

St Therese's Parish Essendon

27 and 28 November 2021
First Sunday of Advent Year C



First Reading Jer 33:14-16 A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.'

Gospel Lk 21:25-28. 34-36 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Your redemption is near at hand.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'



ADVENT A few words on Advent in general. Advent transports us back to the longing of the prophets of Israel for the coming of a Saviour. The Saviour has come. But salvation is not complete. We proclaim, 'Christ has died, Christ is risen', and then add, 'Christ will come again.'

Why? Because there is so much 'unfinished business' in the work of redemption. Our world and even the lives of believers still appear very 'unredeemed'. Our salvation is still being worked out.

The first generation of Christians believed that the Lord would return very soon to complete his messianic work. They were dismayed when some believers began to die and still he had not come (1 Thess 4:13-18). The later writings of the New Testament, the four Gospels included, all address this problem. It may be that the Lord will not come tomorrow, next year, or even before this generation dies out. But come he will in a time known only to God (Mark 13:32).

Meanwhile, this time of waiting is not devoid of meaning – like time spent waiting on a bus stop. This 'in-between' time is a sacred time, a time for the Church to proclaim the Gospel to every nation (Mark 13:10; Acts 1:6-8), to make sense of the present, while never giving up the hope that God's Messiah, Jesus, will have the last word.

Advent is the season that honours and celebrates this waiting aspect of Christian life. Because we live in the time following the first coming of the Saviour, the prime focus of our waiting and our expectation is upon the second coming of the Lord. But because salvation is not complete, because we are so conscious of a world still ravaged by suffering and violence, we can identify with the prophets and holy men and women who hung upon the promise of salvation before the first coming of the Lord. Their cries express our own longings and hopes for a liberated and just world.

Brendan Byrne SJ

At Masses this weekend, First Eucharist candidates will be reading these special Prayers of the Faithful.

Today, we pray together, especially for these children of our Catholic community who will receive the risen Lord, the Bread of Life, for the first time.

We pray for Francis our Pope, Peter our Archbishop, Father John and all God's people who help us along our faith journey. May they continue to guide us wisely. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for those who have helped us prepare for our First Eucharist; our families, our present and past teachers and the parishioners of St. Therese's. We are grateful for their love, encouragement and guidance. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for all children receiving the Body of Christ for the first time and for those who will be sharing in the Eucharist today. May they grow in love for you and one another. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for the people in the world who are struggling in what has been another difficult year. Bless them with strength and guidance. May we always know peace can be found in your loving arms. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray that this Advent season will be a time of reflection on the coming of Christ, filled with prayer, saying sorry and love for God and neighbour. Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

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

We pray for those who have died recently: Betty Rohan, Sister Liz Costigan

And for those whom we remember at this time, especially: Terry Daffey, Rose Hayes, Pasqualina Martino, Veronica Fewster **Lord, hear us.**

Father, we ask you to hear the prayers we offer you today. Send your son, Jesus, to these children in a special way to help them grow in the spirit of your love. We make our prayers through Christ, your Son.
AMEN



CELEBRATING FIRST EUCHARIST Pope Francis refers to the Eucharist as a gift. He reminds us about how important the Eucharist is to our faith journey. He encourages us to receive the Eucharist as a family as often as possible if we are so disposed and in the state of grace. Our Holy Father spoke to a group of children in Italy as he recalled his First Holy Communion many years ago. He addressed the children and stated, "You will make your First Communion, always remember that day your whole life: the first day that Jesus came to us. He comes, makes himself one with us, makes himself our food, our nourishment to give us strength."

As we reflect on these words of Pope Francis, we can give thanks for all the teachers, relatives, and friends of these children who have helped prepare them for First Holy Communion, and who assist them in their future growth in faith through their prayers and actions. We especially thank the parents who are the primary educators of the children in the ways of the faith.

After Jesus nourishes us in the Eucharist, we are asked to go out to be "bread for the world." Eucharist calls us to help feed those around us who are hungry. Some people are hungry for food, others are hungry for love, or care, or friendship. And so we pray:

Some people in our world are hungry for food. They don't have enough to eat. Open our hands, God. Help us to share what we have with others.

Some people in our world are hungry for care. They are sad or lonely. They need comfort and support. Open our eyes, God. Help us to see the needs of those around us.

Some people in our world are hungry for friendship. They are excluded because others think they are "different" in some way. Open our hearts, God. Help us to share your love with others.

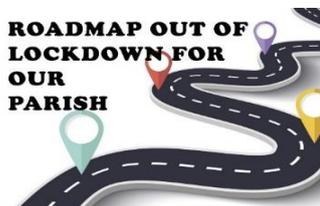
**PRIESTS RETIREMENT
FOUNDATION**



Caring for those who cared

PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION ANNUAL APPEAL It is a custom in Melbourne to allow the faithful of the Archdiocese to show something of their own appreciation through an annual Fathers' Day Appeal. The appeal goes to the care of retired and sick priests by providing suitable accommodation, medical assistance and a comfortable standard of living for them. This year we were unable to hold the appeal in September and so we hold it this weekend. Appeal

envelopes are available at church entry tables or you can donate via the Foundation website: <https://www.cam1.org.au/foundation/Donate> Donations received go towards the cost of supporting our retired priests, a cost of approximately \$3m annually.



REOPENING AT ST THERESE’S

Our Masses are now open under the restrictions of the vaccinated economy. This means there is no longer a restriction on the number of fully vaccinated attendees. Online Mass will continue to be recorded on weekends for parishioners and friends of St Therese’s who wish to remain at home for worship.



CHECKING IN

- All fully vaccinated attendees are required to check in using the Service Victoria QR code in our church.

VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

- All parish office staff are required to be double-dose vaccinated in order to return to work in the parish office.
- All volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated in order to attend Masses and continue their ministry.
- All Mass attendees over the age of 12 years and 2 months will be required to show proof of double-dose vaccination so please bring along your printed or digital certificate.
- If you cannot prove your vaccination status, you will not be allowed to attend Mass.
- Please bring your proof of vaccination each time you attend Mass

Fully vaccinated means someone who:

- has received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, or
- has a valid medical exemption, or
- is under the age of 12 and two months.

MASSES FOR PERSONS OF UNKNOWN VACCINATION STATUS: Some local parishes and St Patrick’s Cathedral are holding regular Masses for persons of unknown vaccination status. We are holding a Mass for persons of undeclared vaccination status on Tuesday 7 December where First Eucharist candidates will receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist.

VOLUNTEERING AT ST THERESE’S PARISH See below for volunteering opportunities at St Therese’s.



COVID MARSHALS NEEDED We must have COVID MARSHALS AT ALL MASSES. WE have a small group of regular volunteers but really need to boost numbers to support the roster.

LECTORS NEEDED We have had a few of our faithful lectors retire from the roster recently and are now seeking help to support those who read at our weekly Masses. Experience is ideal but not necessary, we can provide mentoring.

DATA PROJECTIONISTS NEEDED an important role in helping our attendees follow Mass and join in responses. Training provided.

If you are willing and able to assist in any of these roles please contact the parish office.

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS All volunteers are required to have a current Working with Children Check which we can help with if necessary. Working With Children checks can be applied for online at: <https://service.vic.gov.au/find-services/work-and-volunteering/working-with-children-check> All volunteers must be fully vaccinated.

PARISH DATES		
Saturday 27 November	Priests Retirement Fund annual collection First Eucharist Mass 4C (public Mass)	6:00pm
Sunday 28 November	Priests Retirement Fund annual collection Parish Mass First Eucharist Mass 4GG (public Mass)	9:00am 10:30am
Sunday 5 December	First Eucharist Mass RE candidates (public Mass)	10:30am
Tuesday 7 December	First Eucharist Mass for attendees of unknown vaccination status (limit of 50 attendees)	10:00am
Wednesday 15 December	St Therese’s School End of Year Mass End of Term 4	12:00pm 3:30pm
Thursday 16 December	Christmas Mass at Arcadia	11:00am
Tuesday 21 December	Communal Reconciliation Mass St Therese’s Volunteers Function	7:00pm 8:00pm – 10:00pm
DATES WILL BE UPDATED REGULARLY		

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE This is the last weekend for viewing our perpetual Book of Remembrance as the month of remembrance draws to an end.

ON SALE NOW – ST VINCENT DE PAUL: Selling Christmas Cards & Columban Calendars at the back of the Church after each weekend Mass. **Cards:** pack of 8 for \$5.00, **Calendars** \$9.00 each.

FOR SALE ON ENTRY TABLES: The Far East \$1.50

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS. Our Parish was formed on 8 August 1922 with the first Church/School building in the Parish ready for use in March 1923. The opening day of the school was 9 April 1923. The Parish Leadership Team has agreed to the celebration of our Parish Centenary from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. This period covers the establishment of the Parish and the Parish School. The later start also gives more time for planning following our year of lockdown and recognises that it may be some time before Sunday Mass attendance builds up to previous numbers. It is hoped the celebration of the centenary will lead to the numbers increasing. The Theme for our Centenary is "A Faith Community Where Everyone is Welcome". The Centenary Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 6 November 2022. When restrictions are lifted our Centenary Planning Committee will be able to proceed with the planning of events to celebrate the establishment of our Parish and School.

INTERESTING ARTICLES A reminder that we are collating a collection of articles we think our parishioners might find interesting, uplifting, informative or all of the above. Check out the parish website [here to find out more](#). If you come across an article you think would be of interest to our parishioners please email essendon@cam.org.au and let us know and we'll see if we can add it to our collection.

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL DELAY Throughout this difficult year, the work of Melbourne Overseas Missions has continued across the world. Funds provided by the parishioners of Melbourne continued to support communities deeply affected by the global pandemic. We are proud that this important work has continued unabated. At this time of year, Parishes across the Archdiocese would normally be preparing to support the MOM Annual Appeal, held in December. Although parish life in the Archdiocese is slowly opening up once again, MOM have decided to postpone the Annual Appeal until December 2022.

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

Mass Online:

Follow this [link here](#)

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday to Friday 10:00am (fully-vaccinated attendees only)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 6:00pm (fully-vaccinated attendees only)

Sunday 9:00am (fully-vaccinated attendees only)

Sunday 10:30am (fully-vaccinated attendees only)

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 respects to them and to Elders past, present and emerging.