



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

2 & 3 December: First Sunday of Advent



First Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

INTERCESSIONS

Friends, as we enter this time of waiting, let us bring our intentions before God.

We pray for the bishops of the Church: may they be strengthened to bring the truth of Christ's message to our world.

We pray for the recently ordained clergy: May they provide hope and good will to the local communities that they serve, as we all look forward to the warmth of God's love.

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

We pray for families: may they remain a beacon of God's love for us all.

We pray for those who are ill, especially Andrew Churchill, Maree and Claire O'Dwyer.

We pray for those who have died recently especially: Paddy Callery, Norah Campbell, Francesco Sauro, Mary Simon, Guiseppa Zagame, Nell Pisani, Norah Campbell and Fr Gerry Dowling. And for those we remember at this time, especially: Maria Vitiello, Patricia Marie Fogarty, Kathleen Moloney, Sylvia & Peter Fonseka, Natale Gazzara, Matthew Evans, Leon Morel and Frank Camiller.

Faithful God, hear our prayers that we may be ready to meet the coming of your new day. Amen



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT ST THERESE'S 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 have a few families who have volunteered but we'll be looking for other volunteers at our weekend Masses, so if you're here and are willing to help, please do so.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES Please take a postcard from the entry tables showing the times of our Advent Parish Reconciliation Service and our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. 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 As we've entered the Season of Advent we turn our attention to preparations for Christmas. We have clipboards on entry tables looking for volunteer participants at our Christmas Masses. 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 on Tuesday 20 December at 7:00pm.

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

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 Fr John will say all Masses at OLN plus the 9:00am Mass at St Therese's while Fr Tony is at St Therese's for Saturday 6:00pm and Sunday 10:30am Masses.



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 should arrive at the parish office by Monday 4 December and will be available for sale for \$6 per copy.



VINNIES CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE Our Christmas trees serve as a reminder of the Vinnies Annual Christmas Appeal. As in previous years, we are asking for donations of GIFTS CARDS instead of toys or gifts. Gifts cards (which cannot be used to purchase cigarettes or alcohol) can be dropped on the collection plates or into the parish office. If you'd prefer to donate cash to the appeal please put it in a clearly marked envelope and drop to our parish office or on the collection plates. Please don't leave and gifts, cash or gift cards under the trees.

SVDP CONFERENCE NEWS Beginning in 2024 our two SVDP Conferences of Essendon (St Therese's) and West Essendon (OLN) will combine to form one Conference serving the two parish areas.

OLN PRESBYTERY FINAL CLEAN OUT WORKING BEE NEXT SATURDAY Apologies for all the different dates published in last week's bulletin! There is still a bit of cleaning out to do of the former presbytery at OLN - particularly outside where we have some rubbish needing removal. If you can assist we welcome you to the working bee on Saturday 9 December from 9:00am until 12:00pm.

ST THERESE'S CENTENARY BOOK Those who ordered books online or from the parish office can now collect them from the office (or sacristy if you prefer and payment has been made.) We have a very limited number of books available for sale (approx. 20 copies.) Once they're gone, they're gone. Copies are \$20 each.

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

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION & DISCUSSION WITH FR TONY FEENEY Fridays at 8:00PM pm via Zoom ([Click here for link](#)) Meeting ID: 750 3236 9165 Passcode: 28266

VOLUNTEERING

LITURGICAL MINISTRY AT OLN The roster for lectors and for Eucharistic ministers at OLN urgently needs the support of new volunteers to assist those already involved. Anyone willing and able to assist in reading at Masses or distributing Eucharist, please contact the parish office ASAP. Training will be provided.

COLLECTORS NEEDED AT ST THERESE'S Please get in touch with the parish office if you are able to assist.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY AT AGED CARE We are still asking for volunteers to assist with the Eucharistic ministry at our local aged care centres. Anyone willing and able to volunteer at any of the aged care facilities would be most warmly welcomed to our team. Volunteers need to have at least three COVID vax and a police check. The parish will assist with payment of special rates for Police Checks so please contact the office. We are also seeking ministers to take Communion to parishioners who still live in their own homes but can no longer get to Mass.

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>

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 bulleting 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.

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND 9 & 10 DECEMBER 2023		
CHURCH / MASS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
OLN 5:00pm	Georgina Kucera	VACANT – Volunteer needed
OLN 10:00am	Gerald Mullen	Mark Donahoo
ST THERESE'S 6.00pm	John O'Connor	Tony Proctor & Trish Giacomini
ST THERESE'S 9.00am	Lynette Russo	Tony Belcastro & David Gloury
ST THERESE'S 10.30am	Ryan/Anna English & Lucy Angelico	Rosa Pierorazio & Marg Moore
Online resource for weekly readings and reflections: https://sundayreadingsathomeyearb.weebly.com/th4g0h3lw.html		



OLN WORKING BEE
SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER
9 AM - 12PM



FINAL CLEAN OUT
at 33 Fawkner St

Jobs to do include:
 Tidying up the garden
 Moving rubbish to the skip
 Cleaning up inside and out
 Taking recyclable materials to transfer station

If you can, please BYO gardening tools
Cleaning equipment supplied



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

KAM THIS WEEKEND

SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER
 AT ST THERESE'S 6:00PM MASS



Primary school-aged children can listen to Jesus' message in a child friendly and engaging way.
 Children who are not yet at school should be accompanied by parent/s

OLN & St Therese's
MEN'S COFFEE GROUP

Meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month...

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

December dates:
 6 December
 20 December



PARISH DATES

Weekend 2 & 3 December	First Sunday of Advent	
Saturday 2 December	Kids at Mass in St Therese's PACE Function Room	6:00pm
Monday 4 December	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Pereira family Requiem Mass for Giuseppa Zagame St Therese's School Carols night	11:00am 5:00pm-7:00pm
Tuesday 5 December	Christmas Mass at Raelene Boyle Village	11:00am
Wednesday 6 December	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function room Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store Requiem Mass for Mary Ellen (Nell) Pisani	9:30am 10:45am 11:30am
Thursday 7 December	Requiem Mass for Francesco Sauro SFG Christmas Lunch in PACE	11:00am 12:00pm
Friday 8 December	Fr Tom Christie saying OLN School Mass St Therese's School Mass for Advent/End of Year	9:00am 10:00am
Weekend 9 & 10 December	Second Sunday of Advent Melbourne Overseas Mission annual appeal	
Saturday 9 December	Working Bee at OLN	9:00am-12:00pm
Monday 11 December	Statue of Our Lady moves to the O'Neil family OLN Year Six Graduation Liturgy	6:00pm
Tuesday 12 December	Funeral of Norah Campbell	11:00am
Thursday 14 December	Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room Christmas Mass at Arcadia Aged Care St Therese's Year Six Graduation Mass	10:30am 11:00am 4:30pm
Friday 15 December	End of School Year Mass at OLN OLN Primary School end of school year St Therese's School end of school year	9:00am 1:00pm 1:30pm
Weekend 16 & 17 December	Third Sunday of Advent	
Sunday 17 December	Men's Choir singing at Mass	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
Thursday 21 December	Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room	10:30am
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

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 **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 CHURCH

31 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

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.