



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



3 & 4 February 2024: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



First Reading: Job 7:1-4. 6-7 A reading from the book of Job

I am filled with sorrow all day long.

Job began to speak: Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?' Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!' Restlessly I fret till twilight falls. Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind. Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy.

Responsorial Psalm: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

INTERCESSIONS

Sisters and brothers, through Christ our Light, let us bring our intentions before the Lord.

Let us pray for the Pope: that he may help the voices of "the little, the least and the lost" in our global community to be heard. May we also be ready to share all that we have.

Let us pray for political and local leaders: may they work with each other for the good of the people whom they are called to serve.

Let us pray for people struggling to cope with an ever-increasing cost of living and employment insecurity: may they know encouragement and support as they care for their families.

Let us pray for the victims of human trafficking and modern slavery: may they find freedom, respect and dignity despite all they have suffered.

As the new school year gets underway let us pray for parents as they care for their children despite the difficulties that they themselves are facing: may their good example bring their families ever closer in peace and love.

We pray for those who are ill, especially.

We pray for those who have died recently especially: Joan Symons and Beniamino Venuto; And for those we remember at this time, especially: Fr John Spillane, Joe Campo, Albert Ridgeway, Angela-Antonieta Salpietro, Mary Taylor, Barbara Hinton, Vincenzo & Caterina Romeo, Damiano & Rachele Galle and Athos Ranocchi.

God our Father, Christ shines as the light of the world. Hear our prayers and help us to live his light in all we do as we glorify your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN

CHANGE TO APPEALS IN 2024 In the coming weeks we will publish the schedule for all appeals throughout the year. Before that we would like to inform parishioners about a change to the way we will conduct some of our special collections. This year the Archdiocese is trialing a new approach to some key Catholic agency appeals with the "The Archbishop's Campaign". The campaign will raise money through the Archbishop's Charitable Fund and distribute allocated funds to the following participating agencies: The Priests Retirement Foundation, Corpus Christi College, Catholic Theological College, Melbourne Overseas Mission and John Pierce Centre. The aim of the Archbishop's Campaign is to support these agencies through a streamlined primary campaign, to occur annually. The above agencies therefore will no longer have a separate appeal. Following the recommendation made to the Archbishop, he has endorsed the campaign. The Campaign Commitment Weekend will occur on the weekend of 17 & 18 August.

WHICH PRIEST WHERE? This week we welcome back Fr Tony Feeney from a well-earned break. Fr Tony will preside at the Saturday 6:00pm and Sunday 10:30am Masses at St Therese's. Fr John will be saying both Masses at OLN this weekend as well as the 9:00am Mass on Sunday at St Therese's. Next weekend Fr Tony will say all Masses at OLN while Fr John says all Masses at St Therese's.

VALE JOAN SYMONS We convey the sad news of the passing of one of St Therese's long-standing parishioners, Mary Patricia Joan Symons; known to us as Joan. Joan was an active member of the parish, heading the Knitters and Sewers group for many years and will be remembered for her involvement with and support of our local Caroline Chisholm Society. Joan passed away at the age of 96. Funeral prayers will be held at St Therese's on Monday 12 February at 10:30am.



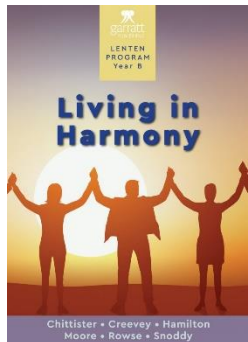
STATUE OF OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY: ROSARY DEVOTION Each week a dedicated volunteer faithfully delivers the statue of Our Lady of the Nativity to parish families for rosary prayer and devotion. If any parishioner (you must live in the parish area) would like to join in the roster for receiving the statue, please contact the office and leave your details. If you don't know how to pray the rosary but would like to learn, our volunteer Maria will be very happy to teach you. The roster has been set until mid-year but there are places available for interested families later in 2024. The parish would like to sincerely thank Maria for coordinating the roster and for all her hard work in helping to keep the devotion to Mary alive in our parish.

WAY OF THE CROSS WITH FR COLIN MCLEAN Fr Colin has formed a group of young people at St Therese's willing to participate in the Way of the Cross in Lincoln Park and is now looking for some OLN Parishioners who would like to take part in the enactment. The group has decided to use only narrations, so the actors would not have to learn lines. Could anyone willing to participate please contact the parish office (email essendonwest@cam.org.au or phone 9401 6330) leaving their name and phone number and Fr Colin will be in touch about some rehearsals in February/March. Since the scenes will be narrated there won't need to be too many rehearsals.

TINY TS PLAYGROUP DAY CHANGE Our Tiny Ts Playgroup is back in 2024 on a new day. Sessions will now take place on Thursdays at 9:30am in PACE Function Room. To register interest in joining playgroup please email stthereses.tinyts@gmail.com so that you can keep informed of playgroup events or any changes to the schedule. Anyone who cares for pre-school aged children is welcome to attend. Flyers will be available from next week with a list of dates for the year.

KIDS AT MASS We welcome the return of our Kids at Mass (KAM) team who will hold the first session for 2024 this Saturday evening at 6:00pm Mass at St Therese's. KAM will continue to run on the first weekend of each month (excluding some school holiday/public holiday weekends) Keep an eye out in the bulletin for upcoming dates.

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS LENTEN PROGRAMME Our weekly Sunday Gospel Reflections group continues to meet each Thursday morning in the PACE Meeting Room after morning Mass. During Lent the group will follow the Garrat Lenten Program 'Living in Harmony.' Any interested parishioners are invited to attend and should purchase a copy of the program (available from the parish office.)



GARRAT PUBLISHING LENTEN PROGRAM 'LIVING IN HARMONY' 'We are living in a period where political talk has become increasingly oppositional and polarising, setting the tone for public and private discussion. Despite our wealth and cohesion, we are somehow convinced that this is not the best of times. We seem reluctant to act to avoid what is pending to be the worst of times. This is our Lenten fare, the stuff of our Lenten fast. One aspect is the need for harmony...This year we are excited to offer not one but six authors for our Garratt Lenten program, featuring Joan Chittister, Paul Creevey, Andy Hamilton, Gerard Moore, Paul Rowse and Debra Snoddy. We invite you to enter into our Lenten resources. They open up the Sunday readings and provide us with probing questions - uniting these insights in 2024 to build a vital and dynamic response of Christian harmony. This is the best of Lent, and leads to the best of times.' The parish has a limited number of copies of 'Living in Harmony' available to purchase for \$7 during office hours. Phone orders can be arranged with collection from the sacristy once payment is received.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMME Our Sacrament dates for 2024 been set with the first being the Sacrament of First Reconciliation taking place in late March at both St Therese's and OLN. 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/>

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR WEEKEND 10 & 11 FEBRUARY (WEEK 2)

MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Georgina Kucera	Kath Ferguson
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

LINKS FOR SUNDAY READINGS RESOURCES

Adults: <https://sundayreadingsathomeyearb.weebly.com/th4g0h3lw.html>
 Children: <https://www.yearbprayingwithchildren.org/s4m3j3l0>

OLN & St Therese's MEN'S COFFEE GROUP

Upcoming Dates...

7th & 21st February
6th & 20th March
3rd & 17th April
1st & 15th May

1st & 3rd
Wednesdays
of each month
from 10:45am
Lincoln Food Store
105 Lincoln Rd, Essendon



Tiny Ts Playgroup

Hosted by parents from
OLN & St Therese's P

For
**PLAYGROUP STARTING BACK
THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY**



A great place to make new friends!

WHEN: Thursday mornings during school terms

TIME: 9.30am - 10:30am

WHERE: St Therese's PACE Function Room

COST: Free of charge

Grab a flyer for more details

OLN & ST THERESE'S GOSPEL REFLECTIONS GROUP Lenten Programme

During Lent the Gospel Reflections session will follow the Garratt Lenten program 'Living in Harmony' authored by Joan Chittister, Paul Creevey, Andy Hamilton, Gerard Moore, Paul Rowse and Debra Snoddy

Begins Thursday 15 February

at 10:30am
in PACE Meeting Room
and then every Thursday during Lent

Copies of 'Living in Harmony' are available to purchase from the parish office for \$7

Senior Friendship Group Shrove Tuesday Morning Tea

PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS
OF OUR PARISHES ARE
INVITED TO

**A Pancake Morning Tea in
PACE FUNCTION ROOM**

**Tuesday 13 February
from 10:30am
(After morning Mass)**

All welcome

PARISH CALENDAR

Saturday 3 February	Kids at Mass at St Therese's	6:00pm
Monday 5 February	All students onsite at OLN school Statue of Our Lady moves to the Tran family	
Wednesday 7 February	Beginning of School Year Mass at OLN Liturgy of the Word replaces morning Mass at St Therese's Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store (105 Lincoln Rd)	9:00am 10:00am 10:45am
Thursday 8 February	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room	9:30am 10:30am
Friday 9 February	Requiem Mass for Beniamino Venuto	11:30am
Monday 12 February	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Asher family Funeral prayers for Mary Patricia (Joan) Symons	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: early evening Mass at OLN Ash Wednesday: evening Mass St Therese's	10:00am 5:30pm 7:00pm
Thursday 15 February	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Lent Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room	9:30am 10:30am
Sunday 18 February	Parish Baptism Welcoming Mass at St Therese's	10:30am
Monday 19 February	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Sequeira family	
Wednesday 21 February	Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store (105 Lincoln Rd)	10:45am
Thursday 22 February	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Lent Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room	9:30am 10:30am
Friday 23 February	Enrolments close for First Reconciliation RE Programme	
Sunday 25 February	Parish Baptisms at St Therese's	12:00pm
Monday 26 February	Statue of Our Lady moves to the DeLorenzo family	
Thursday 29 February	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Lent Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room	9:30am 10:30am
Friday 1 March	World Day of Prayer	
Saturday 2 March	Kids at Mass at St Therese's	6:00pm
Sunday 3 March	First Reconciliation RE Programme session 1 in PACE	9:30am
Monday 4 March	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Musquitta family	
Wednesday 6 March	Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store (105 Lincoln Rd)	10:45am
Thursday 7 March	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Lent Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room	9:30am 10:30am

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.