



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



**16 & 17 March 2024: Fifth Sunday of Lent  
St Patrick's Day**



**First Reading:** Jeremiah 31:31-34 A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

*The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.*

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.'

**Responsorial Psalm:** Create a clean heart in me, O God.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel:** John 12:20-33 A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. 'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

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## INTERCESSIONS

*Brothers and sisters, in the hope of the resurrection, let us bring our prayers before the Lord.*

That the Church, by the power of the Spirit, will be a beacon of hope and healing in times of crisis.

That nations will put right their failings of the past, working together in face of adversity.

We pray for Charlotte, Chloe, Bonnie, Noah, Frankie and Asher who are welcomed into our parish this weekend in preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism next weekend. That they lead a life of faith and love for all.

We pray for all who go out of their way to bring God's love to others, especially to those most in need. We pray in gratitude for the many partners of Caritas Australia who ensure our contributions to Project Compassion reach the places they are needed.

We pray for those who are ill, especially Pope Francis, Susan O'Connor, Fredrick & Bridget Bellamy, Finbar Downey, Michael Conlon, Tony & Sandy Scherma, Andrew Churchill and Seamus Devlin.

We pray for those who have died recently especially: Tim Foley, Charlie De Fazio, Aaron Nable, Antonio Iacobucci and Richard Byrne, and for those whom we remember at this time especially Mario Martini and Fr John Mullally.

*Loving God, hear our prayers and help us to trust in your promises as the time of Christ's suffering draws near. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

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**WHICH PRIEST WHERE?** This weekend Fr John will say all Masses at St Therese's while Fr Tony says all Masses at OLN. Next weekend Fr John will say all Masses at OLN plus 9:00am Mass at St Therese's while Fr Tony will say Mass at St Therese's at 6:00pm on Saturday and 10:30am on Sunday.

**PROJECT COMPASSION: PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION** The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with the dedication, passion and tenacity of local partners who implement the programs, working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.

Caritas Australia partners with the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) to support communities living in urban slums in the Philippines that include house renovating, food processing, basic literacy skills, urban gardening, upcycling and income generating activities. They partner with Caritas Samoa to increase access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene. They partner with the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi which, since 2016, has helped 7,397 families across Malawi improve their food security, access to basic water and sanitation, boost women's income generation and strengthen child protection.

Please donate to Project Compassion. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available in our churches, by visiting <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion> or by calling 1800 024 413.

**OLN EASTER CHOIR** Choir practice in preparation for Holy Week ceremonies will be held in OLN church at 7:00pm on Tuesday 19 March. All welcome

**SENIOR FRIENDSHIP GROUP ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION** Parishioners and friends of our parishes are invited to a ceili (gathering and soft music) in PACE function room for morning tea and craic (enjoyable company and conversation) on Thursday 21st March from 10:30am (After the 10:00am Anointing Mass). All welcome.

**SANDWICHES FOR SENIOR FRIENDSHIP GROUP MORNING TEAS** If anyone is able to assist our Senior Friendship Group with making platters of sandwiches for upcoming morning teas, please contact the parish office.

**MONTHLY MORNING TEAS AT ST THERESE'S** We welcome the return to St Therese's of monthly morning teas hosted by parish groups and parishioners which will be held on the third Sunday of each month after the 9:00am and 10:30am Masses. Morning teas will be held in the Annex meeting room located at the back of St Therese's church. The first morning teas will be held this weekend on Sunday 17 March. All welcome. If you would like to help host a morning tea, please contact the parish office.



**GOSPEL REFLECTIONS LENTEN PROGRAMME IN PACE** 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.'

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAYS DURING LENT** Parishioner-led Stations of the Cross are held each Friday in Lent at both St Therese's and OLN churches. All are welcome. Booklets are provided.

**ST THERESE'S:** 3:00pm each Friday.

**OLN:** 6:00pm each Friday.

**PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION AT ST THERESE'S** Calling all young people to be part of our Palm Sunday procession! As Palm Sunday quickly approaches, we are seeking the help of the young people in our parish to assist with this celebration. We have a variety of roles for primary school students including holding banners, streamers, large palms and drums. All welcome! No experience necessary! If you are a young person and would like to be part of our very special Palm Sunday procession into the church please contact Cherrie Arnold 0413 414 774.

**WAY OF THE CROSS: ST THERESE'S AND OLN PARISH, ESSENDON.** On Good Friday morning, there will be a dramatized, modernized version of the "Way of the Cross", starting at 10:00am in front of St Therese's church. The procession with Jesus carrying his cross will travel on the Lincoln Rd footpath up to Thorn St, along Thorn St and Edward St, then along Florence St to bring it back to St Therese's church where the crucifixion scene will take place. During the procession there will be 4 stops: Jesus meeting Veronica, his mother Mary, Mary Magdalene and the weeping women, and Simon of Cyrene. The annual parish Good Friday Stations of the Cross inside the church will simultaneously be held following the Pilate scene in front of the church at 10:00am. All are invited to participate in one or other version of the "Way of the Cross" to remember Jesus' death for us on this day.

**EASTER WORKING BEES** In order to have our churches spick and span and looking their best for Holy Week and Easter we are holding working bees at both churches on the morning of Saturday 23 March, beginning at 9:30am at both locations. We'll be mostly cleaning, dusting and polishing. Many hands make light and quick work so please join in if you can.

**LOW GLUTEN HOSTS** Please be aware that our low gluten hosts are not 100% gluten free. The ingredients are wheat starch and water with a gluten content of 6.2 parts per million. According to Catholic doctrine, the Eucharistic host must be made of wheat and water only (Can. 924). Hosts made from alternative grains are not acceptable under Canon law.

**ALL VOLUNTEERS, STAFF AND CLERGY** in the Archdiocese of Melbourne must hold a current Working With Children Check and must list each parish in which they volunteer/work. Please add St Therese's and/or OLN to your own WWCC 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](#)

**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>

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR WEEKEND 23 & 24 MARCH (WEEK 4)		
MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Michael Balia	Fred Grima
OLN 10:00am	Adrian Commadeur	Michael Portelli
St Therese's 6.00pm	Tric Joseph & Tony Proctor	Joe Fittipaldi & Trish Giacomini
St Therese's 9.00am	Bruce White & Christine Nelson	Marg Tormey & Mick O'Brien
St Therese's 10.30am	Jim Maderazo & Lanelle Eid	Marita Hased-Dunne & Miriam Gandolfo
Adults: <a href="https://sundayreadingsathomeyearb.weebly.com/th4g0h3lw.html">https://sundayreadingsathomeyearb.weebly.com/th4g0h3lw.html</a>		
Children: <a href="https://www.yearbprayingwithchildren.org/s4m3j3l0">https://www.yearbprayingwithchildren.org/s4m3j3l0</a>		

VOLUNTEERS

Senior Friendship Group

# PADDY'S DAY MORNING T&A

PARISHIONERS  
AND FRIENDS  
OF OUR PARISHES ARE  
INVITED TO CELEBRATE  
ST PATRICK'S DAY

PACE FUNCTION ROOM  
Thursday 21 March  
from 10:30am  
(After Anointing Mass)

**ALL WELCOME**

# Tiny Ts Playgroup

Hosted by parents from  
OLN & St Therese's Parishes

For children from infancy  
through to primary school age

Indoor and outdoor covered  
play areas - runs in all  
weather conditions



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

ST MONICA'S PRAYER GROUP  
INVITES YOU TO

## NEW LIFE IN GOD'S SPIRIT

"YOU WILL receive power when the HOLY SPIRIT COMES  
UPON YOU" (ACTS 1:8)

THIS EIGHT-WEEK SEMINAR IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO  
DEEPEN YOUR BAPTISMAL GRACES AND INCREASE THE  
GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CONFERRED ON YOU AT YOUR  
CONFIRMATION

**BEGINS THURSDAY 4 APRIL**  
**7:00PM UNTIL 9:00PM**

Symons Centre  
St Monica's Church  
820 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds

Contacts:  
Gerald 0415 275 446  
Adrian 0403 512 936  
Frank 0415 144 916

We need you at our  
**EASTER WORKING BEE**

**Saturday 23 March**  
**9:30am until 11:30am**  
at both

**St Therese's and OLN**

Please come along if you can help get our  
churches ready for Holy Week and Easter

Morning tea provided



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PARISH CALENDAR

Saturday 16 March	Gardening Working Bee at St Therese's	9:00am
Sunday 17 March	St Patrick's Day Parish Morning Tea after 9:00am and 10:30am Mass at St Therese's in the Annex First Reconciliation RE Programme session 2 in PACE Parish Baptism Welcoming Mass at St Therese's	9:30am 10:30am
Monday 18 March	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Moreno family	
Tuesday 19 March	Mass at Trevi Court OLN Easter Choir Practice at OLN church	11:00am 7:00pm
Wednesday 20 March	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store (105 Lincoln Rd) Faith Night for First Reconciliation at St Therese's	9:00am 10:45am 6:45pm
Thursday 21 March	No Tiny Ts Playgroup & No Gospel Reflections Group Anointing Mass at St Therese's St Patrick's Morning tea in PACE hosted by the SFG	10:00am 10:30am (after Mass)
Friday 22 March	Stations of the Cross at St Therese's Stations of the Cross at OLN	3:00pm 6:00pm
Weekend 23 & 24 March	Students present at Mass as candidates for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation at St Therese's	All Masses
Saturday 23 March	Easter Working Bees at both churches	9:30am
Sunday 24 March	Palm Sunday First Reconciliation Programme session 3 in PACE Parish Baptisms at St Therese's	9:30am 12:00pm
Monday 25 March	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Vanlangenberg family	
Tuesday 26 March	Communal Reconciliation Service at St Therese's	7:00pm
Wednesday 27 March	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Sacrament of First Reconciliation Service at St Therese's	9:00am 7:00pm
Thursday 28 March	Holy Thursday Final Day of Term 1 Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room Mass of the Lord's Supper at OLN Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Therese's Altar of Repose at St Therese's church	9:30am 5:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm – 10:30pm
Friday 29 March	Good Friday Holy Land Appeal Morning Prayer of the Church at OLN Way of the Cross with reenactments and procession Stations of the Cross (both churches) Veneration of the Cross (both churches)	9:30am 10:00am 10:00am 3:00pm
Saturday 30 March	Holy Saturday Holy Saturday Easter Vigil at OLN Holy Saturday Easter Vigil at St Therese's	5:00pm 6:00pm
Sunday 31 March	Easter Sunday Masses at St Therese's Easter Sunday Mass at OLN	9:00am & 10:30am 10:00am

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

*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.*