



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



**4 & 5 March 2023 – Second Sunday of Lent Year A
St Therese's Centenary Year 1922 - 2022**



First Reading Gen 12:1-4 A reading from the book of Genesis

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing. 'I will bless those who bless you: I will curse those who slight you. All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you.' So Abram went as the Lord told him.

Gospel Mt 17:1-9 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

INTERCESSIONS

Sisters and brothers, through faith in the transfigured Christ, let us bring our prayers before the Lord.

That our Holy Father Pope Francis will continue to guide the Church in Christ's message for the faithful.

We pray for Orlando who will be initiated into our church at the sacrament of Baptism this weekend. That he leads a life of faith and love for all.

For the gift of prayerful hearts: that we may know the wonder of silent time spent in the Lord's presence

We pray for all people who are a source of hope in the world, who help to transfigure darkness into light. May our support of Project Compassion help to keep alive our vision of Christ as the one we should most listen to, the light of the world.

We pray for those who are ill especially Mary Cooper, Susan O'Connor, Frederick Bellamy & Bridget Bellamy.

We pray for those who have died recently especially Bishop David O'Connell & Joyce Kearney and for those whom we remember at this time, especially Concetta Giuffre, Terzita Lizio, Sonia Catela-Egger, Santo Cattafi, Louisa Gallina, Isabella Campo, Margaret Barmby & Joe D'Cruz.

Loving God, hear our prayers and give us faith in the beloved Christ to always carry out your will and to live your word. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN



LENT REFLECTION SESSIONS IN PACE AND OLN CHURCH Weekly sessions follow the Lenten program 'God is on the journey, too', written by Christopher Monaghan CP. There are three programmes:

Thursday morning: Following 10:00am Mass in PACE Meeting Room, St Therese's. After Easter this meeting will become a weekly Gospel Reflections group.

Thursday evening: 7:30pm in PACE Function Room, St Therese's led by Liturgy and Music Ministry team members and including special guest leaders.

Sunday morning: Following 10:00am Mass at OLN in church foyer, led by OLN parishioner Gerald Mullen. There is no cost to attend any of the programmes. We do ask that you purchase your own copy of the booklet (\$7.50). Booklets are available at the sessions (please bring correct money) or from the Lincoln Rd office open Monday to Friday 9:00am -3:00pm. Cash and credit cards accepted at the office.

FROM ASHES TO HOPE: Available for sale from the Lincoln Rd office and at all Lent programmes is this small book of daily reflections. This Lenten practice will lead the reader into a deeper reflection on their daily life. \$4:00 per copy. Cash and credit cards accepted at the office. Cash only at Lent programmes.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAYS DURING LENT Parishioner-led Stations of the Cross are held each Friday in Lent at both St Therese's and OLN churches. All are welcome. Booklets are provided.

St Therese's: 3:00pm each Friday.

OLN: 6:00pm each Friday.

CHANGE TO MASS TIME: REMINDER SATURDAY VIGIL MASS AT OLN WILL NOW BE HELD AT 5:00PM



PROJECT COMPASSION: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 4 & 5 MARCH

Tereesa is a Gamilaroi woman from Western Sydney who struggled with homelessness while raising her four children. At just 16 years old, she had to leave school after falling pregnant with her first child. A single mother struggling with homelessness, Tereesa's only concern was finding stability for her children.

Seeking a better future for her family, Tereesa joined Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation's Young Mums and Bubs Group, supported by Caritas Australia. Baabayn helped Tereesa access housing and psychological support. Today, Tereesa is studying a certificate in Community Services so that she can strengthen her skills and give back to her community. Tereesa now works at Baabayn, providing support to young mothers and mentoring the next generation of young people.

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.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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. Contact the parish office if you are willing and able. Some areas to volunteer are:

OLN WELCOMING TEAM The Welcoming Team at Our Ladies is looking for new volunteers to help with welcoming parishioners and guests to Mass on a weekend. We are especially looking for volunteers to help welcome at the 10:00am Sunday morning Mass. We are also looking for new volunteers to help with the 5pm Saturday night mass. Please contact the parish office or Lynette Xerri on 0408 573 045 to register your interest.

CALLING ANY TECH SAVVY PARISHIONERS The St Therese's Music team are looking for volunteers to learn the process of using the data projector and aiding the production of the power point slides.

GREEN THUMBS AT OLN The volunteers who are valiantly keeping the gardens in check at OLN are in need of assistance. We're looking to establish a gardening group to help them out.

SACRISTANS AND MASS HELPERS Opening up the church and setting up for Masses and funerals.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY TO PRIVATE HOMES AND CARE FACILITIES Taking Communion to parishioners who are housebound or are residents in assisted living/aged care.

WEDDING HELPERS NEEDED Assist in opening up and setting up for weddings. Usually volunteers will only be rostered 4 or 5 times a year.

SAFEGUARDING

SAFEGUARDING Safeguarding is EVERYONE'S responsibility. A culture of safety within the Church ensures that children and young people can actively and fully participate in the life of the Church and realise their potential in a faith community.

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 for: [Click link here](#)

SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS TRAINING IN PACE Thank you to all volunteers who have so far undertaken the online Safeguarding Essentials Training Certification. We understand that online is difficult for some of our volunteers and will therefore be holding some in-person training sessions in PACE. The first session will be on Tuesday 14 March at 10:30am.



We are committed to the NATIONAL CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS



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. This is an opportunity for the younger children of the Parish to listen to Jesus' message in a child friendly and engaging way. Children not yet at school can be accompanied by their parents. Two leaders from the Parish (both with WWCC) will leave the church at the beginning of the First Reading & will return at the time of the Offertory Procession. Our first session Saturday 1st April, 2023 (Palm Sunday Vigil) at 6pm mass. Please come and join us!



TINY TS PLAYGROUP Soon to return is our Tiny Ts playgroup. To be held fortnightly in PACE on Thursday mornings. Anyone interested in joining should email stthereses.tinyts@gmail.com to go on to the mailing list for updates. So far we have one lovely mum who is volunteering to organise the group, it would be ideal to have more than one 'leader' so if you are happy to help run playgroup sessions please also indicate this in your email. Leaders are required to have a WWCC (with St Therese's or OLN listed as a place where you volunteer) and must complete the Safeguarding Essentials online training.

ST COLUMBA'S COLLEGE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: YOUTH MINISTER The Youth Minister is a role focused on modelling, engaging and advocating ministry within and beyond St Columba's College and will be supported by the Head of Faith and Mission and the Justice Leader, and will be expected to assist with organisation, supervision and practical support of a range of faith experiences. For more information or to apply visit: www.columba.vic.edu.au/youth-minister/

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION & DISCUSSION WITH FR TONY FEENEY Parishioners are warmly invited to join Fr Tony and company in a weekly discussion of the weekend's Gospel and readings. Fridays at 8:00PM pm (note new time) via Zoom ([Click here for link](#)) Meeting ID: 750 3236 9165 Passcode: 282664

'CATHOLICISM' VIDEO SERIES AND DISCUSSION St Mary's Parish, Ascot Vale, is hosting a free program of videos and discussion using the documentary series 'Catholicism' by Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. Journey with Bishop Robert Barron to more than 50 locations in 16 countries in a thematic presentation of what Catholics believe and why. Starts Tuesday 7th March, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, then weekly in School Hall, St Mary's Primary School. Registration is essential: phone 9370 6688 or email ascotvale@cam.org.au

PARISH SCHOOLS: ENROLMENT FOR PREP 2024



ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN FOR 2024 OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY SCHOOL

The staff at OLN school look forward to welcoming you all to see our wonderful parish school in action on the upcoming Open Days. Tours of the school will be held on Monday 6th March at 9:30am and 11:45am and Tuesday 7th March at 9:30am and 11:45am. Enrolment packs will be available at the tour. Any questions about the tours; please contact the Our Lady of the Nativity school office on 9337 4204.



SCHOOL OPEN DAY AT ST THERESE'S SCHOOL The Open Day will be on Tuesday 14th March between 9:30 AM and 3:00 PM. Visitors are welcome to enter via the School Office in Edward Street where school tours will be offered throughout the day by St Therese's School leaders.

ENROLMENT REGISTRATION EVENING School Leadership and Board members will be available to assist with registering for enrolment, as well as answer any questions you may have about the school. On Tuesday 14th March, 2023, Prep Classrooms (enter school grounds via Florence St gate) 7:00 PM until 8:00 PM. To register your attendance for either or both of these events: [Click here](#)

PARISH CALENDAR	Saturday 4 March	Combined Liturgy & Music meeting in PACE NEW OLN Vigil Mass time (Fr John)	9:30am 5:00pm
	Sunday 5 March	RE Reconciliation Preparation session 1- PACE Function Room Fr Tony Feeney saying Mass at OLN Lenten programme 'God is on the journey too' at OLN church	9:30am 10:00am 10:45am
	Monday 6 March	Statue of our Lady moves to the Misquitta family OLN School Open Day Tours	9:30am & 11:45am
	Tuesday 7 March	OLN School Open Day Tours	9:30am 11:45am
	Wednesday 8 March	SVDP Regional Meeting in PACE	7:30pm
	Thursday 9 March	SFG Committee meeting Lenten programme 'God is on the journey too' in PACE	10:30am 10:30am & 7:30pm
	Friday 10 March	Stations of the Cross at St Therese's led by parishioners Stations of the Cross at OLN led by parishioners	3:00pm 6:00pm
	Sunday 12 March	Fr Tony Feeney saying Mass at St Therese's Parish Baptism Welcoming Mass at St Therese's Lenten programme 'God is on the journey too' at OLN church	10:30am 10:30am 10:45am
	Monday 13 March	Labour Day Public Holiday - Office and Church closed Statue of Our Lady moves to the Xerri family	
	Tuesday 14 March	St Therese's School Open Day tours from school office Safeguarding Essentials Training in PACE Enrolment Information evening in Prep classrooms	9:30am - 3:00pm 10:30am 7:00pm - 8:00pm
	Wednesday 15 March	Sacrament of First Reconciliation Faith Night in St Ts church	7:00pm
	Thursday 16 March	Mass of Anointing Morning tea in PACE hosted by SFG Lenten programme 'God is on the journey too' in meeting room Lenten programme 'God is on the journey too' in PACE	10:00am 10:30am 10:30am 7:30pm
	Friday 17 March	St Patrick's Day Stations of the Cross at St Therese's led by parishioners Stations of the Cross at OLN led by parishioners	3:00pm 6:00pm
	Weekend 18 & 19 March	St Therese's & OLN School and RE students present at Mass as candidates for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation	All Masses at both parishes

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
	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 5:30pm, 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>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.</i>	

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NOVEMBER SALUTE

So often we are content to drool over the Holy Souls — to make ourselves miserable with the thought of them, to offer our prayers for them with hang-dog mournfulness. We pity them — which may well be an impertinence. For these Holy Souls, these people whom once we knew — these are the saved, while we are still the strugglers.

The Holy Souls are already victors. No longer fearful of temptation, no longer sin-blinded, they would leap to the personal embrace of God as iron filings leap to the pull of ten thousand magnets. Only self-knowledge holds them back, and in spite of that overwhelming attraction they shrink from radiant Goodness as a sweep in soot-stained rags would shrink before the splendour of royalty.

They are not condemned to Purgatory as to a prison sentence; rather they cry out for it, rush to its purifying pains, and welcome it as being the only means to hasten that exquisite moment of the soul's return to its Maker.

The climate of Purgatory is not

misery, but rather a driving love. The Holy Souls actually share the sufferings, even the mortal anguish, of Christ's own most blessed soul. Continually dying for love, they enter ever more deeply into the interior passion of Christ as He, too, expiates for sin; and in doing so they grow ever more perfectly conformed to Christ. Only when the sacred likeness of the Crucified has penetrated into the very depths of the soul by the painful, purifying, searching fire of love, only then shall they be worthy at last to enter with Him into their glory.

We of the earth are permitted to play a part in that tremendous drama; we can "by our prayers and other good works" speed these souls — these people — on their agonised journey to God. Every Mass we offer, every prayer, every act of our days — transformed, by the richly indulgenced Morning Offering — can contribute incalculably to the relief of these the "displaced persons" of Purgatory.

To pray for them is not only an act of ineffable charity, it is a gesture of enlightened self-interest, for the suf-

fering souls of today are the saints of tomorrow, ambassadors eager to plead for their benefactors before the very throne of God. And greatest of all, a prayer for the Holy Souls is an act of the love of God. It is some attempt to assuage Divine Love itself — by restoring to the Father His Prodigals of Purgatory.

Requiescant In Pace

McMAHON — On 8th November, at her residence, 25 Mackey Street, Anne Josephine, beloved wife of James McMahon, and loving mother of Nancy (Mrs. J. Morgan), Thomas, Francis and Catherine (Mrs. B. Tehan).

McCLOUNAN — On 10th November, at his residence, 16 McCarron Parade, Thomas Gladstone McClounan, dearly loved husband of Nellie, and loved father of Kevin and father-in-law of Nita.

JONES — On 11th November, at his home, 40 Flower Street, Captain William Lewis Jones, beloved husband of Tillie, and loved father of Helen and Ted.

May their souls, and the souls of all the Faithful Departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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