

St Therese's Parish Essendon

11 and 12 September 2021
Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
The Season of Creation



First Reading Is 50:5-9 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I gave my body to those who struck me. 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. My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings against me? Then let us go to court together. Who thinks he has a case against me? Let him approach me. The Lord is coming to my help, who dare condemn me?

Gospel Mk 8:27-35 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

You are the Christ ... the Son of Man was destined to suffer much.

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'



PETER: EARTHQUAKED AND THEN UPSIDE DOWN

Here in our Australian democracy we hardly feel the force of the famous gospel passage in which Jesus forewarns his disciples of the high cost of following him. We trivialise the meaning of taking up the cross to make it refer to bearing a chronic ailment, or putting up with a particularly irritating family member or work colleague: 'It/he/she is the cross I have to bear.'

No, our Lord was referring to the terrible reality which could be inflicted on his followers, as even happens today: the beheadings by ISIL in Iraq, the rape and enslavement of women in Nigeria, the displacement from homelands in Syria. The True Cross is not to be found in splinters of wood but in the various means by which suffering is inflicted on those whose allegiance to Jesus Christ does not waiver.

Peter could not, would not, grasp this. His head was full of political fantasy, easy sovereignty. Jesus rebuked Peter quite savagely: 'Satan, get behind me.' Only after the resurrection, believing that our Lord had conquered the worst that death could do, did Peter follow Jesus to crucifixion, upside down at the base of the Vatican Hill.

We could take a moment to pray for and, where possible, give appropriate political support to, our fellow Christians wherever they are persecuted, forced to bear the true cross of suffering. May God give those Christian martyrs victory in the embrace of the resurrection power of Jesus Christ.

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Dear friends, let us turn to the Lord who hears the prayers of all in need.

We pray for the church, our parish, our families, and all who try to follow the Gospel. **Lord, hear us.**

That nations that suffer from war and violence will become places of peace and trust. **Lord, hear us.**

That the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccines may proceed smoothly and equitably around the world and that poorer nations will not be left behind. **Lord, hear us.**

That, in this Season of Creation, the leaders and people of every nation will heed the call of Pope Francis to care for our common home, the Earth. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for those who are ill. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for our own special needs. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for those who have died recently: Joyce Dimmock

And for those whom we remember at this time, especially: Tony O'Brien, Eileen Lacy, Maria Navas, Bruno Martino, Mario Campo **Lord, hear us.**

Loving God, hear our prayers and help us to always be true followers of Jesus. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

AMEN



SEASON OF CREATION

After Jesus spoke of a future involving personal suffering and political rejection Peter remonstrated with him. Jesus in turn rebuked Peter, explaining that such thinking was not of God. Much of the import of this short exchange seems to hinge on the openness of Jesus' assertions. Peter reacted not only to what Jesus said but the way he said it. Jesus' warnings were not given in secret but declared openly.

It is rather understandable that Peter was worried. Perhaps he thought that Jesus would attract unwanted attention from the authorities, or that his gloomy talk would put off potential followers. Either way, Jesus was having none of it. The truth, however dangerous or unpopular, should not be hidden.

Hearing this Gospel during the Season of Creation we might contemplate what truths get hushed up today. Do we encourage our leaders to speak openly about pollution and climate change, or do we collude in their silences? Does our society condemn or condone littering? Are our parishes in environmental denial, or models of sustainability and ecological responsibility? Ultimately, facing even the darkest future with hopeful action is a key part of Jesus' message. Christ's followers are called to bear their share of the cross and face tomorrow's problems today.

Nick Brodie



OIKOS, OUR HOME, OUR FAMILY

A home for all? Renewing the Oikos of God is the theme of this year's Season of Creation, which will be an opportunity to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together.

During the Season of Creation, Catholics join the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home to renew the Oikos of God. But... what is Oikos?

Well, in an etymological sense, the root of the word Oikos comes from ancient Greek and can be attributed to two meanings: "house" or "family."

In this way, both concepts are integrated in a very meaningful way since the word house refers to the physical inhabited place, our common home, the planet Earth, and the family are those who inhabit the home, all the species that inhabit our common home.

Our family is made up of the whole of humanity and each of the species that inhabit this planet form our home, our common home, a home for all.

Our home is in danger. The climate crisis is causing the loss of habitats and ecosystems that are home to millions of species. This also includes us, humans: our home is endangered by climate disasters and conflicts, so it must be renewed.

Our baptismal call urges us to renew the whole Earth, so that life can flourish.

Other concepts related to Oikos contemplate the interconnectedness of life that exists on the whole Earth (oikoumene), where the Church calls all homes (oikos) to a conversion of our political, social, and economic systems (oikonomia) toward just and sustainable economies of life that respect the vital ecological limits and boundaries (oikologia) of our common home.

Thus the Season of Creation renews in our hearts the call to ecological conversion so that we may also renew the Oikos of God, knowing that the Earth and all that is in it belongs to the Lord. (Psalm 24:1)

Renewing the Oikos of God is returning to the initial desire of the Creator, a home for all.

Guadalupe López Aguilar

A letter from Fr John

Dear parents, friends, teachers and staff at St Therese's School and parishioners.

As I start writing, it's Fathers' Day, so a happy retrospective Fathers' Day to all fathers. I am sure your families gave you a good day, despite the current limitations, particularly difficult when it comes to being with grandparents as well. At least we have the means of social media to connect these days, so it could be worse. Fortunately we can get out for a walk in springtime as the wattle flourishes and the blossoms bloom. I have a lovely magnolia tree on my front lawn, and the blooms are just beautiful, and all I have to do is appreciate it!

As time goes by, things become more and more uncertain. We thought we were coming out of the tunnel with lockdown lifted towards the end of 2020, and we anticipated a more normal year this year, yet here we are, back in another prolonged period of remote learning and working from home, not knowing where things are going for the rest of this year.

It seems the main hope is that as vaccination levels go up over 70% of the adult population, we might be hopeful of more freedom and visits with loved ones. **So, make sure you get vaccinated as soon as you can, for your own sake and the health and safety of all!**

Our school community is very much an integral part of our parish, as St Therese's Parish Primary School. It has been difficult to engage in mutual activities and liturgies in recent times but we just have to work with the limitations and do what we can to connect. It is much appreciated that many have continued to contribute to the parish support program, despite the lockdown, as financial demands on all of us are ongoing, and there has been a considerable drop in parish income, due to church closure. Thanks go to those families who have made such an ongoing commitment.

We'd all prefer to be out there engaging with others and free to pursue our normal activities and sports. For families, it has been an ongoing balancing act, in trying to help your children at home with their learning and leisure, whilst trying to get your own work done, as well as the usual demands of domestic and family life.

I readily admit that it has been relatively easy for me at home, alone, in my own space, with more time for reading, piano, jigsaws and walking along the Maribyrnong River, as well as recording regular weekday and weekend Masses on the parish website.

Sadly many of our usual church celebrations and Masses have been impacted by lockdowns and restrictions. Parish Baptisms have been cancelled, weddings have been postponed, rescheduled and then rescheduled again. Although funerals have been permitted throughout lockdown, with only 10 mourners currently allowed to attend, it makes a sad time of grief and loss even more difficult. It has been heartening to witness the grace and acceptance people have shown under these very frustrating and emotionally trying circumstances.

We have been fortunate this year to celebrate both the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and Confirmation during the times when the church has been open and Masses permitted. This weekend was to begin our celebration of First Eucharist Masses for our school and RE programme students.

As lockdown 6 keeps extending, and COVID cases continue to appear in the broader community, we can't be sure of anything, so there's no point in suggesting possible dates at present. With daily case numbers now over 300, with many infectious whilst still in the community, it seems doubtful that much further can be known until October. We may well have to wait until 2022 given all the current uncertainty.

If things do start to open up as we head into November and December, we may consider having First Eucharist Masses as part of Parish Masses on Saturday or Sunday. We will just have to wait and see.

I take the time now to commend the great work being done by our school staff, with the support of the leadership team and Michael Di Nuzzo as Principal, in trying and uncertain times. And the school building project redevelopment is going ahead well as planned, so that's good news for all as well.

I acknowledge the conscientious commitment of our teachers, office staff and helpers in co-ordinating on-line learning and continuing to engage our students with their studies and assignments. We have all learned to do things in new ways, and that's not such a bad thing. At the same time, there's nothing like the face to face interaction in the classroom and parish and church in general, and also being with our friends at study and at play. I guess we've all learned more about the virtue of patience, through necessity and personal experience!

I am always happy to have a chat, if anyone wishes to make contact, the after-hours mobile parish number is 0490 956 610.

With warmest wishes to all, as we continue to keep safe and well, persevering and patient!



John Hannon PARISH PRIEST
jbhannon@netspace.net.au



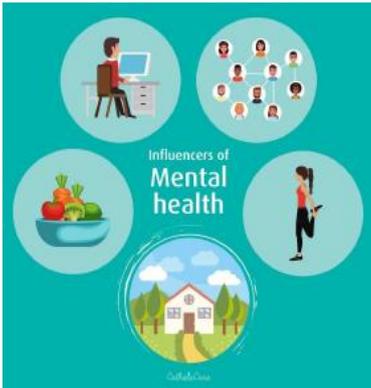
A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Planning for 100th Anniversary of St Therese's Parish in 2022

Next year, in 2022, we celebrate the Centenary of our parish. Fr John and the Parish Leadership Team have commenced planning for the Centenary, more specifically to answer the question, 'how do we as parishioners want to mark and celebrate this special occasion?'. We want to celebrate the spirit of what has been built here over the last 100 years as a parish community!

Perhaps a 100 years anniversary is about celebrating what we have today, with a vision of what we want to take forward for the generations to come!

If you have any ideas, or are interested in joining the Centenary Planning Team, please contact the Parish Office, or the Parish Leadership Team, to register your interest by either telephone or email. Contact details are in the Parish Bulletin or Parish Website. Anyone is welcome, young or old, and we are sure you will find it a very rewarding experience.



LOCKDOWN AND OUR MENTAL HEALTH

Our mental health is influenced by things we do and experience in our day to day life. It's normal to have ups and downs, and it is important to talk about how you're feeling with family and friends who are likely experiencing similar feelings.

If you want to talk to someone else, there are lots of great support services available:

Head to Health: [click here for Head to Health](#)

Lifeline: [click here for Lifeline's COVID-19 Support](#) or phone 1300 651 251

Beyond Blue: [click here for Beyond Blue](#) or phone 1300 22 4636

Kids Helpline: [click here for Kids Helpline](#) or phone 1800 551 800

Catholic Care: Stay connected www.ccam.org.au Tel: 9287 5555

PARISH OFFICE OPEN VIRTUALLY The office remains contactable each weekday from 9am until 3pm via phone and email. The parish office will not be staffed as we follow the government directive to work from home. For those who need to visit speak with Fr John, appointments can be made over the phone or via email. We can also book online meetings via Zoom.

PARISH GIVING DURING COVID19 If you usually support the parish with envelopes at Masses and would like to continue your payments, you can deposit your PSP donations directly to the parish accounts. Note there are separate accounts for church and clergy.

Contributions to the church account:

Name: St Therese's Church, BSB: 083 347, Account number: 67640 1701

Contributions towards supporting the clergy:

Account Name: St Therese's Church, BSB: 083 347, A/C number: 67616 4988

Any deposit should be referenced with your FIRST INITIAL and SURNAME so that we know that the money is a PSP payment attributed to you.

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: info@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

Weekday Mass 10.00am Tuesday Liturgy of the Word and Mass Wednesday to Friday 10.00am

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sunday 9.00am and 10.30am

St Therese's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

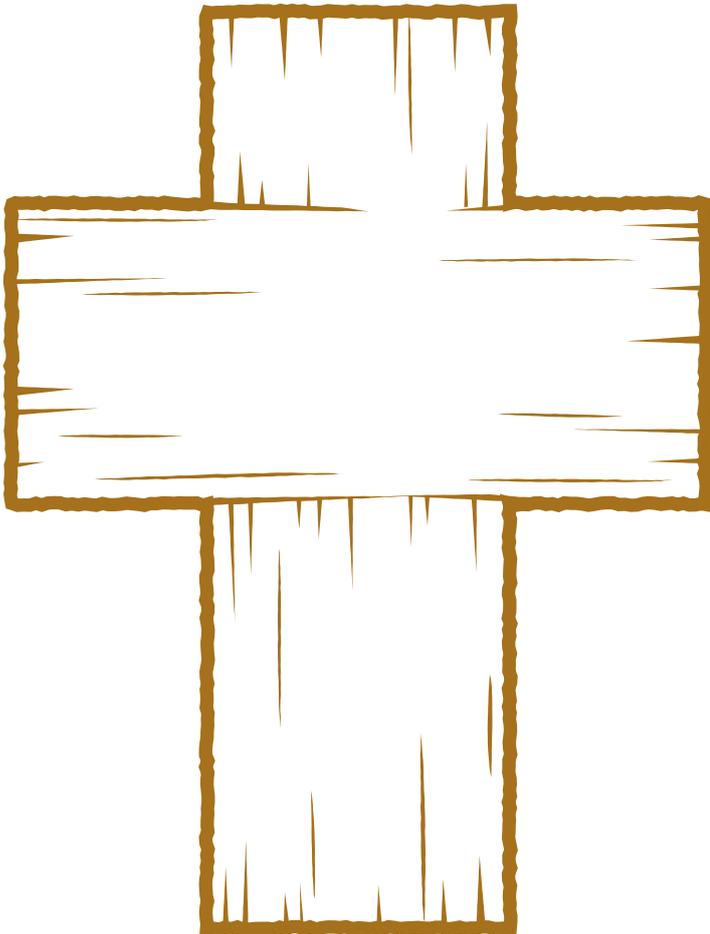
We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country of the land on which our church stands and recognize their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to them and to Elders past, present and emerging.

Take up your cross and follow me

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B



Write on the cross some of the hard things you need to do if you want to follow Jesus.



COMPLETE THE TEXT MAZE

"If you want to be my followers you must take up your cross and follow me."

START **I** F Y O E

Y D W U T

Z N A L W

V T U E R

D F Y M I T X P I A B O K

G O H E B O Y S R U S T U

J L R C A T A O U M H T J

F L O W E R S Y E T Q A W

S D L K O P F G P U E K B

E W S O Y

A V I U Z

T X C R A

S O R Q H

S D U E O

A R K Y S

N G L L O

D F O F W

R I E P M

E U W T **E** FINISH

Help Jesus tell his disciples about what would soon be happening.

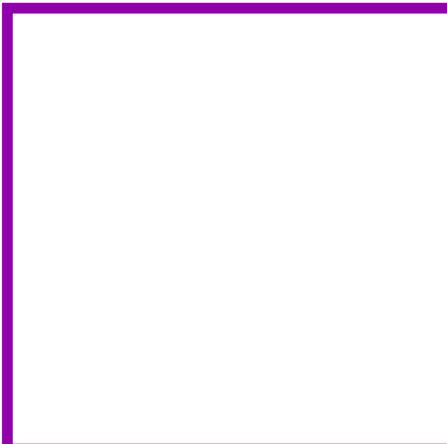


I must go to the city of Jerusalem...

...where people will make me suffer and I will be killed.



Draw Jesus entering the city on the donkey



Draw Jesus suffering on the cross



Write what Jesus tells the disciples next

Take up your cross and follow me



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

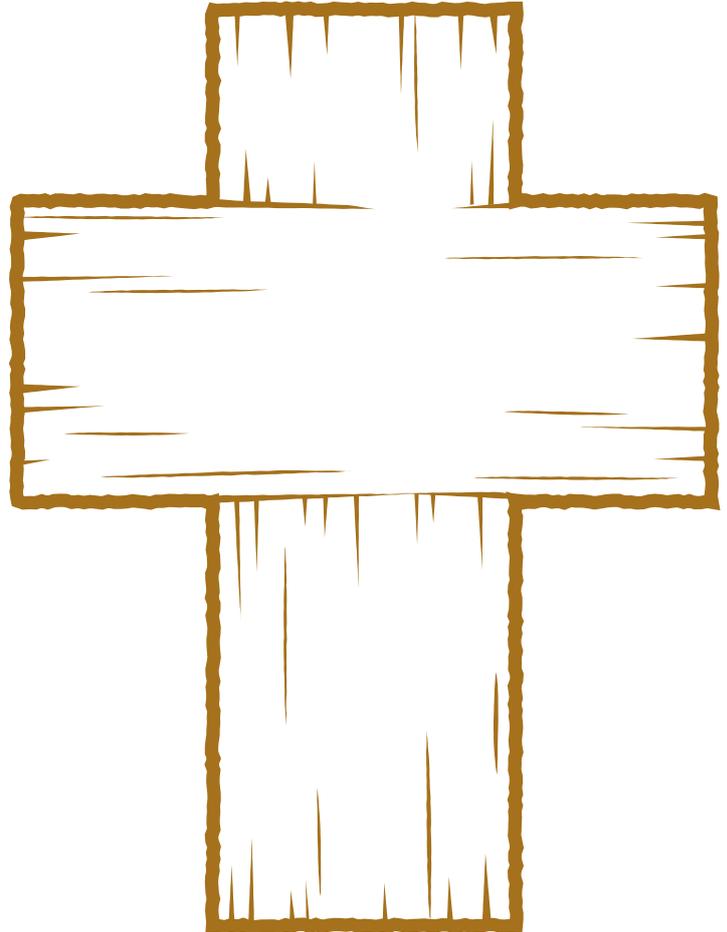
Gospel

Mk 8:31-35

Jesus began to teach the disciples that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

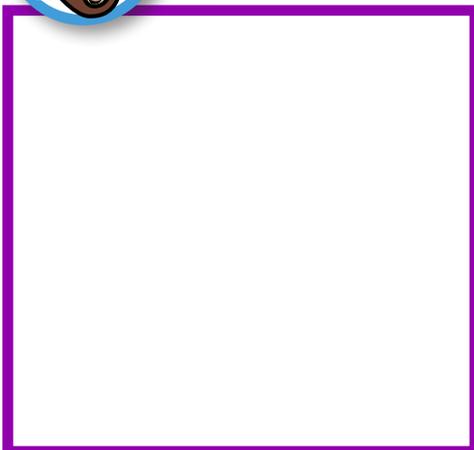
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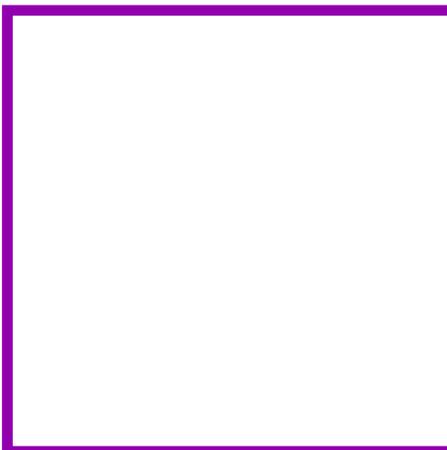
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