

St Therese's Parish Essendon

2 & 3 April 2022
Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C



First Reading *Is 43:16-21* - A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people. Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick: No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before.

See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

Gospel *Jn 8:1-11* - A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone. Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'



Scribes and Pharisees tried many ways to test Jesus, but he had the knack of outwitting them. In this story from John's gospel an unnamed woman is used as a scapegoat. Jesus defuses the violent situation by slowing down the pace, by using common sense and a little compassion. Instead of focusing on the woman, Jesus turns the situation around so that the scribes and Pharisees are forced to examine their own motives and inadequacies. As a consequence, stones are no longer righteous weapons for them. When the crowd has gone Jesus talks directly to the woman and for the first time she is a person, rather than a thing. She still has no name, but now at least she has a voice.

Reflection by Jenny Close



PROJECT COMPASSION Shaniella 23, grew up in a remote village in the Solomon Islands in a province which has limited educational and job opportunities and one of the country's highest poverty rates. After leaving school, she decided to move closer to the capital city, Honiara, to study hospitality and tourism. However, her vocational training school was hit by a landslide and cyclone in quick succession, destroying its water supply system and the vegetable garden that it relies on for food.

Caritas Australia has helped the school to install water tanks, re-establish its garden and provided training in disaster risk reduction. Shaniella can now complete her job skills training and the school has enough food and water. Donate today so this transformational program can continue to empower and strengthen vulnerable communities. Donation boxes and envelopes are on entry tables or you can visit lent.caritas.org.au, or call 1800 024 413.



PALM SUNDAY Next Sunday is Palm Sunday and our usual procession will take place at the 10:30 Mass. Meet in the church grounds at 10:15 for Fr John's blessing and then we'll process into the church to begin our liturgy.

PALM SUNDAY AND HOLY WEEK VOLUNTEERS Holy week and Easter are some of the busiest days of the year in our parish and there are many jobs to do. We seek the assistance of palm cutters/distributors, players of wind, reed, or brass instruments to help with our Palm Sunday Procession, collectors, altar Servers, Ministers of the Eucharist, cleaners, etc. If you are able to help please print your name & phone number on the clipboards on the entry tables. Thank you everyone.



THE WALK FOR JUSTICE: The 2022 Melbourne Walk for Justice and Freedom for Refugees will be on Sunday 10 April at 2pm, commencing at the State Library (music from 1.30pm). People from all faith groups, community organisations and unions are invited to join the Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees, bringing banners and other messages of support in solidarity with refugees and people seeking asylum. After our speakers, including the Rev Tim Costello AO, the Walk will proceed to the Park Hotel, where around 30 refugees are still imprisoned. There will be an address from one of the refugees still held in the hotel. For more information visit: <https://www.refugeeadvocacynetwork.org.au/>

INTERCESSIONS

We pray for the people of Ukraine but we also pray for everyone who is affected by violence and conflict throughout the world, including the ordinary Russians who are caught up in this conflict. May we find a way for peace.

We pray for those who are ill, especially Sister Mary Dennett.

We pray for those who have died recently especially Jim Ruth and Leonie Doolan and for those whom we remember at this time, especially Brian Riley, Jack Moloney, Ivor Perdrisat and Paul Cassar

God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ shows compassion and forgiveness. Hear our prayers and help us to remain free from sin and full of justice and compassion for all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

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.

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.

PARISH DATES		
Sunday 3 April	Daylight Saving Time Ends	2:00am
Wednesday 6 April	Requiem Mass for Jim Ruth Communal Reconciliation	1:00pm 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 Paraliturgy Years Prep to 3 Stations of the Cross	10:00am 12:00pm 3:00pm
Saturday 9 April	Palm Sunday Mass	6:00pm
Sunday 10 April	Palm Sunday Mass Palm Sunday Procession and Mass	9:00am 10:15am
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 Enrolments close for RE Confirmation Programme	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	
Tuesday 19 April	Parish office open for reduced hours for the last week of school holidays	
Friday 22 April	Liturgy of the Word replaces morning Mass	10:00am
Sunday 24 April	Parish Baptisms	12:00pm
Monday 25 April	ANZAC Day public holiday parish office closed	
Tuesday 26 April	Term 2 begins (pupil free day) Usual parish office hours resume	
Wednesday 27 April	St Therese's school children back for Term 2	

PARISH CONTACTS

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

Baptism – Pastoral Outreach: Leanne Torr leanne.torr@cam.org.au

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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.