

St Therese's Parish Essendon

27 and 28 March 2021
Palm Sunday of Lent -Year B



First Reading Is 50:4-7 **A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Gospel Mk 15:1-39 **The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark** (Shorter form)

First thing in the morning, the chief priests together with the elders and the scribes, in short the whole Sanhedrin, had their plan ready. They had Jesus bound and took him away and handed him over to Pilate.

Pilate questioned him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'It is you who say it' he answered. And the chief priests brought many accusations against him. Pilate questioned him again, 'Have you no reply at all? See how many accusations they are bringing against you!' But to Pilate's amazement, Jesus made no further reply.

At festival time Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone they asked for. Now a man called Barabbas was then in prison with the rioters who had committed murder during the uprising. When the crowd went up and began to ask Pilate the customary favour, Pilate answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?' For he realised it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. The chief priests, however, had incited the crowd to demand that he should release Barabbas for them instead. The Pilate spoke again. 'But in that case,' he said to them 'what am I to do with the man you call king of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' 'Why?' Pilate asked them 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas for them and, having ordered Jesus to be scourged, handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led him away to the inner part of the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the whole cohort together. They dressed him in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed and spat on him; and they went down on their knees to do him homage. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple and dressed him in his own clothes.

They led him out to crucify him. They enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull.

They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it. Then they crucified him, and shared out his clothing, casting lots to decide what each should get. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription giving the charge against him read: 'The King of the Jews.' And they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left. The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said, 'Aha! So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself: come down from the cross!' The chief priests and the scribes mocked him among themselves in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, for us to see it and believe.' Even those who were crucified with him taunted him.

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood by heard this they said, 'Listen, he is calling on Elijah'. Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink saying, 'Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down.' But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

All kneel and pause a moment.

And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said, 'In truth this man was a son of God.'



EASTER MASS BOOKINGS OPEN NOW OPEN

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

We have set aside a number of places at each Mass for people who are unable to book online who may ring the office 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>

PROJECT COMPASSION HOLY WEEK

As we enter Holy Week, we continue to reflect on the lives of people vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice and how we can respond through supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion appeal.

Let us take time to remember the life and teachings of Saint Oscar Romero. His many lessons include: live a simple life, commit to bringing peace to the world, speak the truth and of course aspire not to have more, but to be more. Some words from what has become known as the Oscar Romero prayer; "We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest."

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion Campaign. Your generosity will work for the freedom of those living in poverty, challenge unjust structures, and empower people to work for a sustainable way of life.

Please return all Project Compassion boxes and envelopes as soon as possible or donate online via the Caritas website at lent.caritas.org.au

THANK YOU



EASTER WORKING BEE Our annual Easter working bee in the church and garden will be on Saturday 2 April 10.00am to 12 noon. Please join us with your buckets, mops, dusters, gloves, shovels, brooms, etc. to do your bit to make our parish attractive and welcoming for our Easter Celebrations.

EASTER VIGIL CANDLES We ask that you kindly bring your own BATTERY OPERATED candles to Easter Vigil this year. Although real flame candles are beautiful, they make an awful mess of our carpet and are a safety hazard. Battery operated candles can be purchased from gift/homewares stores.

HELPERS NEEDED We REALLY NEED 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	Silvia Campo	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.



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/>



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 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

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. There will be no access to the church between Masses
- 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

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
Sunday 28 March	Palm Sunday (No processions) Parish Baptisms	All Masses 12 noon
Wednesday 31 March	School Easter Mass (Years 4 to 6) School Easter Para Liturgy (Years Prep to 3) Term 1 Concludes for parish school students	10:00am 12 noon 3.30pm
Holy Thursday 1 April	Mass of the Lord's Supper Altar of Repose	7:00pm 8:00pm to 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 Working Bee Easter Vigil Mass	10:00am 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	
Wednesday 12 April	SVDP Regional Conference Meeting in PACE	7:30pm
Monday 19 April	SVDP Essendon Conference Meeting in PACE	7:00pm
Wednesday 21 April	Term 2 Commences for parish school students	

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.