

St Therese's Parish Essendon

19 & 20 March 2022
Third Sunday of Lent Year C



First Reading Ex 3:1-8. 13-15 A reading from the book of Exodus

This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.' Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

Gospel Lk 13:1-9 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"



POLITICS, ECONOMICS, AND THE GARDENER

There was a terrible disaster when a building fell down killing eighteen people. Some said, 'Oh, those killed must have been sinners, they or their parents.' Jesus repudiates that notion: 'No, it wasn't for anything they did.' It was clear to Jesus that they were the victims of poor construction and conditions at Siloam. Look at the builder.

Responsibility needs to be brought home to those who would otherwise hide behind a religious ideology, or the sheer self-interest of evading blame for a situation.

To identify those really responsible may well require major changes to the way society is organised.

Does it all seem too difficult? Jesus helps us with a metaphor: You are like a fig tree which may not be bearing much fruit just now, but, I am a terrific gardener:

I will water you, dig around you, make sure you are well nourished so that you will bear the fruits I desire.

Our Lord does that by: watering us with the waters of baptism; pruning us, especially during Lent; nourishing us with the bread of life in Holy Communion.

We might pause at various times during Lent to allow Our Lord to garden us so that he may create a heavenly botanical garden, a new Eden, of the whole of humanity.

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INTERCESSIONS

Sisters and brothers, through faith in the transfigured Christ, let us bring our prayers before the Lord.

We pray for the Pope, and bishops of the Church: that they will be ever more open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

We pray for peace on countries where there is conflict, especially Ukraine: may all leaders really strive for a peaceful resolution.

We pray for families in the midst of their daily challenges: may the children find love and safety in their homes.

During Cultural Diversity Week, may we Melbournians showcase that people from all over the world can contribute and belong. May God give us the strength to be warm and inclusive.

We pray for those who are ill, especially: Jim Ruth, Sister Mary Dennett, Mick O'Brien

We pray for our own special needs

We pray for those who have died recently especially Patrick O'Sullivan and for those whom we remember at this time, especially Fr John Mullally and Dorothy McEncroe,

Loving God, hear our prayers and give us faith in the beloved Christ to carry out your will and to live your word. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen



DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?
In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

LENT AT ST THERESE'S

STATIONS OF THE CROSS EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT

Parishioners are invited to participate in weekly Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent at 3:00pm. Meet the group in church, guides are provided. If you cannot attend, we have an online version here: <https://youtu.be/2DcokJ8wcpw> which follows the same program and shows images of our own church's Stations.

LENTEN SPIRITUALITY PROGRAM-It's not too late to join this year's Lenten Spirituality Program based on Fr Michael Elligate's recently released 'Restoring Freshness in the Time of Lent' program. By paying prayerful attention to the ancient Jewish psalms, and reading the gospels for the Sundays of Lent, we invite a new freshness into our own lives. The sessions are held in the PACE centre each Thursday during lent at 10.30am

LENTEN CELEBRATION OF FORGIVENESS Our annual Lent communal penance service will be held this year on Wednesday 6 April at 7:00pm. This year's theme is 'Lent - A Journey of Renewal and Peace, "A new birth and living hope!"' All are welcome to attend the service.



Pope Francis gives his blessing after leading the Angelus from the window of his studio overlooking St Peter's

STOP THIS MASSACRE: POPE Pope Francis has appealed again for an end to the war in Ukraine, saying those who invoke God to promote or justify violence "profane his name".

"In the name of God, I ask: Stop this massacre," the Pope said on Sunday at the end of his Angelus address.

With thousands of people gathered under the bright sunshine of a Roman spring to pray the midday Marian prayer, Pope Francis turned their attention to Mariupol, Ukraine, a city named in honour of Mary; it has been besieged by Russian troops for two weeks.

The city, he said, "has become a martyred city of the heart-wrenching war that is destroying Ukraine".

"Before the barbarity of the killing of children, of innocents and unarmed civilians, there are no strategic reasons that hold up," the pope said. The only thing to do is "to stop the unacceptable armed

aggression before it reduces the cities to cemeteries".

"With pain in my heart, I unite my voice to that of ordinary people who implore an end to the war," he said.

"In the name of God, listen to the cry of those who are suffering and stop the bombings and attacks."

Negotiations to end the war must begin seriously, he said, and the humanitarian corridors agreed upon to evacuate civilians and to bring basic necessities to people in besieged towns must be respected and secure.

With the UN Refugee Agency reporting on Sunday that almost 2.7 million refugees had fled Ukraine since February 24, Pope Francis thanked all the individuals and agencies in the neighbouring countries who have welcomed them, and he encouraged continued generosity.

He also asked Catholic parishes and religious orders around the world "to increase moments of prayers for peace".

Source: CNS



PROJECT COMPASSION Janice 44, is a proud Wagilak woman, a traditional dancer, living in a remote community in the Northern Territory. As elders grow older and pass away, she knows she must share her knowledge with the younger generation. However, the community faces multiple challenges, including a lack of jobs, limited educational opportunities, and socio-economic which can lead to young people becoming disconnected from culture.



With your help, Caritas Australia supports Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation, which operates a centre for traditional and contemporary Aboriginal arts and culture, providing employment and generating income for local communities. Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help provide employment and training for First Australians, allowing them to remain on country and keep their culture alive.

Donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.



VINNIES FLOOD APPEAL The floods in Queensland and New South Wales are having a devastating effect on the people living in these regions of Australia. For those wishing to support the long term recovery work to be undertaken by St Vincent De Paul Society in Queensland and New South Wales financial donations can be made directly to each state online here: https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find_Help/Flood_appeal/ Or by phoning: Queensland (07) 3010 1000 or New South Wales (02) 9568 0262



UKRAINE CRISIS CARITAS APPEAL Caritas launched the Ukraine fund drive after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, warning of a 'colossal humanitarian catastrophe' Over 3 million people have fled their homes in Ukraine, and there have been at least 1,761 civilian casualties. You can help the Caritas Ukraine staff on the ground to provide families with emergency food, water, shelter and hygiene support. Millions of Ukrainians are now living through air raids and attacks, as the conflict in Ukraine worsens daily. It is estimated that 12 million people in Ukraine will need humanitarian assistance, while more than four million displaced Ukrainians will need support in neighbouring countries in the coming months. An astonishing 1.5 million children have fled Ukraine, which is close to one per second, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Children are especially vulnerable to human trafficking, particularly as they arrive to new countries where they will generally not have any networks to draw on. You can help the people of Ukraine by donating to the Ukraine Appeal. Read the latest Ukraine updates <https://www.caritas.org.au/news/latest-news/ukraine-latest/> Your generous donation today can make a real difference to the lives of people in

Ukraine. Donate online <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/ukraine-appeal/> or by phoning 1800 024 413



PARISH COMMUNITY GARDENING TEAM We are looking for some enthusiastic and energetic garden lovers to help form a parish 'garden and maintenance' team. The parish gardens are a great asset for the church and school community, but we need help in keeping the garden looking good. We see this as a great opportunity to build 'community' through working together on the team. Grab a few friends and come along, we can't do it without you! If you are interested in participating, please contact the Parish Office on 9401 6330 or email essendon@cam.org.au.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2022 We have two further Sacramental Programmes running this year – Confirmation and First Eucharist. Applications are open for both programmes with Confirmation closing on Friday 16 April. Information about this year's Sacrament dates and programme can be found by clicking here: <https://www.stthereses.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Details-for-Sacramental-Programme-2022-1.pdf> For more information and to apply for the programme please contact the parish office

STUDENTS PRESENTING AS FIRST RECONCILIATION CANDIDATES Over the next two weekends we welcome families of our year 3 school students and our RE programme candidates to weekend Masses as they present themselves as candidates for the Sacrament of reconciliation. As a parish we are called to support the children in their faith journey.

LITURGY OF THE WORD replaces Mass this coming Thursday 24 March.

PARISH DATES

Saturday 19 March	Students present as candidates for First Reconciliation	6:00pm
Sunday 20 March	Students present as candidates for First Reconciliation RE programme (First Reconciliation) – Session 2	All Masses 9:30am
Monday 21 March	SVDP – Essendon Conference in PACE Function room	7:00pm
Wednesday 23 March	Faith Night Sacrament of First Reconciliation in church Centenary planning committee meeting in PACE	7:00pm 7:00pm
Thursday 24 March	Liturgy of the Word replaces morning Mass Lenten Spirituality Program with Sr Regina in PACE	10:00am 10:30am
Friday 25 March	Stations of the Cross	3:00pm
Saturday 26 March	Combined Liturgy and Music Ministry meeting in PACE Students present as candidates for First Reconciliation	10:00am 6:00pm
Sunday 27 March	Students present as candidates for First Reconciliation RE programme (First Reconciliation) – Session 3 Parish Baptisms	All Masses 9:30am 12:00pm
Wednesday 30 March	First Reconciliation Sacrament Mass	7:00pm
Thursday 31 March	Lenten Spirituality Program with Sr Regina in PACE	10:30am
Friday 1 April	Stations of the Cross	3:00pm
Sunday 3 April	Daylight Saving Time Ends	2:00am
Wednesday 6 April	Communal Reconciliation	7:00pm
Thursday 7 April	Lenten Spirituality Program with Sr Regina in PACE Easter Mass at Arcadia	10:30am 11:00am
Friday 8 April	Last day of Term 1 School Easter Mass Years 4 to 6 School Easter Paraliturgie Years Prep to 3 Stations of the Cross	10:00am 12:00pm 3:00pm
Sunday 10 April	Palm Sunday	
Wednesday 13 April	SVDP Essendon Regional Conference in PACE	7:30pm
Thursday 14 April	Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper Altar of Repose	7:00pm 8:00pm – 10:00pm
Friday 15 April	Good Friday Holy Places Appeal Stations of the Cross Veneration of the Cross	10:00am 3:00pm
Saturday 16 April	Holy Saturday Vigil	6:00pm
Sunday 17 April	Easter Sunday Masses	9:00am 10:30am
Monday 18 April	Easter Monday Public Holiday SVDP – Essendon Conference in PACE Function room	7:00pm

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.