

St Therese's Parish Essendon



22 & 23 January 2022
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C



First Reading Neh 8:2-6. 8-10 A reading from the book of Nehemiah

They read from the book of Law and they understood what was read.

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read. Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep'. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

Gospel Lk 1:1-4. 4:14-21 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'



RELAX: YOU ARE ACCEPTED

The prophet Isaiah had drafted a manifesto for divine action in the world. Jesus of Nazareth is divine action in the world, and no doubt his fellow villagers in Nazara would have been thrilled that one of theirs would 'set the downtrodden free'.

But, in proclaiming 'the Lord's Year of Acceptance', Jesus inaugurated a revolutionary phase within the Jewish tradition. He invited people to relax!! Holiness is not a matter of our striving, but of accepting that we are accepted by the All Merciful God. Good works should follow in response, but good works don't gain our acceptance by God.

How does one best show acceptance of someone, forgiveness of someone, friendship with someone? One relaxes over a meal together. This was Jesus' characteristic way of embodying Divine Acceptance in our world. It still is.

We might pause for a moment to relax into the saving fact that we exist in 'the Lord's Year of Acceptance', that this acceptance is signified and effected by our sharing in the Bread of Life and the Spiritual Drink of Holy Communion which gives us the energy to help make Divine Acceptance a reality for others.

INTERCESSIONS

Brothers and Sisters, let us bring our intentions before the Lord, who through the Spirit anoints us with joy.

We pray for those who are ill, especially: Maurice Corkill, Jim Ruth, Sister Mary Dennett, Cas Lukauskas and Vera Lynch.

We pray for those who have died recently: Bryan Guiney, John Carriss, Joe Callery, Eileen Butters, Janine Fanning, Kevin Moloney, Anthony Dias and Desmond Kenneally, And for those whom we remember at this time, especially: Sue Parkes, Sean O'Sullivan, Frederick Hansen, Frances Cooney and Joan Ireland. Lord, hear us

Loving Father, through your power we are anointed with the Holy Spirit. Hear our prayers and help us to bring new sight to the blind as we live your Word in truth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

PARISH GARDENING & MAINTENANCE TEAM We are forming a 'Gardening & Maintenance Team' looking at the ongoing health of our garden, with weeding and planting programs, seasonal pruning and fertilising, and propagation of new plants. If not interested in gardening you could consider joining the maintenance crew. This would involve the monitoring and carrying out of maintenance jobs around the church as required. The team would meet periodically and plan activities, including working bees to complete some tasks. We see this as a great opportunity to not only support the parish, but also to build community through working together in a relaxed, outdoor environment. No special skills are required, just an interest in gardening or taking on odd jobs! If you are interested in participating, please contact the Parish Office on 9401 6330 or email essendon@cam.org.au. All volunteers must have a Working With Children Check. Apply or renew here: <https://service.vic.gov.au/find-services/work-and-volunteering/working-with-children-check> from Parish Leadership Team

TODAY IS THE ANNUAL SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC MISSION which was held over from December 2021. Catholic Mission, as the Australian agency of the Pontifical Mission Society contributes funding and provides project support to critical church-run initiatives in Africa, Asia, Oceania and South America as well as remote dioceses within Australia. Donations can be made via the envelopes on church entry tables or via Electronic bank Transfer - banking details are as following Account Catholic Mission Donation BSB 062 784 Account Number 100008854 using reference Melb/392443

CARITAS APPEAL FOR TSUNAMI-HIT TONGA Caritas Australia are asking for donations to help support relief efforts in Tonga <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/pacific/>

PLEASE NOTE FRIDAY 28 JANUARY THERE WILL BE NO MORNING MASS

PARISH DATES		
Sunday 23 January	Parish Baptisms	12:00pm
Monday 24 January 2022	Parish office resumes regular hours	9:00am
Wednesday 26 January 2022	Australia Day Public Holiday	
Friday 28 January	Morning Mass cancelled	No Mass
Monday 31 January 2022	Prep school students begin for short sessions	
Wednesday 2 February 2022	School term begins for all St Therese's 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: 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 **Weekend Masses** Saturday 6:00pm, Sunday 9:00am, Sunday 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 respects to them and to Elders past, present and emerging.