

St Therese's Parish Essendon

24 & 25 December Christmas Edition
St Therese's Centenary Year 1922 – 2022



First Reading (Isaiah 9: 1-7) A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A son is given to us.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and forever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Gospel Mt (Luke 2:1-20) A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

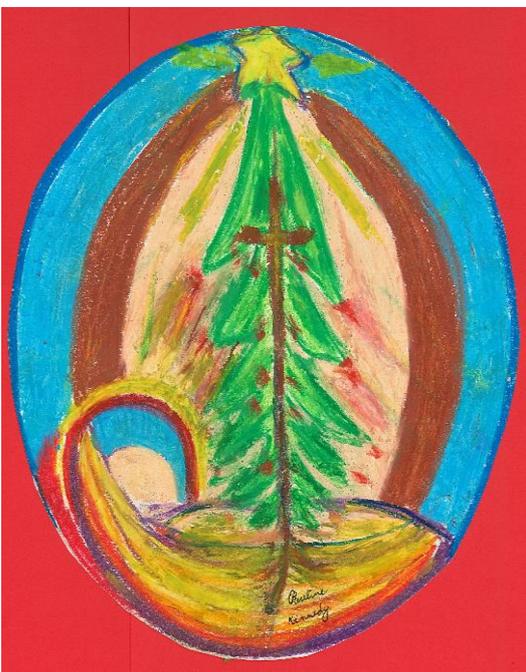
The birth of Jesus.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS



Dear friends at St Therese's,

Here we are with another year ending, after over two years of a very different way of operating.

It's a season to celebrate, as we await some decent summer weather, after a wet and cool start! Yet, it has not been an easy time for those adversely affected by the recent floods, with the inevitable ongoing recovery and maintenance required.

At the same time, we need to acknowledge the good things that have happened during the year. Parish life is returning to some sort of normality, as we prepare to gather for Christmas celebrations with family and friends.

Our parish staff and volunteers have once again done a great job in keeping me and parish activities organised. In particular, there was the recent parish Centenary Mass, which took much planning and practice by all who were involved. There were many happy reflections and memories of times gone by, as we also look forward to the future.

Then, there are the parish groups getting back into gear as well, and I thank all for their involvement and dedication. And we also look forward to working co-operatively with the West Essendon Parish community of Our Lady of the Nativity in 2023.

The Christmas message of peace and good will is something which sadly falls short in much of today's world, but the spirit starts at home, and the best we can do is to spread a bit of that peace and good will in our own environment.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year in 2023.

John Hannon Parish Priest

jbhannon@netspace.net.au

PEACE ✦ HOPE ✦ JOY ✦ LOVE

INTERCESSIONS

Friends, gathered here to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we pray with thanksgiving for by scattering the darkness of sin, Jesus now makes our world radiant with his love

We pray for the Church in every place, that in communion with Pope Francis, our lives may radiate the joy of Jesus' gospel, the light of his love, and the peace of his presence.

We pray for peace in the world. May the presence of God's Son in our world bring peace to the land of his birth and to every place where there is war, violence, and political unrest.

We pray for the tens of millions of people around the world displaced from their homes, that their cry for safety, shelter, food and freedom will be heard and answered.

We pray for our families, that the love and protection of Mary and Joseph for Jesus, will help us all to love and care for one another with sincerity and respect.

We pray for all who struggle with sadness and loneliness at this time of year, that the outreach of neighbours will free them from their isolation.

We pray for those who are ill, especially: Kath Maslin, Pat O'Dwyer and Denis O'Sullivan.

We pray for those who have died recently especially Mark Wallmeyer, Giuseppina De Pace, Sue Devers & Luke Springall and for those whom we remember at this time, especially Orazio Giampiccolo, Fortunato Monardo, Giuseppina & Gaetano Giampiccolo, Henry Cooper, Mary Farrelly, Ronnie Devlin, Gabriele Di Sipio and Wilma Wilson.

Lord our God, your truth and your love stand forever for you have given your Son to us as our Lord and Saviour. May we live in faith through love and reach our heavenly home where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.



2023 SACRAMENT DATES AND RE PROGRAMME Our Sacrament dates for 2023 have now been set with the first being the Sacrament of First Reconciliation taking place in late March. Applications are now open for our RE Programme and the course going ahead will depend on enrolment numbers. This year we welcome applicants from the Our Lady of the Nativity parish as we look forward to working cooperatively with the parish once Fr John assumes the additional role of Parish Priest for Essendon West. To register interest please use this [online form](#). To view details of the programme [click here](#). or see our [website](#).

SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION will be on the evening of Wednesday 29 March with the RE Programme commencing on Sunday 5 March.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION will be on Friday 19 May with the RE Programme commencing on Sunday 23 April.

SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST will be on the weekend of 9 and 10 September with the RE Programme commencing late August.

FR JOHN AND OLN PARISH Fr John officially begins his time as Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Nativity in January. From mid-January he will sometimes be saying weekend Mass at OLN while the Columban Fathers fill in here at St Therese's. Check the Parish Calendar below for dates when Fr John is at OLN.

LITURGY OF THE WORD Please note that on Tuesday 27 December a Liturgy of the Word will replace our morning Mass.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE The parish office has now closed and will reopen on Monday 16 January. The bulletin elves are going on holiday and this is our last bulletin until the parish office reopens. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and restful holiday. We'll see you in 2023!

PARISH CALENDAR	Saturday 24 December	Christmas Eve: Mass times on Christmas cards on entry tables	
	Sunday 25 December	Christmas Day Mass	10:00am
	Monday 26 December	Boxing Day – No Mass	
	Tuesday 27 December	Christmas Day public holiday Liturgy of the Word replaces morning Mass	10:00am
	Weekend 14 & 15 January	Fr George Hogarty saying Mass at St Therese's (Fr John at OLN)	All Masses
	Monday 16 January	Parish office reopens for limited hours	
	Monday 30 January	Parish office reopens for usual hours	
	Weekend 4 & 5 February	Fr Colin McClean saying Mass at St Therese's (Fr John at OLN)	All Masses

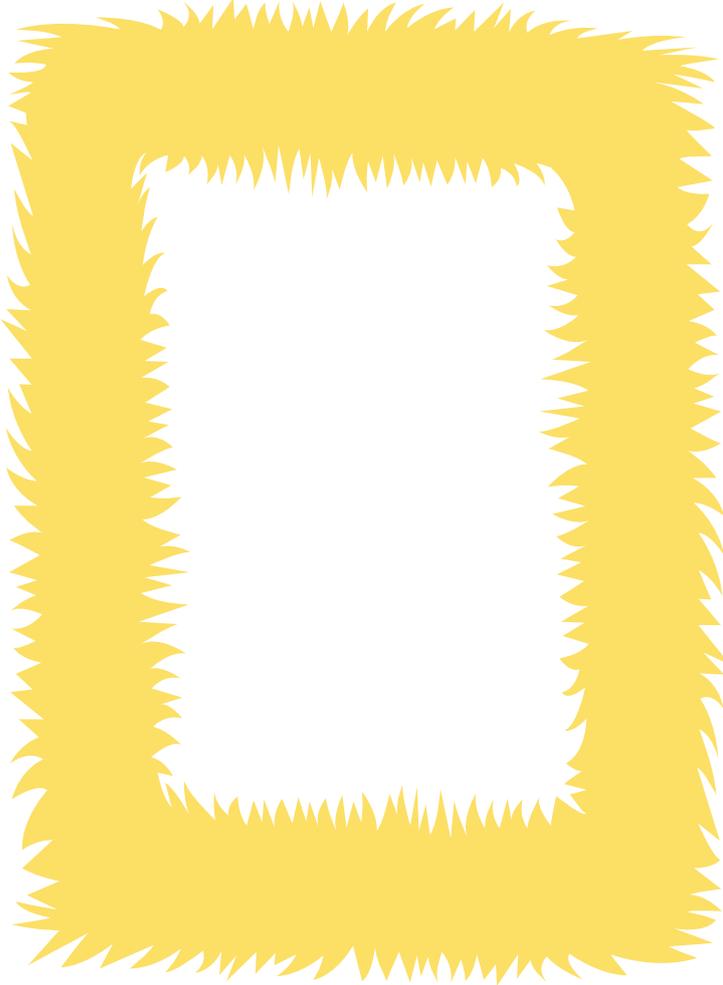
PARISH CONTACTS	Office Telephone: 9401 6330 (to leave a message) After Hours: 0490 956 610
	Office email: essendon@cam.org.au Website: www.stthereses.org.au
	School: email info@stessendon.catholic.edu.au phone 9374 6100
	Weekday Masses: Tuesday to Friday 10:00am
	Weekend Masses: Saturday 6:00pm, Sunday 9:00am, Sunday 10:30am
	Mass online: click here Reconciliation: Saturday 5:45pm
	Our Centenary Mass: https://www.stthereses.org.au/latestmassathome/
	<i>St Therese's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.</i>
	<i>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.</i>

Today is born our Saviour

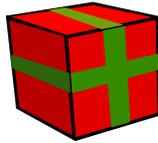
The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Day



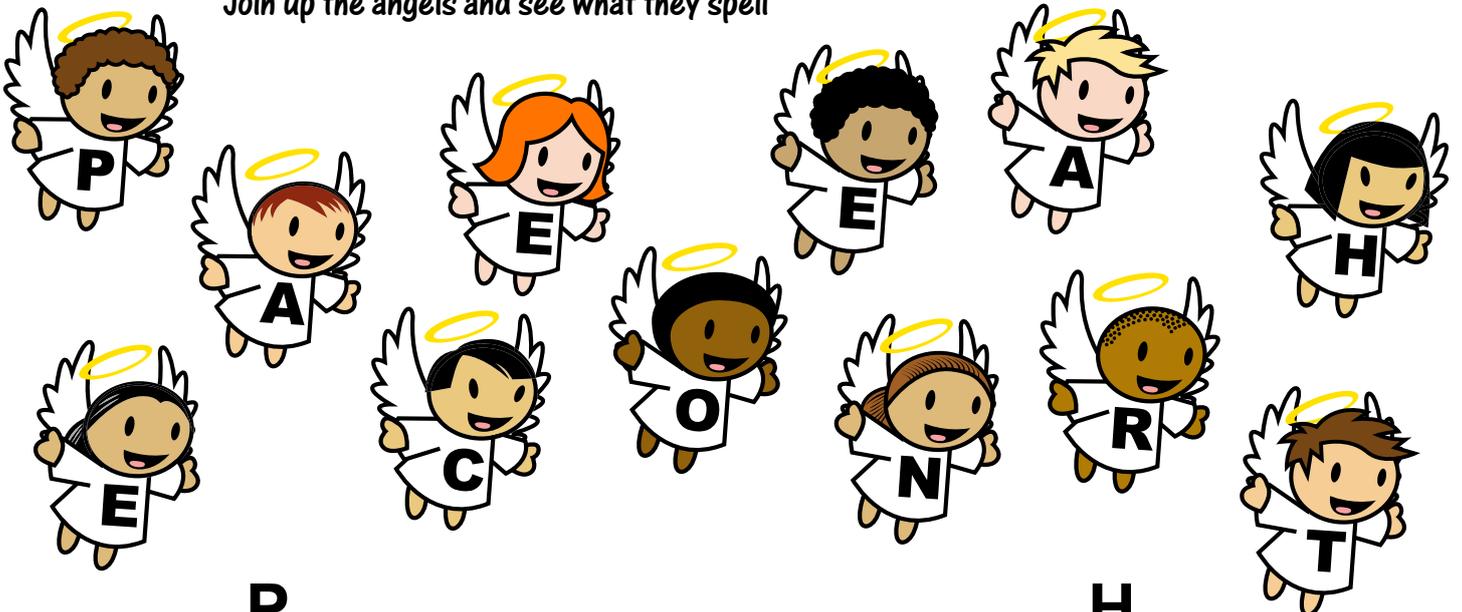
Draw a picture of the newly born Jesus



God gives us all that we have. What are some of the gifts you have received from God?



Join up the angels and see what they spell



Journeying Together

WITH Sr Nathalie Becquart



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE



Join Sr Nathalie Becquart XMCJ, Undersecretary of the General Secretariat of the Synod, for a conversation on 'journeying together' as Church, both universally and locally.

As our local Church in Melbourne walks the path of *Take the Way of the Gospel*, the universal Church is on her journey of synodality (*Synod 2021-2024—For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission*). These journeys are connected, and they invite us to walk together, listening to the Holy Spirit and to each other.

Tuesday 31 January 2023
10am-12 noon

Catholic Leadership Centre
576 Victoria Pde, East Melbourne

Free Event

Registration is essential via
www.trybooking.com/CFARB

or via the QR code below.

Registration closes Friday 27 January 2023.

For enquiries, contact **proclaim@cam.org.au**
or **9926 5761**.

'Our journeying together is, in fact, what most effectively enacts and manifests the nature of the Church as the pilgrim and missionary People of God.'

PREPARATORY DOCUMENT,
FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH

SR NATHALIE BECQUART'S BIOGRAPHY

Sister Nathalie Becquart XMCJ is a French religious sister with the Congregation of Xavières. In May 2019 Pope Francis appointed her Consultor to the Synod of Bishops, and in 2021 he appointed her Undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops, making her the first woman to hold this position in the Vatican and the first woman to be granted voting rights in the Synod of Bishops. Sr Nathalie made significant contributions to both the Synod on Young People in 2018 and the Synod on the Pan-Amazon Region in 2019.

REGISTRATION
QR CODE:

