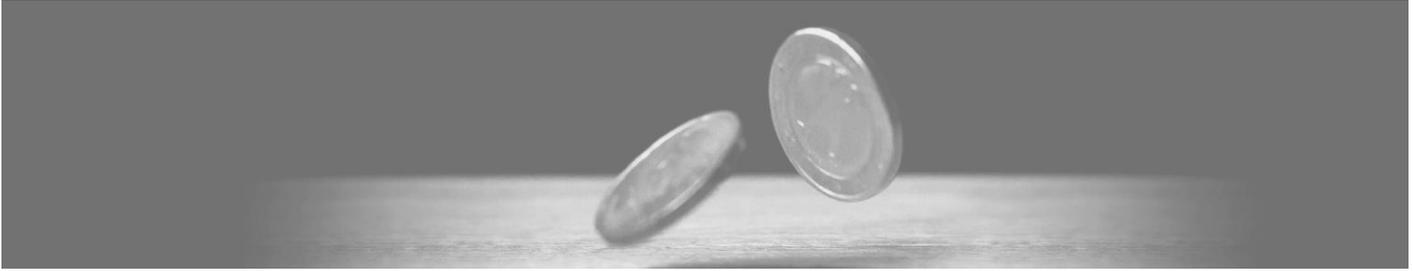


# St Therese's Parish Essendon

6 and 7 November 2021

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B



**First Reading** 1 Kgs 17:10-16 A reading from the first book of the Kings

*The widow made a little scone from her flour meal and brought it to Elijah.*

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said, 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives', she replied, 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent, jug of oil shall not be emptied, before the day when the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

**Gospel** Mk 12:38-44 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*This poor widow has put more in than all who contributed.*

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called to his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'



## REFLECTION: THE WIDOW'S MITE

This is the most commonly misunderstood passage in the Gospels. It is usually read in a 'pat on the back' tone of voice, commending the widow for her generosity. But it should be read with the tone of white hot anger which Jesus had displayed against the money dealers whom he expelled from the temple only days earlier.

This vulnerable widow was exploited and brainwashed by the scribes and temple authorities so that she gave 'all she had to live on'. She was left destitute, unable to afford the necessities of life.

On the contrary, Jesus wanted to create a band of followers who would look after widows and orphans. Look at Acts 4:32-37 to see that in operation. In fact, deacons were created in the early Church precisely to care for non-Jewish widows.

The message for the Church from this Gospel story is that it must never exploit the religious fervour of the poor to build up its own resources. Pope Francis is emphasising that the flow must be the other way if we are to be authentic Christians.

We could pause a moment to pray that, imitating the earliest Christian communities, our parish practises true concern for the marginalised and vulnerable, ensuring that they have all the necessities of life in all its dimensions.

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*Guided by Christ's words, we come to you Father and ask that you hear our prayers.*

In today's Gospel we are reminded that kindness is the daily expression of Christ's presence among us. We pray that we be inspired with an unselfish and generous spirit so that we can be shining examples of Christ's love in our daily lives. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for those who are blessed with wealth in this world that their hearts be opened to sharing with the poor, the hungry and the homeless. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for all those unlawfully imprisoned throughout the world, particularly prisoners of conscience, that they receive justice and be released and restored safely into the care of their families and communities. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for the innocent victims of crime and for all who have suffered from acts of violence or aggression. **Lord hear us.**

We pray for a greater understanding of the wonderful ecosystem which our loving Creator has bestowed on us and a strong commitment by governments and people throughout the world to protect and preserve it for this and future generations. **Lord, hear us.**

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

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

We pray for those who have died recently:

And for those whom we remember at this time, especially: Mina Lopez, Angelina Risso, Bernie O'Brien, Gwen Proudfoot, Norma Griggs, Bernard Doolan, Maureen Farrelly, Alan Farnbach, Theresa Ciantar, Kenneth Stout,

**Lord, hear us.**

*Lord, we ask that you hear our prayers and grant us new life and hope through faith in your infinite love and generosity. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.*

**AMEN**

*We entrust to you, O Lord, the souls of our beloved dead. May none of them be afraid to meet You after their earthly pilgrimage, but may always hope to be welcomed into the embrace of your infinite mercy. Lord, may no earthly thing ever separate us from You, but may everyone and everything support us with a burning desire to rest peacefully and eternally in You.*

**THIS REMEMBRANCE MONTH** we pray for all those we've lost. We especially pray for the families of those who have died during our prolonged periods of lockdown. As a parish, as families and as individuals we have, in many ways, been denied our usual rites of farewell. On November 1 we begin a month of memorial as we publish our annual Perpetual Book of Remembrance and turn our prayers to those whom we have lost since last All Souls Day.



**BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE** Our perpetual Book of Remembrance has now been printed and is available for viewing in our church. It will remain in place in front of the lectern for the month of November.

**NOVEMBER OFFERING:** Envelopes for November Masses can be placed in the drop box beside the parish office front door. Fr John will remember our deceased friends and family at all Masses in November. If you do not have a November Offering envelope please use a plain envelope writing November Offering and your name on the front and put the names of the deceased you wished to be prayed for on the back.



Dear God, We give thanks for places of simplicity and peace. Let us find such a place within ourselves. We give thanks for places of refuge and beauty. Let us find such a place within ourselves. We give thanks for places of nature's truth and freedom, of joy, inspiration and renewal, places where all creatures may find acceptance and belonging. Let us search for these places: in the world, in ourselves and in others. Let us restore them. Let us strengthen and protect them and let us create them. May we mend this outer world according to the truth of our inner life and may our souls be shaped and nourished by nature's eternal wisdom. **Amen.**

Michael Leunig

*Dear Friends at St Therese's.*

*Welcome back to church in person! At long last we are able to open up for regular weekend and weekday Masses for, up to 150 attendees (with the requirement that all are fully-vaccinated and use the QR check in showing their proof of vaccination.)*

*Just today (Friday 5th November), in Victoria, there were another 1300 or so new COVID cases and 10 deaths, with hospitals and ICU's under pressure because of the ongoing crisis. It is very clear that those who are double vaccinated are provided with a good degree of protection from serious illness, and those who are not vaccinated remain at high risk of becoming seriously ill if they contract COVID.*

*I am prepared to say one Mass each week on Tuesday morning at 10am for those who are unvaccinated, with the prescribed maximum of 30 attendees, who must still provide name and contact details, preferably by using QR code, as is the case in most public places now. Regular weekday Mass-goers are welcome at this Mass, but with the warning that numbers cannot exceed 30.*

*We are grateful to those parishioners who have volunteered as COVID marshals, which is a government requirement to check admissions at the weekend and special thanks to Tony Feain, who has generously given his time for weekday Mass admissions. I'd ask that all be accepting of the requirements and be patient in co-operating with our helpers.*

*Unfortunately, there were some difficult moments last Christmas and at Easter, particularly on Good Friday, where a few people made it difficult, demanding admission, without adherence to the necessary restrictions of that time. It really defeats the purpose of coming along for community worship. It is all for the good of the community and common good, that we protect each other from contracting this incredibly contagious and dangerous virus.*

*We will be celebrating First Eucharist with our Grade 4 students from St Therese's Primary School in late November and our RE candidates in early December. At this stage numbers will not be restricted after 24 November but we will keep you informed if anything changes.*

*You may have noticed some safety fences and heavy machinery around the church this past week. The wild winds last weekend dislodged tiles in three areas of the church roof, and then the rain came pouring in before I had a chance to get out the buckets and towels! We still have the blowers running to dry the carpet in the affected areas and there will be further maintenance and repairs carried out on the roof and some damaged crosses on Tuesday this week coming.*

*The prompt response of Kathy Gilmour in alerting me to the damage is greatly appreciated. The Archdiocese and Catholic Church Insurance organised all the contractors and in my 43 years as a priest, I have never experienced faster action. I just wish to express my admiration and gratitude for such a prompt response with such a good outcome in such a short time.*

*The good news on that front is that, for its age, it is said that the roof is still in fairly good condition.*

*Finally I would like to add my sincere thanks here to all our parishioners who continued their financial support of St Therese's over the past 19 months. It has been a difficult time for many and the generous contributions have enabled our parish to continue its work throughout.*

*Thanks again for your understanding and co-operation in this strangest of times.*

*Warmest wishes to all.*

*John Hannon  
Parish Priest*

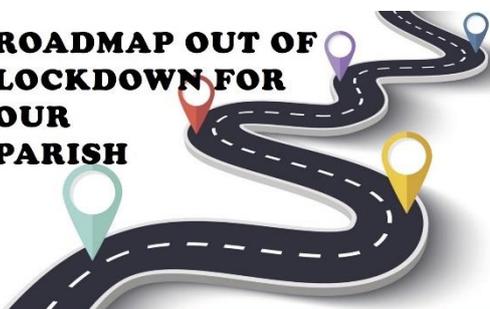


John Hannon  
Parish Priest

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## ROADMAP OUT OF LOCKDOWN FOR OUR PARISH



With vaccination rates rising and the easing of restrictions approaching, we now look forward to a time of welcoming parishioners back to Mass and to celebrating the Sacrament of First Eucharist with our school and RE Programme candidates. At St Therese's we will be following the CHO directives in opening up our Masses.

### OPENING UP

- Under the updated Roadmap to Reopening we will be open to 150 attendees until 24 November when the attendance limits will be removed. (See the Roadmap later in the bulletin.)
- School First Eucharist Masses are booked for 26, 27 and 28 November. All Sacrament Masses except the Friday 6:00pm First Eucharist Mass are now open to the public under the opening of the vaccinated economy.
- The date for our RE Programme Eucharist Mass is Sunday 5 December at 10.30am. This Mass is also open to the public.
- Online Mass will continue to be recorded on weekends until restrictions ease further.

### VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

St Therese's will be adhering to CHO directives on double-dosed vaccination requirements so that we can welcome the maximum number of people back to a safe environment in our church.

- 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 16 are required to be fully vaccinated.
- People of unknown vaccination status will ONLY be allowed to attend Mass at St Therese's on Tuesday mornings at 10:00am. There is a limit of 30 persons allowed to attend that Mass.

### BOOKING AND CHECKING IN

- With 150 people allowed at Masses there is no need to book for our usual weekday and weekend Masses.
- All attendees are still required to check in using the Service Victoria QR codes in our church.
- All attendees will be required to show proof of double-dose vaccination so please bring along your printed or digital certificate.
- People of unknown vaccination status will ONLY be allowed to attend Tuesday morning Mass.
- If you cannot prove your vaccination status, you will not be allowed to attend Mass.



### PARISH DATES

Saturday 6 November	Saturday evening in-person Mass resumes	6:00pm
Sunday 7 November	Sunday morning in-person Masses resume	9:00am 10:30am
Tuesday 9 November	Mass for persons of unknown vaccination status	10:00am
Friday 26 November	First Eucharist Mass 4S (school Mass only)	6:00pm
Saturday 27 November	First Eucharist Mass 4C (public Mass)	6:00pm
Sunday 28 November	Parish Mass First Eucharist Mass 4GG (public Mass)	9:00am 10:30am
Sunday 5 December	First Eucharist Mass RE candidates (public Mass)	10:30am
Wednesday 15 December	St Therese's School End of Year Mass	12:00pm
Thursday 16 December	Christmas Mass at Arcadia	11:00am
Tuesday 18 December	Communal Reconciliation Mass	7:00pm

**CALENDAR WILL BE UPDATED REGULARLY**

## VICTORIA'S ROADMAP: TABLE SHOWING ROADMAP FOR ST THERESE'S

Category	80% of 16+ fully vaccinated As of 29 October 2021	80% of 16+ fully vaccinated As of: 6 November 2021	90% 12+ fully vaccinated Indicative date: 24 November 2021 Vaccinated economy opens up
<b>Masses</b>	<p><b>Masses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masses remain online while we prepare for reopening</li> </ul>	<p><b>Masses resume at St Therese's</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully vaccinated: Indoors 150 cap (DQ4)</li> <li>Masks must be worn indoors by all attendees over the age of 12</li> </ul>	<p><b>Masses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No density quotient on Mass attendance</li> <li>Masks not required</li> <li>All attendees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19</li> </ul>
<b>Funerals</b>	<p><b>Funerals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully vaccinated: Indoors 150 cap (DQ4)</li> <li>Unknown vaccination status: 30 cap</li> <li>Cap not inclusive of those necessary to conduct funeral</li> <li>Masks must be worn indoors by all attendees over the age of 12</li> </ul>	<p><b>Funerals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully vaccinated: Indoors 150 cap (DQ4)</li> <li>Unknown vaccination status: 30 cap</li> <li>Cap not inclusive of those necessary to conduct funeral</li> <li>Masks must be worn indoors by all attendees over the age of 12</li> </ul>	<p><b>Funerals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No density quotient on attendance</li> <li>Masks not required</li> <li>All attendees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19</li> </ul>
<b>Weddings</b>	<p><b>Weddings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully vaccinated: Indoors 150 cap (DQ4)</li> <li>Unknown vaccination status: 30 cap</li> <li>Caps not inclusive of the marrying couple plus those necessary to conduct wedding.</li> <li>Masks must be worn indoors by all attendees over the age of 12</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weddings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully vaccinated: Indoors 150 cap (DQ4)</li> <li>Unknown vaccination status: 30 cap</li> <li>Caps not inclusive of the marrying couple plus those necessary to conduct wedding.</li> <li>Masks must be worn indoors by all attendees over the age of 12</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weddings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No density quotient on attendance</li> <li>Masks not required</li> <li>All attendees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19</li> </ul>
<b>PACE</b>	<p><b>PACE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully vaccinated: Indoors DQ4 which is a limit of 18 fully vaccinated people permitted in PACE</li> <li>Permitted for groups of 10 for essential support (vaccinated status does not apply)</li> <li>Masks must be worn indoors by all attendees over the age of 12.</li> </ul>	<p><b>PACE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully vaccinated: Indoors DQ4 which is a limit of 18 fully vaccinated people permitted in PACE</li> <li>Permitted for groups of 10 for essential support (vaccinated status does not apply)</li> <li>Masks must be worn indoors by all attendees over the age of 12.</li> </ul>	<p><b>PACE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No density quotient on attendance</li> <li>Masks not required</li> <li>All attendees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19</li> </ul>
<b>Notes</b>	<p>All attendees at all facilities at St Therese's Parish must check in using the Service Victoria QR check in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COVID Marshalls must be in place to confirm check in and vaccination status</li> <li>DQ4: 1 person per 4 square metres density quotient</li> <li>Masses and religious services are not held outdoors at St Therese's except for Memorial Garden services</li> <li>Children under 12 months old are not counted towards caps.</li> </ul> <p><b>A person is considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 for the purposes of attending a Place of Worship if they:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, or</li> <li>have a valid medical exemption to COVID-19 vaccination issued by an authorised medical practitioner, or</li> <li>are aged under 16.</li> </ul> <p>If a person can show evidence of any of the above, they can enter as fully vaccinated.</p>		

**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 centenary is another event we look forward to celebrating as a parish. 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. Sr Cathy Meese will coordinate the planning for that Mass. 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](mailto:essendon@cam.org.au) and let us know and we'll see if we can add it to our collection.

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

**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](mailto:john.hannon@cam.org.au)

**Baptism – Pastoral Outreach:** Leanne Torr [leanne.torr@cam.org.au](mailto:leanne.torr@cam.org.au)

**Business Manager:** Kathy Gilmour [kathy.gilmour@cam.org.au](mailto:kathy.gilmour@cam.org.au)

**Function Manager:** Jac Radcliffe [jac.radcliffe@cam.org.au](mailto:jac.radcliffe@cam.org.au)

**Bookkeeper:** Irene Fritsche [irene.fritsche@cam.org.au](mailto:irene.fritsche@cam.org.au)

**Parish Leadership Team:** [essendon.plt@cam.org.au](mailto:essendon.plt@cam.org.au)

**Child Safety Officer:** Olivia Metcalf [essendon.safeguarding@cam.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:essendon@cam.org.au) Website: [www.stthereses.org.au](http://www.stthereses.org.au)

**School email:** [info@stessendon.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stessendon.catholic.edu.au)

**St Vincent de Paul helpline:** 1800 305 330 WEEKDAYS 10:00am–3:00pm

**St Vincent de Paul helpline:** 1800 305 330 WEEKDAYS 10:00am–3:00pm

**Mass Online:**

Follow this [link here](#)

**Weekday Masses:**

Tuesday 10:00am (unknown vaccination status)

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

**Weekend Masses**

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

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

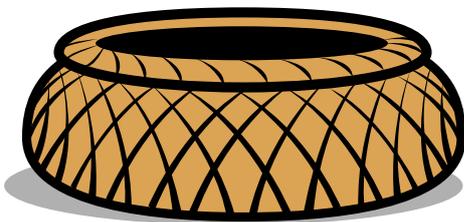
Sunday 10:30am (fully-vaccinated attendees only)

*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.*

# Be generous and selfless like the poor widow

Jesus praised the widow for her generosity because she gave everything she had even though she was poor. Draw the widow putting her few coins into the basket.



What are two ways that you can be generous like the poor widow?





# Be generous and selfless like the poor widow



32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B



Jesus praised the widow for her generosity because she gave everything she had even though she was poor. What are some ways we can be generous like the poor widow?

Three empty rectangular boxes, each containing a small illustration of two gold coins, intended for writing answers to the question above.

## Gospel

Mk 12:41-44

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called to his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

## Spot the difference

Can you spot the seven differences between these two pictures?

