



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



**8 & 9 April 2023 – Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday Year A  
St Therese's Centenary Year 1922 - 2022**



**First Reading:** Acts 10:34. 37-43 A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

**Gospel:** Mt 28:1-10 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee.*

After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him." Now I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings,' he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'

## INTERCESSIONS

*Sisters and brothers, rejoicing in Christ's triumph over death, we bring our prayers before the God of glory.*

We pray for the Pope: may he be a living symbol of Easter joy and a sign of hope to the world.

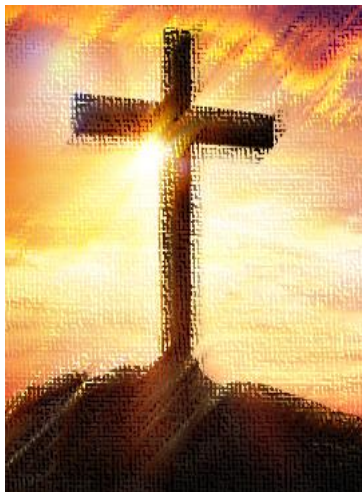
We pray for everyone who is searching for meaning in life: may the Holy Spirit guide them to see the light of Christ

We pray for everyone in our parish: may we value each other and be a living message of peace and hope.

We pray for those who are ill, especially Maggie Landrigan.

We pray for those who have died recently John Hardwick and Aileen Sheean and for those whom we remember at this time, especially Bill Kennedy, Theresa, Manuel, Mary and Carmen Ciantar, Connie and Paul Vidal, Ralph Trainor, Paul Borg, the Garro family, the Ganci family and Godfrey Gilmour.

*God our Father, we rejoice this day in Christ's triumph over death. Hear our prayers and help us to bear witness to the risen Lord as we are freed by the mystery of his Resurrection. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN*



## HOLY WEEK AT OLN

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

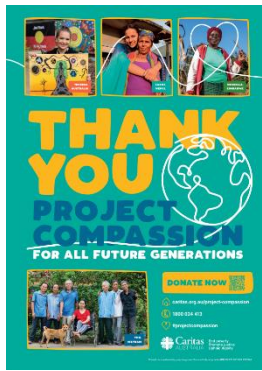
## HOLY WEEK AT ST THERESE'S

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



## PROJECT COMPASSION: EASTER SUNDAY 9 APRIL

Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia!

Thank you for your continued support for Project Compassion – past, present and future. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations.

### 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](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413

Project Compassion envelopes can be placed in collection plates at any weekend Mass. Money boxes can be dropped to the parish office after the Easter closure.



## EASTER MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP COMENSOLI

*Friends,*

*Three things flow from the resurrection of Jesus Christ; three things that matter. In his resurrection, Jesus recognises us personally; he invites us to peace; and he sends us out. The very first word Jesus spoke following his resurrection was a name: Mary. He saw his friend, and although she could not yet recognise him, he called her by name.*

*Similarly, Jesus personally recognised his friends, to whom he appeared. There was something intimate, and tender, and hospitable about the risen Lord. He draws us into his own resurrected life. Jesus, in his resurrection, also offered an invitation to peace. 'Peace be with you' was his first—and repeated—declaration. It was an invitation to a share in his forgiveness, and to be healed. Jesus reconciled all creation to himself on the cross; now, he offers us a share in his healing peace.*

*Finally, through his resurrection, Jesus sends forth his friends. Jesus charged his followers to share the Good News of redemption, and our life in his.*

*Mary: Go and tell the others. Peter: Go and feed my sheep. Friends: Go and make disciples. Jesus gave out this task so that the gift of his death and resurrection would not be only for the few. These same three things from Jesus' resurrection—his recognising, his inviting, his sending—all belong to us now; they are ours to share in.*

*The risen Jesus recognises each of us personally by name. The risen Jesus invites each of us to share in his healing gift of peace. The risen Jesus sends each of us out in his name, with the gift of life. He says to us, 'Follow me,' that we might live each day illumined by his resurrection, as the reason for our hope.*

*So, may our lives be filled with the energy, joy and youthfulness of the risen Jesus, knowing that, in him, I am recognised, I am healed, and I am sent.*

*Happy Easter to you.*

*Archbishop Peter A Comensoli*

**HOLY LAND COLLECTION - GOOD FRIDAY** Each year, the Good Friday Holy Land Collection supports Christian people living difficult lives in countries far from our shores, and also provides for the upkeep of sacred places of pilgrimage. This year we are once again invited to give generously to the collection, which will be taken up in our parishes on Good Friday.

For 800 years, the Franciscan friars have been a constant and faithful presence in Israel and Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Rhodes and Cyprus—the countries that make up the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land. They have offered pastoral care and shared the struggles of local Christian communities, who often face particular challenges because of their minority status.

In recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic has had an enormous impact on the people of the Holy Land, with sometimes catastrophic consequences for both their health and their incomes. The absence of pilgrims has meant there is less work for locals, and also fewer financial resources to support the friars in their mission of caring for the holy places, running parishes and schools, and ministering to orphans, refugees, the homeless and others.

Fr Bernie Thomas OFM, Commissary of the Holy Land (Australia), was heartened by the generous response of the Australian Church to last year's collection, which raised well in excess of A\$200,000 and was a huge improvement on the previous two years.

In a recent statement, he says, 'On behalf of the residents of the Holy Land, I am particularly grateful to the Catholic people of Australia who give so generously each year to support the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land. Franciscan Friars have been caring for the churches and shrines of the Holy Land as part of their everyday pastoral ministry for centuries. The Eastern Churches share this concern and stand in solidarity with Christians of the Holy Land and those through the Middle East.'

However, as he points out, 'the financial situation in the Holy Land continues to be extremely challenging', and the work of the friars there extends well beyond caring for churches and holy places.

'The presence of Jesus can be felt strongly in the local Christian community, who make up less than 2 per cent of the population,' he says. 'For them, survival as a minority amongst people of other faiths is not easy, especially because of ongoing political and religious conflict. The political and economic crisis of this area shows evidence each day of unspeakable suffering. The situation impresses upon all of us that there is an absolute and urgent need to support our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. Despite their countless difficulties, these Christians offer day by day, and in silence, an authentic witness to the Gospel. They need the support of their fellow Christians in other parts of the world.'

According to Fr Bernie, this is where we, their brothers and sisters in Australia, can help. 'Please pray for them on this Good Friday and, where possible, assist them by giving generously to the Good Friday Collection,' he says. 'Your support of the Good Friday Collection can be a meaningful sign of the spiritual link which unites all Christians to Jerusalem and to the Land of Jesus.'

The annual Good Friday Holy Land Collection will be taken up in Catholic parishes around the world, including in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, on Good Friday, 7 April 2023. Please give generously.



**PARISH OFFICE EASTER HOLIDAY CLOSURE** The parish office will close on Holy Thursday 6 April at 3:00pm, will open for Tuesday 11 April and then close again for the rest of the week, resuming normal office hours on Monday 17 April. There will be no bulletin the weekend of 15 & 16 April. The next bulletin will be published on the weekend of 22 & 23 April. During the office closure Fr John will respond only to urgent messages left on the after-hours number which is 0490 956 610. Please do not call the after-hours number for anything other than end of life anointing, funerals or similar emergencies; non-urgent matters will not receive a response. General enquiries should go to our usual office contacts 9401 6330 or [essendon@cam.org.au](mailto:essendon@cam.org.au) and will be responded to once the office reopens.

**OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY TENNIS CLUB NEWS** OLN parish and the OLNTC have reached an agreement on a further two year lease of courts 1 & 2. Tennis court 3 does not form a part of the new agreement as it has been assigned for school use and will be included in the school Master plan/development. This change in use for court 3 is part of an agreement between the parish and school/MACS (Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools) dating from Fr Francis's time as Parish Administrator.

**AVE MARIA KINDERGARTEN BUILDING WORKS** Ave Maria Kindergarten were successful applicants for a grant from the Victorian Education Department to expand the kindergarten facilities. A dedicated 3-year-old room including a new reception/gallery, new office and meeting room will be constructed on the left side of the kindergarten block and will build up to the boundary with the presbytery. As a part of the grant stipulations, the kinder will have a guaranteed 10 year lease after building is completed. Building works will commence shortly and are estimated to conclude by December 2023.

**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](mailto: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.

**ARBORIST** There are several large trees at St Therese's which are in need of the services of an arborist as they've grown too large for our gardening group to safely prune.

## 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.

**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](#)



**TINY TS PLAYGROUP** Will return to St Therese's PACE after the Easter school holidays. Playgroup will be held fortnightly in PACE on Thursday mornings beginning on Thursday 27 April at 9:30am. Anyone interested in joining should email [stthereses.tinyts@gmail.com](mailto:stthereses.tinyts@gmail.com) to go on to the mailing list for updates. So far we have one mum from OLN 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. If we find a leader from St Therese's the playgroup could begin earlier.

**KIDS AT MASS** 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 next session will Saturday 6th May at 6:00pm mass. Please come and join us!

**SENIOR FRIENDSHIP GROUP MORNING TEA** in PACE on Thursday 20 April following 10:00am Mass.

**GOSPEL REFLECTIONS GROUP** Weekly reflection on the Sunday Gospel. Sessions at 10:30am (directly after morning Mass) in PACE Meeting room. Literature is provided, all welcome.

**ALPHA FOR YOUNG ADULTS** at St. Monica's Symons Centre will begin on Sunday 23rd April, 6.30 – 8.00pm. For Enquiries & Registration contact Joshua on 0451 541 910.

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION & DISCUSSION WITH FR TONY FEENEY** Fridays at 8:00PM pm via Zoom ([Click here for link](#)) Meeting ID: 750 3236 9165 Passcode: 282664

PARISH CALENDAR

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
Weekend 15 & 16 April	Fr Tony Feeney saying Mass at OLN	5:00pm & 10:00am
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 Meeting Room SFG morning tea in PACE function room following 10:00am Mass	10:30am 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
Thursday 27 April	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel reflections group in PACE Meeting Room	9:30am 10:30am
Weekend 29 & 30 April	Fr Tony Feeney saying Mass at OLN	5:00pm & 10:00am
Saturday 29 April	Working bee at OLN garden and grounds	9:00am
Sunday 30 April	World Day of Prayer for Vocations RE Confirmation Preparation session 1 – PACE Function Room Men's Choir singing at Mass	9:30am 10:30am

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](mailto:essendon@cam.org.au) **Website:** [www.stthereses.org.au](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*