



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



**16 & 17 December: Third Sunday of Advent**



**First Reading:** Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I exult for joy in the Lord.*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.

**'Responsorial Psalm:** My soul rejoices in my God..

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*Make straight the paths of the Lord.*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.

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## INTERCESSIONS

*Confident that God is with us, let us bring our needs before the God of all.*

We pray for our Holy Father, the Pope, and for our bishops: that they may continue to encourage us in serving the Lord.

For volunteers working throughout the world: May they be rewarded for their efforts in this and the next life.

We pray that in this season of Advent, we endeavour to lead our lives each day with hope, love, faith and peace.

We pray for all residents in Aged Care especially those parishioners in Arcadia, Ryman, Trevi Court, Craigcare and Embracia. Wishing the residents and staff an abundance of Christmas blessings and may they celebrate Christmas joyfully.

We pray for Lola, Audrey, Oliver, Norah, Harvey and Matilda who will be initiated into our church at the sacrament of Baptism this weekend. That they lead a life of faith and love for all.

We pray for those who are ill, especially Pat O'Dwyer.

We pray for those who have died recently especially Norah Campbell and Judith O'Connor

And for those whom we remember at this time, especially: Michael Hegarty, Joanne Brown, Pamela Penticoss, Geoff O'Brien, Jason Kralik, Members of the Cuda, Ganci and Garro Families, Vincenzo Angelico, Giovanni and Lucia Angelico, Angela Cardamone and Joe D'Cruz.

*God of peace, hear our prayers and plant within our hearts the living presence of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ Amen*

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**ARCHBISHOP'S ADVENT APPEAL** In response to the continued conflict in Ukraine, Archbishop Comensoli has launched a special Advent appeal, the proceeds of which will go towards providing aid and practical assistance to those who have been displaced and are without basic supplies, especially as winter approaches.. If you'd like to contribute please take a Christmas Blessings card with a message from the Archbishop along with a postage paid envelope. All donations should be made online or by using the appeal cards/envelopes in church. Donations should be sent directly to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund as per the instructions inside the Christmas cards.

**WHICH PRIEST WHERE?** This weekend Fr Tony will say all Masses at OLN while Fr John says all Masses at St Therese's. Next weekend we'll have the same arrangement for our Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Masses.

**MEN'S CHOIR AT ST THERESE'S** We welcome our Men's Choir to 10:30am Mass at St Therese's this weekend.



**REHEARSAL FOR ST THERESE'S 6:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS** There will be a rehearsal for the St Therese's Family Christmas Eve Mass at 7:00pm on Tuesday 19 December at St Therese's church. Anyone wishing to participate in carols and music at the 6:00pm Christmas Eve Mass is welcome to attend.

**ADVENT WREATH** We would love parishioners to light the candles on the Advent wreath during the season. If you would like to be involved please put yourself forward. We welcome anyone who'd like to be a part of our Liturgy, so if you're here and are willing to help, please do so.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE** Please take a Christmas Card from the entry tables. The cards contain Fr John's Christmas Greetings and have our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass times printed on the back. Note that Christmas Eve is also the Fourth Sunday of Advent so the first morning Masses at both churches will be Advent services, as will the Masses on Saturday 23 December. Fr John will preside at all St Therese's Masses that weekend while Fr Tony will preside at OLN.

**CHRISTMAS MASS PARTICIPATION** We still need to fill spots in our volunteer rosters for our Christmas Masses. There are clipboards on entry tables where you can sign up to assist with collection, Eucharistic ministry etc. If you can assist please add your name and contact number to the sign-up sheets.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS AND COLUMBAN CALENDARS** The Essendon SVDP conference are selling Christmas Cards & Columban Calendars at the back of St Therese's Church after each weekend Mass. At OLN Vinnies are selling cards only. Calendars are \$10 and cards are \$3 for a pack of 5.

**ADVENT COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION** Our annual Advent Parish Reconciliation Service will be held this coming Wednesday 20 December at 7:00pm. There is no individual confession at this service.

**VOLUNTEERS CHRISTMAS FUNCTION** Our annual volunteers gathering will be held on Wednesday 20 December at 8:00pm following on from our Communal Reconciliation Service. This gathering will



**ADVENT REFLECTIONS BOOKS FOR SALE** "With Expectant Hearts" is a 22-day reflection resource for Advent during the 2023-2024 liturgical year. Each day's reflection is inspired by a short text of scripture, and concludes with a thought or two to take away and with a prayer. This Advent resource invites us to explore more deeply what it means to allow God to come to birth in us. "With Expectant Hearts" aims to help us enter a new liturgical year, the journey of faith that stretches before us. Advent is the God-given time to revisit the challenge and to deepen our understanding of what it means for us both communally and individually. Books are now available to purchase for \$6. They are in the sacristies of both churches (cash only and an honesty system is in place) or you can visit the parish office during operating hours.

**PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE** The parish office will close on Friday 22 December and will reopen on Monday 15 January for limited hours. Normal office hours will resume on Monday 29 January. During the office closure Fr John will be contactable for end of life anointing and funeral arrangements on our after-hours answering service. The last bulletin for 2023 will be published on Friday 22 December and the first bulletin for the new year will be published on the weekend of 4 & 5 February 2024.

**PACE FUNCTIONS CLOSURE** PACE will close on Monday 18 December and will be available from hire again from Saturday 4 February 2024. Function queries will not be responded to during the parish office closure.



**2024 SACRAMENT DATES AND RE PROGRAMME** Our Sacrament dates for 2024 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. Our RE Programme is held at St Therese's and is open to children from both parishes. The programme for First Reconciliation begins on Sunday 3 March and concludes with the Reconciliation Service on Wednesday 27 March. Enrolments for this first programme close on Friday 23 February. For more details visit our website here: <https://www.stthereses.org.au/sacraments/sacramental-programme/>

**First Reconciliation Programme Dates**

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 3 March	9:30am	Preparation session 1 – PACE Function Room
Sunday 10 March	n/a	Break in programme for Labour Day weekend
Sunday 17 March	9:30am	Preparation session 2 – PACE Function Room
Wednesday 20 March	6:45pm	Faith Night in St Therese's Church
Sunday 24 March	9:30am 10:30am	Preparation session 3 – PACE Function Room Present at Mass as a candidate for Sacrament*
Wednesday 27 March	7.00pm	Sacramental Service followed by individual confessions for RE programme participants

**VOLUNTEERS**

**ALL VOLUNTEERS, STAFF AND CLERGY** must hold a current Working With Children Check and must list each parish in which they volunteer: <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: <https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-and-upcoming-events/safeguarding-training-modules/>

**CODE OF CONDUCT** All parish volunteers, clergy and employees must abide by the terms of the Child Safety Code of Conduct. You can read and record your acceptance here: <https://forms.gle/5XmgSURViUYJodnt6>

PEACE ✨ HOPE ✨ JOY ✨ LOVE

## ST THERESE'S PARISH

PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE  
Wednesday 20 December 7:00pm

FOURTH SUNDAY ADVENT  
Sunday 24 December  
9:00am Mass

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES  
Sunday 24 December  
10:30am Mass  
5:30pm Carols & 6:00pm Mass  
8:00pm Carols & 8:30pm Mass  
10:30pm Carols & 11:00pm Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE  
Monday 25 December  
10:00am Mass

Christmas Masses at St Therese's  
will be celebrated by Fr John Hannon



OLN and St Therese's  
Volunteer's

# Christmas gathering

WEDNESDAY | 20 DEC | 8PM - 9:30PM

**PACE FUNCTION ROOM**

*To all our parish volunteers  
We are grateful to each of you for  
your contribution to our parishes  
We hope you join us in giving  
thanks for and celebrating our  
communities  
together*

## OLN & St Therese's MEN'S COFFEE GROUP

1st and 3rd  
Wednesday of each  
month...

Last session  
for 2023  
20 December

Back on 17 January  
after a short break

Fortnightly on  
Wednesdays  
from 10:45am  
Lincoln Food Store  
105 Lincoln Rd, Essendon



PEACE ✨ HOPE ✨ JOY ✨ LOVE

## Our Lady of the Nativity Parish

PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE  
Wednesday 20 December 7:00pm  
at St Therese's Church  
48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon

FOURTH SUNDAY ADVENT  
Sunday 24 December  
10:00am Mass

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
Sunday 24 December  
5:00pm Carols & 5:30pm Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE  
Monday 25 December  
10:00am Carols & Mass

Christmas Masses at OLN will be  
celebrated by Fr Tony Feeney



PARISH DATES

Weekend 16 & 17 December	Third Sunday of Advent	
Sunday 17 December	Men's Choir singing at Mass at St Therese's	10:30am
Tuesday 19 December	Christmas Mass at Trevi Court Aged Care Parish office closes early	11:00am 12:30pm
Wednesday 20 December	Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store Communal Reconciliation Service Parish Volunteers Christmas Function in PACE	10:45am 7:00pm 8:00pm – 9:30pm
Friday 22 December	Parish office closes for the Christmas Break	
Saturday 23 December	Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass at OLN Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass at St Therese's	5:00pm 6:00pm
Sunday 24 December	Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass at St Therese's Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass at OLN Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at St Therese's Carols and Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at OLN Carols and Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at St Therese's Carols and Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at St Therese's Carols and Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at St Therese's	9:00am 10:00am 10:30am Begins 5:00pm Begins 5:30pm Begins 8:00pm Begins 10:30pm
Monday 25 December	Christmas Day Mass at St Therese's Christmas Day Mass at OLN	10:00am 10:00am
Tuesday 26 December	Boxing Day – Public Holiday	
Sunday 7 January	Fr Kevin Burke celebrating Mass at OLN	10:00am
Sunday 14 January	Fr Michael Elligate celebrating Mass at OLN	10:00am
Monday 15 January	Parish Office reopens (limited hours only)	
Sunday 21 January	Fr Michael Elligate celebrating Mass at OLN Parish Baptism Welcoming Mass at St Therese's	10:00am 10:30am
Tuesday 23 January	Mass at Raelene Boyle Village	11:00am
Sunday 28 January	Fr Kevin Burke celebrating Mass at OLN Parish Baptisms at St Therese's	10:00am 12:00pm
Monday 29 January	Parish office reopens for usual hours	9:00am
Thursday 1 February	Gospel reflections group meet in PACE meeting room	10:30am
Wednesday 7 February	Beginning of School Year Mass at OLN Liturgy of the Word replaces morning Mass at St Therese's	9:00am 10:00am
Thursday 8 February	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room	9:30am 10:30am
Tuesday 13 February	Shrove Tuesday Pancakes in PACE function room	10:30am
Wednesday 14 February	Project Compassion Appeal begins Ash Wednesday: St Therese's School Mass Ash Wednesday: afternoon Mass at OLN Ash Wednesday: evening Mass St Therese's	10:00am 5:30pm 7:00pm

PARISH CONTACTS

**PARISH PRIEST** Fr John Hannon

**Office Telephone:** 9401 6330 **After Hours:** 0490 956 610 **Office address:** 48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon  
**Office hours:** Monday to Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm

To subscribe to our newsletter go to:

<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/subscription?id=0012w00000LOj4wAAD&req=subscribe>

**ST THERESE'S CHURCH**

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 CHURCH**

31 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

**St Vincent de Paul helpline:** 1800 305 330 WEEKDAYS 10:00am–3:00pm

You can **subscribe** to the weekly Parish newsletter and the monthly Gospel Reflections:  
<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/subscription?id=0012w00000LOj4wAAD&req=subscribe>

*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.*