

St Therese's Parish Essendon



6 and 7 February 2021
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time -Year B



First Reading Jb 7:1-4. 6-7 - A reading from the book of Job

I am filled with sorrow all day long.

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?' Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy.

Gospel Mk 1:29-39 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions slet out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

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. 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'*

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.

THE PARISH OFFICE is open for business. The parish office is now open for the usual hours of 9am – 3.00pm Monday to Friday.

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!

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-lenten-series-2021/>

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.

- 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 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.
- 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
- 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

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
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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.