

St Therese's Parish Essendon

26 & 27 March 2022
Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C



First Reading Jos 5:9-12 A reading from the book of Joshua

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

Gospel Lk 15:1-3. 11-32 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.'"



In the midst of Lent we are given a moment for rejoicing, Laetare Sunday. All of the readings provide us with reasons for rejoicing. The overarching theme is the prodigal goodness of God. The responsorial psalm sets the context for the reflections. The other readings show how needy people were showered with divine favour. Even in the midst of this rejoicing, we find a challenge. We must undergo a change of heart if we are to rejoice in God. The goodness of God is strikingly portrayed in the radically new image of father. This is a God who allows us to follow our own dreams, who is partial to no one, who faithfully and patiently waits for us to return, who gently corrects our misperceptions. God longs to be reconciled with us even more than we long to be reconciled with God. © Dianne Bergant CSA

INTERCESSIONS

With confidence let us place our needs and the needs of the world before God who is rich in mercy.

We pray for Frankie, Isabella, Henley, Eden and Roisín, who will be initiated into our church at the sacrament of Baptism this weekend. May they lead a life of faith and love for all.

We pray for those who are ill, especially Sister Mary Dennett and Noel O'Brien.

We pray for those who have died recently especially Jim Ruth, and for those whom we remember at this time, especially Mary Guiney, Bill Kennedy and Alfredo Lauricella.

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



PROJECT COMPASSION Rosalie 44, is an ex-combatant who lives with her husband and seven children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Forced to join the army when she was just 15-years-old, Rosalie experienced significant trauma and hardship during her years in the military. After she was demobilised from the army, Rosalie, like other ex-combatants, was left to fend for herself in the community.

With your generous support and through our local partners, Rosalie was able to connect with other members of her community and participate in business skills training to help her to reintegrate into society. Donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.



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. 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.

VALE JIM RUTH We pass on the sad news that our friend, and faithful parishioner Jim Ruth, has passed away peacefully at home after a long illness. Jim was a long-time volunteer here at St Therese's and played a huge part in many of the big projects including the restoration of the church pews. His gentle and friendly presence will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Our sincere condolences go to Jim's wife Mary, their children and their extended family as we keep them all in our prayers. Jim's funeral will be held here at St Therese's on Friday 1 April at 1:00pm.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED Please note that the parish office will be closed on Friday 1 April.

PARISH DATES		
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	Parish office closed Requiem Mass for Jim Ruth Stations of the Cross	All day 1:00pm 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	

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: John Hannon john.hannon@cam.org.au

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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

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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.