

St Therese's Parish Essendon

20 and 21 March 2021
Fifth Sunday of Lent -Year B



First Reading Jer 31:31-34 - A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

Gospel Jn 12:20-33 - A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. 'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

PROJECT COMPASSION Fifth Week of Lent **Fifth Week of Lent**

Halima is raising her two children in a refugee camp in Bangladesh, while caring for her mother who has a disability. Widowed at 21, Halima fled violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State, arriving at the camp with nothing.

Caritas Australia, through Caritas Bangladesh, helped Halima with shelter, cooking equipment, hygiene and sanitation training. She took on the role of community trainer herself, organising the cleaning of washrooms, wells and toilets.

Halima aspired to "Be More" and is proud that she is able to earn a small income, while maintaining the health of her family and the cleanliness of the camp community.

In the Cox's Bazar district, women and children make up 78% of the total refugee population where 52% of children are aged 0-17. ([UNHCR](#))

Watch a short film about Halima's story [here](#).

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more." Please support Project Compassion:
lent.caritas.org.au



Dear friends at St Therese's,

I know it's more than time I got in touch about happenings here. It is now 12 months since the doors of the church first closed for public worship. Before closure last year we did manage to celebrate Mass for the Feasts of St Patrick and Joseph, and First Reconciliation Liturgy with our Year 3's. Once we finally returned to church we were fortunate to celebrate First Eucharist and Confirmation just before the school year ended and Christmas Masses too. And now Holy Week and Easter are almost upon us, as time races on.

I was waiting to see what limitations would be placed on our liturgical celebrations at Easter before communicating, as there are still requirements for numbers and space in the church, as well as prescriptions for music and singing. We now have an outline of what is possible and to this end we have the following liturgies planned for the remainder of Lent and for Holy Week and Easter:

Wednesday 24th March: Communal Reconciliation Rite, to be celebrated in the church at 7.00pm on next week, to which all are welcome. (No booking required)

Wednesday 31st March: School Easter Liturgy for Years 4-6 at 10.00am, and an Easter Para Liturgy for Prep-Year 2 at midday.

Holy Thursday, 1st April: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.00pm (Streamlined liturgy with no Washing of the Feet ritual. The church will remain open until 10.00pm for the traditional Adoration after Mass.

Good Friday, 2nd April: Stations of the Cross at 10.00am and the Commemoration of the Passion at 3.00pm, with the usual ritual, but with Veneration of the Cross by a bow or genuflection only, with no touching or kissing of the Cross. (Booking for 3:00pm Mass required)

Easter Vigil, Saturday 3 April: celebrated at the usual Saturday evening time of 6.00pm (booking required)

Easter Sunday 4 April: celebrated at the usual Masses on Sunday at 9.00am and 10.30am. (booking required)

With the limit of 300 in the church for gatherings, booking for Good Friday and Easter Masses will be required. And, as we all realise, there is still the requirement for details of name and contact be recorded by QR code.

As for music at our liturgies, I appreciate it has been so long since we have been able to sing together and be led by our willing and talented musicians and we are approaching the time to get back together and see what we can do. The science seems to indicate that coronavirus is primarily transmitted by aerosol, so that singing in a group is perceived to be an increased risk. I am inclined to think it best to continue recorded music for the coming weeks and then plan resumption of normal music at weekend Masses after we celebrate Easter, given the lack of time now for preparation and practice and the limits on what is permitted. This, I know, is far from ideal, but we are still not back in normal times, and it's best to take things a step at a time.

Meanwhile, since opening up again, I acknowledge the generous and conscientious commitment of Paul Zammit, who has kindly put together music and overheads for the weekend Masses up to the present, helped by Teresa Pong, on behalf of us all, I express our gratitude to them.

Thanks to all for your understanding and co-operation.

Links to booking for Mass are below.

Attached to this newsletter (if online) is the Roman document concerning the restrictions. If you are reading a printed copy of this newsletter, you'll find copies of the document on our entrance tables.



John Hannon PP



EASTER MASS BOOKINGS OPEN ON MONDAY 22 MARCH AT 9:00AM

Booking (where required) is via Eventbrite and you need to enter the details of every person attending.

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 after 9:00am Monday to book.

Good Friday 10:00am: Stations of the Cross – no booking required

Good Friday 3:00pm: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/147077806679>

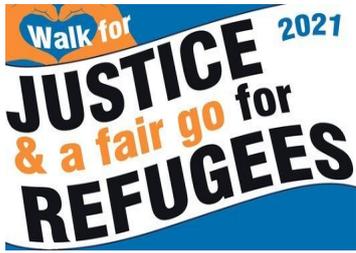
Easter Saturday 6:00pm: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/147086340203>

Easter Sunday 9:00am: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/147094773427>

Easter Sunday 10.30am: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/147095345137>



COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION Our annual communal celebration of forgiveness will be held this coming Wednesday 24 March at 7:00pm. All are welcome. No need to book but everyone will need to record their contact details using our QR code or by signing in at the doors. In Reconciliation we turn to our loving God longing for healing for our spirit, the mending of our brokenness and the acknowledgement of our wayward paths. We ask for the grace to become more loving and grace-filled.



WALK FOR JUSTICE FOR REFUGEES On Palm Sunday (28 March) the annual Walk for Justice for Refugees event will take place at the State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston St, Melbourne from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. People will gather on the day to call on the Federal Government for fairer treatment of refugees, including to release all refugees from detention, provide permanent protection and financial support, and bring an end to offshore and mandatory detention. The event will be COVID-safe – please wear a mask and register with QR codes that will be provided by organisers on the day.



To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the canonisation of St Mary MacKillop you are invited to order a free copy of **Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer**. The Sisters of Saint Joseph have created this commemorative prayer booklet to inspire us all to "take fresh courage...". These prayers share details of her personal journey, highlighting Mary's values and spirit. To order your copy you can visit the website: www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book or call Mary MacKillop today on 02 8912 2777

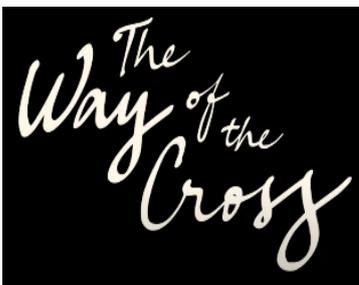


HELPERS NEEDED Thanks to those who've responded to the call for wedding helpers. We could still use more help so if you're interested please contact the parish office. We are also seeking volunteers to join the roster for operating the AV presentations at our weekend Masses. This requires a basic understanding of using a computer and training can be provided. The roster is below – if you can fill in any gaps, please contact the parish office.

MASS TIME	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
6.00pm →	Ella-Grace Arnold Charlotte Arnold	Teresa Pong	Julian Considine	Maggie & Vince Catterall	Julian Considine
9.00am →	Maresa Heath	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Nancy Destouesse	Maresa Heath
10.30am →	Paul Zammit	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED

ALWAYS WANTED TO VOLUNTEER? Now is the time to begin or renew participation in parish life. There are many ways you can contribute – gardening, maintenance, pastoral support, special ministry... if there's anything at all you're keen on then let the parish know!

EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES We are grateful for your contribution towards the upkeep of our parish priest, sick and retired clergy, and those who serve in poor and/or the new parishes in the Archdiocese who cannot afford to support their local priests. Please place your Easter Offering envelopes in the second collection. There are extras on the side tables if you require one for Easter.



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>



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/>

CURRENT MASS GUIDELINES AT ST THERESE'S

ST THERESE'S CAN CURRENTLY HOST 300 PEOPLE AT MASS IF WE USE ELECTRONIC RECORD KEEPING OF CONTACT DETAILS (QR CODE).

- 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.
- Sanitiser must continue to be used regularly throughout the Liturgy and celebrants must visibly sanitise before and after the distribution of Holy Communion.
- 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

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

PARISH CALENDAR		
Date	Event	Time
Saturday 20 March	First Reconciliation Candidates at Mass	6:00pm
Sunday 21 March	First Reconciliation Candidates at Mass Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support meeting in PACE	9:00am & 10:30am 11:15am
Wednesday 24 March	Communal Penance/Reconciliation	7:00pm
Thursday 25 March	Sacrament of Reconciliation School and RE Students	7:00pm
Sunday 28 March	Palm Sunday (No processions) Parish Baptisms	All Masses 12 noon
Wednesday 31 March	School Easter Mass (Grades 4 – 6) School Easter Para Liturgy (Years Prep – 3)	10:00am 12 noon
Holy Thursday 1 April	Mass of the Lord's Supper Altar of Repose	7:00pm 8:00pm - 10:00pm
Good Friday 2 April	Parish Office Closed Stations of the Cross Veneration of the Cross – Holy Places Appeal	10:00am 3:00pm
Easter Saturday 3 April	Easter Vigil Mass	6:00pm
Easter Sunday 4 April	Daylight Savings ends Easter Sunday Masses	3.00am 9:00am & 10:30am
Easter Monday 5 April	Parish Office Closed	

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 10:00am–3:00pm
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.

CONGREGATION FOR DIVINE WORSHIP AND THE DISCIPLINE OF THE SACRAMENTS

Prot. N. 154/20

DECREE In time of Covid-19 (II)

Considering the rapidly evolving situation of the Covid-19 pandemic and taking into account observations which have come from Episcopal Conferences, this Congregation now offers an update to the general indications and suggestions already given to Bishops in the preceding decree of 19 March 2020.

Given that the date of Easter cannot be transferred, in the countries which have been struck by the disease and where restrictions around the assembly and movement of people have been imposed, Bishops and priests may celebrate the rites of Holy Week without the presence of the people and in a suitable place, avoiding concelebration and omitting the sign of peace.

The faithful should be informed of the beginning times of the celebrations so that they can prayerfully unite themselves in their homes. Means of live (not recorded) telematic broadcasts can be of help. In any event it remains important to dedicate an adequate time to prayer, giving importance above all to the *Liturgia Horarum*.

The Episcopal Conferences and individual dioceses will see to it that resources are provided to support family and personal prayer.

1 - **Palm Sunday.** The Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem is to be celebrated within sacred buildings; in Cathedral churches the second form given in the Roman Missal is to be adopted; in parish churches and in other places the third form is to be used.

2 – **The Chrism Mass.** Evaluating the concrete situation in different countries, the Episcopal Conferences will be able to give indications about a possible transfer to another date.

3 – **Holy Thursday.** The washing of feet, which is already optional, is to be omitted. At the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper the procession is also omitted and the Blessed Sacrament is to be kept in the tabernacle. On this day the faculty to celebrate Mass in a suitable place, without the presence of the people, is exceptionally granted to all priests.

4 – **Good Friday.** In the Universal Prayer, Bishops will arrange to have a special intention prepared for those who find themselves in distress, the sick, the dead, (cf. *Missale Romanum*). The adoration of the Cross by kissing it shall be limited solely to the celebrant.

5 – **The Easter Vigil:** Is to be celebrated only in Cathedral and parish churches. For the “Baptismal Liturgy” only the “Renewal of Baptismal Promises” is maintained (cf. *Missale Romanum*).

Seminaries, houses of clergy, monasteries and religious communities shall follow the indications of this decree.

Expressions of popular piety and processions which enrich the days of Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum can be transferred to other suitable days in the year, for example 14 and 15 September, according to the judgement of the Diocesan Bishop.

De mandato Summi Pontificis pro hoc tantum anno 2020.

From the offices of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 25 March 2020, on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.

Robert Card. Sarah
Prefect

✠ Arthur Roche
Archbishop Secretary