



St Therese's & Our Lady of the Nativity

Essendon & West Essendon Parishes

**1 & 2 April 2023 – Palm Sunday Year A
St Therese's Centenary Year 1922 - 2022**



First Reading: Is 50:4-7 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech.

Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Gospel: Mt 27:11-54 *The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (Shorter Form)*

Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, 'Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?' But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message, 'Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.'

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' they said 'Barabbas'. 'But in that case,' Pilate said to them 'what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' 'Why?' he asked 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!' Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the people, to a man, shouted back, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."' Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'



WALK FOR JUSTICE This year's walk will call for Justice for Refugees: Permanent Visas for all, Fair Processes and income support for people who are seeking recognition as refugees. **SUNDAY, 2ND APRIL 2023**, State Library of Victoria beginning at 1:00pm for a group reflection and prayer led by Fr Andy Hamilton SJ. Details and to register: <https://css.org.au/events/palm-sunday-walk-for-justice-and-freedom-for-refugees-2023/>

INTERCESSIONS

With our prayers let us turn towards our God who will never abandon us.

We pray for the leaders of our Church: that it never grows weary of preaching the gospel.

We pray for Christians, especially those who suffer for their faith: may they be filled with strength and courage by the Lord to remain faithful to the mission.

For our community: that it will be known by our humility and compassion.

We pray that the mystery of the death of Jesus will deepen within our hearts. May we be ready to take up the cross in our time, especially as we support those who experience injustice throughout the world.

We pray for those who are ill especially Pina Notaro.

We pray for those who have died recently especially Norah Miles, Aileen Sheehan, Tom O'Brien, Bill Bergin, Antonio Macri and John Hardwick and for those whom we remember at this time, especially: Jack Moloney, Elio Dessardo, Carl Pereira and Brian Riley.

Faithful God, you sent your Son to suffer for our sake so that we may rise with him in new life. Help us to walk the path of Holy Week and draw us more deeply into the mind and heart of Christ. We make our prayer in Jesus' name. AMEN

Dear friends at St Therese's Primary School and Parish,

As parish priest here at Essendon, I wish to thank all for what must be described as wonderful centenary celebrations, culminating in last Sunday's fantastic Centenary Fair, where so many people contributed with great generosity, in terms of personal time, energy and resources. It was a great day all around, with a positive spirit of participation in the entertainment, activities, rides and friendship and connection overall. It all demonstrated what a great community St Therese's is to be a part of, in terms of school and parish.

There were so many stalls and contributors that it's difficult to imagine the amount of time and effort that went into it all.

In particular, I acknowledge the vision and hard work of Karren Carlier and Anna Ciavarella, whose children graduate from Grade 6 at the end of this year. I also acknowledge the committee members of the Centenary Committee, as well as the members of the P&F at the school, plus our teachers and staff, who were also willing to go well beyond the call of duty to give of their time and be present for the happy occasion. Another group I'd like to acknowledge are the parishioners who were cash collectors and worked behind the scenes all day in a physically demanding role.

It would appear the fundraising effort was most rewarding as well, but, to my mind, the building of community was key to the success of the celebrations.

Just as one example, Sister Margaret Moore RSM and committee members of the Refugee and Asylum Seekers Group have expressed gratitude for the many who contributed to their cake stall, both in producing and purchasing, to the extent that around \$1,200 was raised there alone.

It is impossible to thank all who contributed, but I do wish to express my appreciation to all involved, both in school and parish.

With warmest wishes for a restful break and a very Happy Easter to all.

John Hannon PP



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CENTENARY CAKE STALL A special word of appreciation to our wonderful Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support team who gave their time to be at the stall from the 9:00am set up through to the sale of the last cakes around 2:30 pm. The stall raised \$1,253.00. Thank you to Mary Dowling, Nola Eldridge, Mary O'Donohue and Val Mooney. *Sr Marg Moore RSM.*

PLANTS - PLANTS - PLANTS! Thanks to all our green-thumbed parishioners who potted and nurtured plants for the Centenary Fair. The response was so generous that we couldn't sell all the donations and we have left-over plants available for anyone who wants them. Plants are near the the Lincoln Rd side door of St Therese's church and are free to good homes.

OLN PRESBYTERY Since the OLN presbytery is no longer required to house a parish priest we will be clearing it out and smartening it up with the intention of renting it, providing an additional source of income for OLN parish. The house has been occupied by many priests over the decades and there is much to clear out and tidy up. We seek the assistance of able-bodied parishioners from OLN and St Therese's who can help out at a working bee on Saturday 29 April from 9:00am. There is packing, cleaning, gardening, rubbish removal and many other jobs to do.

TRADES NEEDED There are a couple of projects for which the parish will need to engage trades. We would prefer always to support parishioner-owned businesses so if there are any parishioners who are working in the following trades, please contact the parish office on essendon@cam.org.au or by calling 9401 6330.

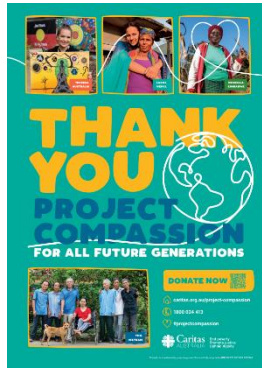
FENCING The parish will be installing some privacy fencing between OLN church and the house at #33. Quotes and advice are required.

PAINTING Some patching and painting will be required in the former presbytery at OLN.

POWDER COATING St Therese's church has been without the original front lights since high winds and weather damage caused one to fall last year. They are both now in the process of being restored and we are wishing to powder coat the metal lanterns to prevent future damage.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE The parish office will close on Holy Thursday 6 April, open for Tuesday 11 April and then close again until Monday 17 April. There will be no bulletin the weekend of 15/16 April. During the office closure Fr John will respond only to urgent messages on the after-hours number 0490 956 610. General enquiries should go to our usual office contacts.





PROJECT COMPASSION: PALM SUNDAY 1 & 2 APRIL

Every day, more than 200 million children miss out on school, around 690 million people go hungry and 2.2 billion people cannot access clean drinking water. In recent years, COVID-19 has also devastated vulnerable communities already living in poverty, with the health and economic impacts to reverberate for years to come.

It's through the generous support of people like you that we are able to continue to help lift vulnerable communities out of poverty – support that is needed now more than ever.

PLEASE DONATE TO PROJECT COMPASSION 2023.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, or at caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413



HOLY WEEK AT OLN

Palm Sunday
Saturday 1 April 5:00pm Mass
Sunday 2 April 10:00am Mass

Holy Thursday: 6 April
Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00pm

Good Friday: 7 April
Morning Prayer of the Church 9.30am
Stations of the Cross 10:00am
Veneration of the Cross 3:00pm

Holy Saturday: 8 April
Morning Prayer of the Church 9.30am
Easter Vigil 5:00pm

Easter Sunday: 9 April
10:00am



HOLY WEEK AT ST THERESE'S

Palm Sunday
Saturday 1 April 6:00pm
Sunday 2 April Mass 9:00am
Procession and Mass 10:15am

Tuesday 4 April
Communal Penance 7:00pm

Holy Thursday: 6 April
Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00pm
Altar of Repose 8:00pm – 10:30pm

Good Friday: 7 April
Stations of the Cross 10:00am
Veneration of the Cross 3:00pm

Holy Saturday: 8 April Vigil 6:00pm
Easter Sunday: 9 April 9am & 10:30am

EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES Offering envelopes can be dropped in collection baskets at all Masses.

EASTER MASS VOLUNTEERS We are seeking helpers at all Masses and Services throughout Holy week. Please add your names to the signup sheets (printed and left on church entrance tables) or you can contact the parish office on Monday to and let us know where you can be of assistance.

PALM SUNDAY MASS Kids @ Mass invites all children and adults to attend the Palm Sunday procession at St Therese's parish this Sunday starting in the Memorial Garden at 10:15am.

HOLY WEEK AT OLN We thank Fr Tony Feeney who will say Palm Sunday Masses at OLN and Fr Colin McLean who will preside at all other Holy Week services and Masses at OLN. Their continued support of both parishes is sincerely appreciated.

HOLY WEEK COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE Our usual Lent/Easter Communal Reconciliation service will be held in Holy Week this year on Tuesday 4 April at 7:00pm. All welcome.

NO MORNING MASS ON HOLY THURSDAY As usual, there is no morning Mass at St Therese's on Holy Thursday.

COVID PRECAUTIONS we remain vigilant concerning the spread of COVID19 and seasonal Influenza and so there will be no washing of feet on Holy Thursday and no kissing or touching the cross during Veneration on Good Friday.

HOLY LAND COLLECTION GOOD FRIDAY The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday.

HOLY WATER Will be available at Holy Saturday Vigil and Easter Sunday Masses at St Therese's for a gold coin donation.

VOLUNTEERING

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.

SENIOR FRIENDSHIP GROUP The SFG is looking to add some new faces to the committee and would particularly love to have a few OLN parishioners in the group. If there are any retired parishioners from OLN that would like to join the SFG (who hold monthly meetings and activities) they should contact the parish office.

OLN GARDEN MAINTENANCE Our continued thanks to Charlie Gauci and Minh Vu who have been keeping the lawns in check at OLN. The OLN tennis club have offered to support their efforts going forward and we are very grateful for their assistance. Any other OLN parishioners who can help, please let the parish office know. The first working bee with OLNTC will be held on Saturday 29 April.

ALL VOLUNTEERS in the Archdiocese of Melbourne must hold a current Working With Children Check and that Check must list each parish in which they volunteer. Please add St Therese's and/or OLN to your own WWC check here: <https://service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children>. All volunteers, staff and clergy must also complete the CAM Safeguarding Essentials Training Certification. For safeguarding training visit: [Click link here](#)



KIDS AT MASS KAM is back at St Therese's Parish for 2023! All children are invited to attend St Therese's Parish 'Kids at Mass' on the first Saturday of each month at 6.00pm Mass. Our first session Saturday 1st April, 2023 (Palm Sunday Vigil.)

Weekend 1 & 2 April	Fr Tony Feeney saying Mass at OLN	5:00pm & 10:00am
Saturday 1 April	Kids at Mass (KAM) during Mass at St Therese's	6:00pm
Sunday 2 April	Palm Sunday Daylight Savings ends (clocks go back one hour) Lenten programme 'God is on the journey too' at OLN church	10:45am
Monday 3 April	Statue of Our Lady moves to Latera family	
Tuesday 4 April	Funeral of Aileen Sheehan Communal Penance service at St Therese's	11:00am 7:00pm
Wednesday 5 April	Funeral of John Hardwick St Therese's School Easter Paraliturgie in school PAC	11:00am 12:00pm
Thursday 6 April	Final Day of Term 1 (St Therese's pupil-free day) Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at both parishes Altar of Repose at St Therese's church	7:00pm 8:00pm – 10:30pm
Friday 7 April	Holy Places Appeal Enrolments close for RE Confirmation Programme Morning Prayer of the Church at OLN Stations of the Cross (both churches) Good Friday – Veneration of the Cross (both churches)	9:30am 10:00am 3:00pm
Saturday 8 April	Morning Prayer of the Church at OLN Holy Saturday Easter Vigil OLN with Fr Colin McLean Holy Saturday Easter Vigil St Therese's	9:30am 5:00pm 6:00pm
Sunday 9 April	Easter Sunday Masses at St Therese's Easter Sunday Mass at OLN with Fr Colin McLean	9:00am & 10:30am 10:00am
Monday 10 April	Easter Monday – Public Holiday Parish office closed Statue of Our Lady moves to the D'Cruz family	
Tuesday 11 April	Parish office open Easter Mass at Trevi Court	9:00am – 3:00pm 11:00am
Wednesday 12 April	Parish office closed until Monday 17 April Easter Mass at Raelene Boyle Village SVDP Regional Meeting in PACE	11:00am 7:30pm
Thursday 13 April	Gospel reflections group in PACE SFG Committee meeting	10:30am 10:30am
Sunday 16 April	Parish Baptism Welcoming Mass	10:30am
Monday 17 April	Parish office reopens Statue of Our Lady moves to the D'Cruz family SVDP Essendon Conference meeting in PACE	9:00am 7:00pm
Thursday 20 April	Gospel reflections group in PACE	10:30am
Sunday 23 April	Parish Baptisms	12:00pm
Monday 24 April	First Day of Term 2 Pupil-free day at St Therese's and OLN schools Statue of Our Lady moves to the Portelli family	
Tuesday 25 April	ANZAC Day Public holiday Parish office closed Mass at St Therese's	10:00am

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**

Church and parish office: 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**

Church: 33 Fawkner St, Aberfeldie

Office email: essendonwest@cam.org.au **Website:** <http://pol.org.au/essendonwest/Home.aspx>**Weekend Masses:** Saturday 5:00pm, 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*Our Parishes are 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 churches stand and recognize their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and to Elders past, present and emerging.*