROJECT COMPASSION WEEK 1 – JAMILA'S STORY

Twenty-two-year-old, Jamila, is a single mother, living in the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh. A Rohingya woman, she fled conflict in Myanmar's Rakhine State to save herself, her elderly mother and eight-month-old baby daughter. Having been abandoned by her husband, she faced life in the camp on her own.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people have crossed into Bangladesh since August 2017. Over 1.3 million people remain in the densely populated camps, in desperate need of humanitarian assistance.



Thanks to the generosity of Caritas Australia's supporters Jamila had access to emergency food and shelter. As her stay in the camp stretched on, Jamila joined the Women Friendly Spaces project where she received counselling and emotional support, learnt about health and hygiene, participated in a parenting program and learnt sewing skills, to help her to earn an income. Jamila now has a sense of community around her and feels less alone and more supported - and she is able to 'Be More' to her family. "I want to offer my thankful greetings to those who are kindly thinking of us from overseas", Jamila, says. "Thank you, and thanks Caritas Australia."

A LETTER FROM FR JOHN

Dear friends here in St Therese's Parish,

As we get back into gear for 2021, hopefully there won't be too many (preferably, no) repeats of our recent 'circuit breaker' lockdown, leading to an "Ashless Wednesday" this year!

But we have to continue to be careful and observe the requirements laid down for the common good and health of all, which means at present, we're required to wear masks when in church.

At this point I wish to acknowledge the great contribution made by Vince and Maggie Catterall who have recently retired from overseeing our Memorial and Precious Angels Garden after more than a decade of voluntary service. Vince and Maggie were instrumental in fundraising for, establishing and then maintaining our beautiful memorial garden (which was completed in 2011) and organising services with bereaved families.

Nominated as Catholic chaplains, Maggie and Vince continue to provide pastoral and sacramental care to our Catholic parishioners at Arcadia Nursing Home, helping me, and Fathers Bill Attard and John Mullally, before me, with organising Masses there, and have done so since its opening, over many years. Their friendly presence and easy rapport with the residents is a real asset and is very much appreciated by all.

I also take this opportunity to thank Jackie Gleeson and Margaret O'Brien, who have faithfully visited and taken Communion to the Catholic residents at Trevi Court over many years, on a regular basis. They are happy to continue, but would appreciate some further support by other volunteers as well.

And last but not most definitely not least, I also wish to thank Frank and Marion Camiller for their long term assistance as lectors at Saturday evening Mass. They have decided it's time to retire from the front line, but continue to be active and involved parishioners. And so, on behalf of the parish community, I acknowledge their contribution and commitment.

This leads me to ask you to consider coming forward to be a lector and/or Eucharistic minister at Mass, with the possibility of also visiting and taking Communion home to those who can't make it to Mass on a regular basis. There is always room for more volunteers in all aspects of parish life, so please think about it, and put your name forward to be a contributor.

After the long break in lockdown in 2020, we also need to get back on track with taking Communion and visiting those who are at home, and to update our lists, so could you please let us know, via Kathy and Jac in the parish office, so that we can get back into action there, and continue to provide pastoral and sacramental care and support to parishioners who are indisposed.

Thanks for your consideration.

John Hannon Parish Priest

PASTORAL VISITATION A further 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. You can call the parish office to make an appointment or if it's urgent 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'*

GETTING BACK TO NORMAL as we adjust to the new normal, it's time for our parish to resume some of our usual activities. We'll have more details in the next few weeks so stay tuned!

CARPARKING Our parish school is undertaking some major building works in 2021 and while this is happening we will not have access to the school grounds for parking during Mass. The works are scheduled to finish towards the end of the school year.



ST BERNARD'S COLLEGE YEAR 7 2023 ENROLMENT The Parent Information Evening this year will be a virtual online presentation on Tuesday 16 March 2021 at 7:00pm. Enrolment applications close Tuesday 27 April 2021. Bookings are essential for College tours. For more details visit the College website: <http://www.sbc.vic.edu.au/future-students/enrolment>



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: IS YOUR WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK UP TO DATE? As 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/>

Letter from Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

Tuesday 16 February, 2021

Vaccine Program

Dear Friends,

It is welcome news that the first batches of the Pfizer vaccine have arrived in Australia.

Soon the most vulnerable people in our country – our frontline workers and those at greatest risk – will receive their first dose against the COVID-19 virus.

I will be grateful to receive a vaccination when my turn in the staged roll-out comes around.

None of the vaccines are a cure for COVID-19, but indications are that they provide a significant measure of protection from the worst effects of the virus, for the time being.

For the common good, it is appropriate that our governments work together to roll out a nation-wide process of vaccination for all residents.

Likewise, for the common good, everyone should respect the decisions of individuals who, for medical, safety or moral reasons, are not ready to receive a vaccination immediately.

At this early stage in measuring the longer-term effectiveness and safety of each of the COVID-19 vaccines, calls for a 'No jab, no service' policy would be unjust.

The Catholic Bishops have already endorsed efforts to offer a vaccination as soon as possible to all who can safely receive one.

<https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/a-letter-to-the-faithful-regarding-development-of-a-covid-19-vaccine/#more-8597>

However, the Government has indicated that there is likely to be little, if any, choice as to which vaccine will be available to individuals in the shorter term.

This means that you can receive any one of the three vaccines to be made available, without moral complicity in the processes of its development. On balance, it is a good thing to do.

For anyone with health and safety concerns, please speak with your family doctor.

For anyone with ethical questions, please read the statement issued by the Vatican or speak with your Pastor.

https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20201221_nota-vaccini-anticovid_en.html

I encourage the Australian government to do all it can to make a vaccine choice available to all residents in Australia as soon as possible, and offer the same care to our poorer neighbouring countries.

Please continue to pray for those impacted by this pandemic, and to work in whatever way you can to support your neighbour in need. The God of mercy and compassion is present to us all, through the tender heads, hearts and hands we offer to one another.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter A Comensoli', with a small cross symbol to the left of the first letter.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

PARISH CALENDAR

Date	Event	Time
Sunday 28 February	Parish Baptisms	12 noon
Saturday 13 March	First Reconciliation Candidates at Mass	6.00pm
Sunday 14 March	First Reconciliation Candidates at Mass	9.00am 10.30am
Thursday 18 March	Faith night for Reconciliation Candidates	7.00pm
Thursday 25 March	Sacrament of Reconciliation School and RE Students	7.00pm
Sunday 28 March	Palm Sunday Parish Baptisms	All Masses 12 noon

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 (QR CODE).

- Masks are mandatory for inside public places and MUST be worn inside the church.
- Our church is only 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 sign in via our QR code.
- 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
- 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

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

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

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 to Elders past and present.