



St Therese's & Our Lady of the Nativity Essendon & West Essendon Parishes



**11 & 12 February 2023 - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
St Therese's Centenary Year 1922 - 2022**



First Reading Sir 15:15-20 A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

Gospel Mt 5:20-22. 27-28. 33-34. 37 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (*shorter version*)

Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

INTERCESSIONS

Sisters and brothers, with confident hope we now bring our needs to God.

We pray for the Church: may her teachings always reflect the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

We pray for all those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, those who have died, the seriously injured, their friends and relatives and the support and emergency workers. May God give the strength and hope for the future.

We pray for our parish. May we learn to adapt and gain strength from our faith as we move forward with our neighbouring parishes.

For the work of CatholicCare Victoria's pastoral ministry, chaplains and volunteers; for being the messengers of God's mercy, love and compassion.

We pray for those who are ill

We pray for those who have died recently especially George Amari and for those whom we remember at this time, especially William (Bill) Curtain, Ruth Forehan, John O'Donohue, Lorraine Clifton, Damien Burke, Obdulia Fondevilla, Marie O'Brien, Santa Capovilla, Elizabeth Heslop, Rory Sheridan, Paulene Webster, John Flanagan and Bernadette Kennedy.

God our Father, you sent your Son to teach and guide us. Grant us the strength and wisdom we need to live our lives in accordance with your commands. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN



A PRAYER FOR SYRIA AND TURKEY

Gracious God, we pray for the victims of this disaster in Turkey and Syria.

Lord, bring comfort to those whose lives were spared and care for those who perished.

Be with the rescue workers and keep them safe as they make heroic efforts in dangerous situations to rescue those in trouble.

Help family members to be reunited.

God of healing and mercy, we come before you with our hearts filled with grief as we see the devastation. We pray that your presence would be felt by those who are grieving, who are injured, who have lost their homes and livelihoods.

We pray through your loving son, Jesus. Amen.

PASTORAL CARE APPEAL This weekend is the Pastoral Care Appeal. Donations from our parish community will help the Chaplaincy programs to support the most vulnerable people in our community. "Being a hospital chaplain means a chaplain of faith, hope and compassionate love. We are on a journey with the patients and families in the hospitals, as we walk with them during some of the darkest times of their life." -Helen, CatholicCare Victoria Hospital Chaplain.

Parishioners are encouraged to offer prayers and financial support to help provide continued spiritual and emotional comfort to individuals and families in Victoria facing, illness, pain, loneliness, grief and death. You can donate using the envelopes available or online at <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/campaign/7/chaplaincy-appeal> or call (03) 9287 5513

A LETTER FROM FR JOHN

Dear friends at Our Lady of the Nativity and St Therese's,

I write to you all today with news that devoted parishioner and long-time Archdiocese employee, Lorne Upton has finished up in her role as parish secretary of OLN from this Friday 10 February. Naturally, although Lorne is no longer employed by the parish, she remains a trusted and valued member of this parish community.

As many OLN parishioners know, Lorne has worked in the parish office since January 2015 and has been involved in parish life for many years more as a volunteer. Lorne has worked for several local priests over the years; indeed St Therese's parishioners will remember Lorne from her years of service as Fr John Mullally's housekeeper when, I hear, she was famous for her excellent cooking.

Lorne has been working solo as parish secretary at OLN since Sonia and Maggie left last year and has been tireless in her efforts to support parish life during this difficult time. Since Fr Francis left in November Lorne has been holding down the fort, ensuring parish activities continue including volunteering her own time to open and set up for weekend Masses and funerals.

I am personally very grateful to Lorne for her support since my appointment in January as parish priest at Our Lady of the Nativity. I thank her for her assistance to me and to the staff at the Essendon parish office.

I know you all join me in wishing Lorne well in this next chapter of her life. May she enjoy a very long and happy retirement along with her husband Ian.

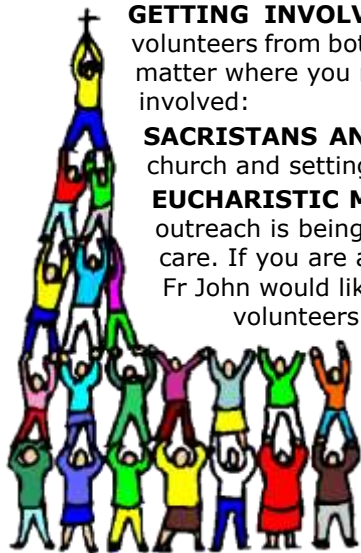
Since there is no longer a priest in residence at the OLN presbytery, the OLN parish office has closed and all administration has shifted to the Essendon parish office at 48a Lincoln Rd. This is a practical decision since my own office is located at St Therese's and it makes sense for the parish administration team to continue working in a single location.

All enquiries should now be directed to the Lincoln Rd office, including names for inclusion in Prayers of Intercession.

The Lincoln Rd office is open each weekday from 9am until 3pm.

Best wishes to you all,

John Hannon PP



GETTING INVOLVED IN OUR PARISHES In the spirit of a unified Catholic community we are seeking volunteers from both parishes and encourage parishioners to join groups at both St Therese's and OLN. It doesn't matter where you reside or attend Mass, all groups are open to all parishioners and there are many ways to be involved:

SACRISTANS AND MASS HELPERS We are looking for additional volunteers to help with opening up the church and setting up in preparation for Masses and funerals.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY TO PRIVATE HOMES AND CARE FACILITIES A very important part of parish outreach is being able to serve our parishioners who are housebound or are residents in assisted living/aged care. If you are able to assist with taking Communion to these parishioners we would love to hear from you.

Fr John would like to have regular volunteers taking Communion to Raelene Boyle Village on Vida St and our volunteers who currently take Communion to Arcadia and Trevi Court could use some support.

SENIOR FRIENDSHIP GROUP Our SFG will restart monthly morning teas this year and the group are seeking the assistance of parishioners in helping with simple catering no more than two or three times a year. SFG welcomes participation from both parishes. The next SFG event is on Shrove Tuesday in PACE function room.

WEDDING HELPERS NEEDED Our volunteer wedding helpers assist in opening up and setting up for weddings. Usually volunteers will only be rostered 4 or 5 times a year.

JOIN THE PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM IN 2023 If you are interested in joining the Parish Leadership Team (PLT) please contact the parish office and register your interest.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS All volunteers in the Archdiocese of Melbourne must hold a current Working With Children Check and that Check and must complete the CAM Safeguarding Essentials Training Certification for Volunteers.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS: <https://service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children>

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR CLERGY AND VOLUNTEERS:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-and-upcoming-events/safeguarding-training-modules/>



CARITAS APPEAL FOR TURKEY AND SYRIA: A devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake in Turkey and Syria has caused thousands of deaths. Freezing winter weather is only adding to the devastation, as the thousands left injured, trapped or homeless are stuck in bitter cold and freezing rain. Caritas Australia are in contact with Caritas Syria and other Caritas agencies on the ground as they assess the scale of the damage and critical needs. If you would like to help fund relief efforts you can visit the Caritas Australia website: <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/>



MISSION: CHANGE THEIR LIVES ... AND YOURS: Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents. Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code. The Palms Australia website www.palms.org.au includes stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. To enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know: phone: 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE MORNING TEA IN PACE Parishioners from both St Therese's and OLN are warmly invited to attend the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake morning tea to be held in PACE function room following 10:00am Mass on Tuesday 21 February. The morning tea is an initiative of our Senior Friendship Group (SFG) There is no charge for the morning tea, however gold coin donations are gratefully received to support the ongoing activities of the SFG.



LENTEN RESOURCES: Lent begins on 22 February and the parish has purchased some resources which are now available for sale from the Lincoln Rd office.

'GOD IS ON THE JOURNEY, TOO' by Christopher Monaghan CP: Garratt Lenten Program Year A' Once again, Chris Monaghan has created a timely Lenten resource that speaks to the concerns – and weariness – of Australians who have spent several years dealing with the Covid pandemic. In *God is on the Journey, Too*, Chris says, 'At every stage of the journey of faith, there is something to learn, invitations for us to grow, and opportunities for our relationships with God and others to be strengthened, healed, and renewed.' In addition to the scriptural readings, a selection of quotes are included in the program featuring both ancient and modern saints, as well as contemporary sources of wisdom.



FROM ASHES TO HOPE: Written for busy individuals but easily adapted for groups, each day includes a scripture reading and a reflection upon it, some questions to aid prayer and discussion, and relevant quotes from Pope Francis. The daily reflections will only require a few minutes for a person to read, reflect and pray. This Lenten practice will lead the reader into a deeper reflection on their daily life.

- A small book that is easy to carry, and read, while commuting or sitting at home (18cm x 11cm, 128 pages)
- Daily reflections for Lent, Holy Week and to the Second Sunday of Easter
- For each day there is a double page spread with: the date; a Scripture verse; a short reflection; and a short prayer

For sale at the Essendon Parish office open Monday to Friday 9:00am -3:00pm. *God is on the journey too:* \$7.50 per copy. *From Ashes to Hope:* \$4:00 per copy

STATUE OF OUR LADY The statue of Our Lady will be relocated to the Tran family on Monday 13 February.

CALENDAR	Weekend 11 & 12 February	Pastoral Care Appeal (Chaplaincy Sunday) Fr John saying Masses at OLN plus 9am at St Therese's Fr Tony Feeney saying all other Masses at St Therese's	
	Wednesday 15 February	Mass at Raelene Boyle Village	11:00am
	Weekend 18 & 19 February	Fr Tony Feeney saying Masses at OLN Fr John saying Masses at St Therese's	
	Sunday 19 February	Parish Baptism Welcoming Mass at St Therese's	10.30am
	Monday 20 February	SVDP Essendon Conference meeting in PACE	7:00pm
	Tuesday 21 February	Senior Friendship Group hosting Shrove Tuesday Pancakes in PACE function room	10.30am
	Wednesday 22 February	Ash Wednesday: St Therese's School Mass Ash Wednesday: afternoon Mass at OLN Ash Wednesday: evening Mass St Therese's Project Compassion Appeal begins	10.00am 5:30pm 7.00pm
	Weekend 25 & 26 February	Fr John saying Masses at OLN plus 9am at St Therese's Fr Tony Feeney saying all other Masses at St Therese's	
	Sunday 26 February	Parish Baptisms at St Therese's	12.00pm

PARISH CONTACTS	PARISH PRIEST Fr John Hannon	
	Office Telephone: 9401 6330 After Hours: 0490 956 610	
	Office hours: Monday to Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm	
	ST THERESE'S PARISH	
	48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon	
	Office email: essendon@cam.org.au Website: www.stthereses.org.au	
	Weekday Masses: Tuesday to Friday 10:00am	
	Weekend Masses: Saturday 6:00pm, Sunday 9:00am, Sunday 10:30am	
	Reconciliation: Saturday 5:45pm	
	School: email info@stessendon.catholic.edu.au phone 9374 6100	
OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY PARISH		
33 Fawkner St, Aberfeldie		
Office email: essendonwest@cam.org.au Website: http://pol.org.au/essendonwest/Home.aspx		
Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 10:00am		
School: email principal@olnaberfeldie.catholic.edu.au phone 9337 4204		
Mass online: click here		
St Vincent de Paul helpline: 1800 305 330 WEEKDAYS 10:00am–3:00pm		
<i>St Therese and Our Lady of the Nativity Parishes are 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>		

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EDITORIAL

"Treasure In Earthen Vessels"

Next Sunday will mark another red-letter day in the story of St. Teresa's — a rich creation-day of the Lord's making, when another new-chrismed priest will come home to our Altar.

We of 1961 are the privileged ones who will crowd around and make the most of it, kneeling for a priestly blessing not yet staled by usage, kneeling in the afternoon to kiss consecrated fingers while the oil still lingers.

And when the new priest moves to his First Mass — following now, where as an altar-boy he led, — ours will be the privilege to witness his Christhood, ours the grace to be amazed anew that common man could so be vested with the person and power of God.

When a young priest first ascends his altar, the whole Priesthood seems suddenly young. When a young man first gives his hands to be Christ's hands, his voice to be Christ's voice, somehow time is riveted, the surrounds fade, and we do clearly see not a Parish Church but a Cenacle, not Desmond doing what

Christ did, but Christ Himself continuing to do it.

At a First Mass the Priesthood itself is patently sacramental. Beneath the personal exterior, we know that this man is Christ continuing in the modern world — Christ continuing to change Australian bread and wine into His sacrificing SELF, Christ persisting to forgive our generation of sin.

And at a First Mass it is obvious that each new priesting is a new creation. Man does not evolve into Christ. This young priest at the Altar, whose parents and boyhood we know, was born 27 years ago to be created yesterday. At the Ordination we saw him stretched prostrate on the sanctuary floor, face down, like a corpse while the solemn Litany rolled over him. He seemed like a dead thing waiting there for the Holy Spirit to come and quicken him into a new form of life — just as Adam's body waited, slime of the earth, for the informing touch of the Creator's hand.

The imagery is not exaggerated. There is in fact a curious parallel between the Genesis account of God

creating man and the Gospel account of Christ creating priests. Both were the ultimate. Man was God's final creation. The Priesthood was Christ's final commission. It was only in the death-eve Cenacle of the Last Supper that Our Lord ordained His first priests to offer Mass, and only after the Resurrection that He gave them, in that bolted Cenacle, the other Priesthood power of His forgiveness.

And it is here — in the record of God completing His creation on the first Sabbath day, and the record of Christ completing His priests on the first Easter day — that the parallel is complete.

"God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul." (Genesis 2. 7).

"When He had said this, He breathed upon them and said 'Receive ye the Holy Ghost. Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven.'" (John 20. 22).

On this red-letter day for St. Teresa's and the Church, beyond the gratitude and congratulations, beyond the mutual blessings, there you have our concept of the Priest. God breathed into clay and created man. Then He breathed again into the face of a man, and created a priest.

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