



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



9 & 10 December: Second Sunday of Advent



First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. 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.'

INTERCESSIONS

Dear friends, let us bring our prayers before the Lord, who is our hope and our salvation.

We pray for the Church: that as we prepare for Christmas, we may open our hearts more widely to those on greatest need.

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 the sick and all those who struggle to feel the companionship of Christ in their lives: May this time of Advent help them renew their courage and hope.

We pray for Lola, Audrey, Oliver, Norah, Harvey, Matilda and Hayden who are welcomed this weekend into our parish in preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism. That they lead a life of faith and love for 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: Frank Sauro, Norah Campbell and Geri McKeon, And for those we remember at this time, especially: John Giardina, Therese Dobbie, Raymond Farrelly, Pat Maule, Giuseppina Mazzarotta, Pat Collins, Kevin Hogan, Helen Sully and Carmel, Kerri & Jacinta Geary.

Loving God, through Christ we are given the hope of Salvation. Hear our prayers and help us as we wait to welcome Christ the Saviour. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



ADVENT APPEAL FOR
Ukraine



Scan the QR code to donate now or visit
melbournecatholic.org/adventappeal

IMAGE COURTESY OF CLASH OF CULTURES PHOTOGRAPHY

ARCHBISHOP'S ADVENT APPEAL FOR UKRAINE In response to the continued conflict in Ukraine, Archbishop Comensoli is launching 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. This appeal replaces the Melbourne Overseas Mission Appeal we had scheduled for this weekend.

Please take a Christmas Blessings card with a message from the Archbishop along with a postage paid envelope. There will be no collection during Masses for this appeal. 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 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. Next weekend Fr Tony will say all Masses at OLN while Fr John says all Masses at St Therese's.



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.



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) or you can visit the parish office during operating hours.



VINNIES CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE Our Christmas trees serve as a reminder that Christmas can be a difficult time for many people and families. 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.

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.

ST THERESE'S CENTENARY BOOK Those who ordered books online or from the parish office can now collect them from the office. We have a very limited number of books available for sale (approx. 15 copies.) Once they're gone, they're gone. Copies are \$20 each

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>

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND 9 & 10 DECEMBER 2023

CHURCH / MASS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
OLN 5:00pm	Michael Portelli & Robyn Grima	Fred Grima
OLN 10:00am	Coral D'Cruz	Adrian Commadeur
ST THERESE'S 6.00pm	Murray Sykes	Tric Joseph
ST THERESE'S 9.00am	John Harvey	Maria Cricri & Sofia Ganci
ST THERESE'S 10.30am	Rosemary Patterson & Mary O'Brien	Cherrie Arnold & Therese Hanna

Online resource for weekly readings and reflections:
<https://sundayreadingsathomeyearb.weebly.com/th4g0h3lw.html>

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

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

December dates:
6 December
20 December

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 9 & 10 December	Second Sunday of Advent Archbishop's Advent 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	OLN Primary School end of school year St Therese's School end of school year	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
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	
Monday 15 January	Parish Office reopens (limited hours only)	

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.