



St Therese's & Our Lady of the Nativity

Essendon & Essendon West Parishes



23 & 24 March 2024: Palm Sunday



First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel: (Shorter form) Mark 15:1-39 The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

First thing in the morning, the chief priests together with the elders and the scribes, in short the whole Sanhedrin, had their plan ready. They had Jesus bound and took him away and handed him over to Pilate.

Pilate questioned him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'It is you who say it' he answered. And the chief priests brought many accusations against him. Pilate questioned him again, 'Have you no reply at all? See how many accusations they are bringing against you!' But to Pilate's amazement, Jesus made no further reply.

At festival time Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone they asked for. Now a man called Barabbas was then in prison with the rioters who had committed murder during the uprising. When the crowd went up and began to ask Pilate the customary favour, Pilate answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?' For he realised it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. The chief priests, however, had incited the crowd to demand that he should release Barabbas for them instead. The Pilate spoke again. 'But in that case,' he said to them 'what am I to do with the man you call king of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' 'Why?' Pilate asked them 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas for them and, having ordered Jesus to be scourged, handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led him away to the inner part of the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the whole cohort together. They dressed him in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed and spat on him; and they went down on their knees to do him homage. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple and dressed him in his own clothes.

They led him out to crucify him. They enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull.

They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it. Then they crucified him, and shared out his clothing, casting lots to decide what each should get. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription giving the charge against him read: 'The King of the Jews.' And they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said, 'Aha! So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself: come down from the cross!' The chief priests and the scribes mocked him among themselves in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, for us to see it and believe.' Even those who were crucified with him taunted him.

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood by heard this they said, 'Listen, he is calling on Elijah'. Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink saying, 'Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down.' But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said, 'In truth this man was a son of God.'

WELCOME TO FIRST RECONCILIATION CANDIDATES We welcome our Year 3 students and their families as the children present themselves as candidates for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at all Masses this weekend. We join as a parish to support them as they prepare to receive the Sacrament.

WHICH PRIEST WHERE? This weekend Fr John will say all Masses at OLN plus 9:00am Mass at St Therese's. Fr Tony Feeney will preside at 6:00pm Saturday and 10:30am Sunday Masses at St Therese's. After Palm Sunday Fr John will preside at all Holy Week and Easter Services at St Therese's while Fr Tony presides at OLN.

INTERCESSIONS

With the Lord there is mercy and redemption. Let us turn to God who hears our every prayer.

We pray for the leaders of our Church: may they remain faithful in their trials and constant in their service.

We pray for Christians, especially those who suffer for their faith: may they be filled with strength and courage by the Lord to remain faithful to the mission.

We pray for those who are crushed and oppressed by the greed and violence of others: may we all stand in solidarity with those who suffer.

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

We pray for those who are ill, especially: Michael Conlon, Finbar Downey, Andrew Churchill

For those who have died recently especially: Seamus Devlin, Dick Byrne, David Simpson, Peter Beamish And for those we remember at this time, especially: John Hardwick, Jim Ruth, Paolo Cassar, Dorothy Hansen, Peppino Restuccia, Adelina Falvo and Giuseppe Falvo.

God of compassion, your Spirit calls all back to life in Christ. Hear our prayers and set us free from the darkness of sin. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen



PROJECT COMPASSION This year, we shared with you the story of three inspiring women from across the globe, who overcame challenges to complete their education, access water and find secure employment. With the support of compassionate people like you, they are now forging a path to a better future for their families and their communities.

Ronita from the Philippines has now graduated high school and secured a job at a call centre. This job was only possible because of a certificate she gained from completing her studies.

Leaia and her family now have a water tank at their home in Samoa. She and her family now have a steady supply of clean drinking water. Next year, they will also have a toilet built, with the support of Caritas Samoa, which will further improve their health and living conditions.

Memory completed her vocational training course in carpentry and joinery. After completing a work contract at one of the largest electrical companies in Malawi, Memory now plans to return to her village and provide carpentry services to people in her community.

There is still time to donate! Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, for all future generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413

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HOLY WEEK AT OLN

Palm Sunday

Saturday 23 March 5:00pm Mass
Sunday 24 March 10:00am Mass

Holy Thursday: 28 March

Mass of the Lord's Supper 5:00pm

Good Friday: 29 March

Morning Prayer of the Church 9.30am
Stations of the Cross 10:00am
Veneration of the Cross 3:00pm

Holy Saturday: 30 March

Easter Vigil 5:00pm

Easter Sunday: 31 March

10:00am

Fr Tony to preside at Easter Masses



HOLY WEEK AT ST THERESE'S

Palm Sunday

Saturday 23 March 6:00pm
Sunday 24 March Mass 9:00am
Procession and Mass 10:15am

Tuesday 26 March

Communal Penance 7:00pm

Holy Thursday: 28 March

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00pm
Altar of Repose 8:00pm – 10:30pm

Good Friday: 29 March

Stations of the Cross 10:00am
Veneration of the Cross 3:00pm

Holy Saturday: 30 March Vigil 6:00pm

Easter Sunday: 31 March 9am & 10:30am

EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES Offering envelopes can be dropped in collection baskets at all Masses.

EASTER MASS VOLUNTEERS We are seeking helpers at all Masses and Services throughout Holy week. Please add your names to the signup sheets (printed and left on church entrance tables) if you can help out.

HOLY WEEK AT OLN We thank Fr Tony Feeney who will preside at all other Holy Week services and Masses at OLN. Their continued support of both parishes is sincerely appreciated.

HOLY WEEK COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE Our usual Lent/Easter Communal Reconciliation service will be held in Holy Week this year on Tuesday 4 April at 7:00pm. All welcome.

NO MORNING MASS ON HOLY THURSDAY As usual, there is no morning Mass at St Therese's on Holy Thursday.

EASTER HOLIDAYS PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE The parish office will close on Holy Thursday 28 March, will be open for Tuesday 2 April and Wednesday 3 April then will close again until Monday 8 April. There will be no bulletin the weekend of 6 & 7 April. During the office closure Fr John will respond only to urgent messages on the after-hours number 0490 956 610. General enquiries should go to our usual office contacts.

PALM SUNDAY WALK FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE Each year, Palm Sunday is celebrated around Australia as a day the community comes together to stand in solidarity with refugees and people seeking asylum, through a family-friendly event and walk in every capital city across the country. CAPSA will meet prior to the main event at Parliament Gardens with a prayer and reflection led by Fr. Andy Hamilton SJ at 9:45am. <https://capsa.org.au/national-day-of-action-palm-sunday-2024/> Locally, a group of teachers, students and parents from St Columba's, St Bernard's and Ave Maria will be meeting at Essendon station at 9:45am. The main program will commence at 10.30am with an interfaith segment and prayers for peace, followed by speeches/ presentations from 11:00am and the 'Walk for Refugees' concluding by 12 noon.

WAY OF THE CROSS: ST THERESE'S AND OLN PARISH, ESSENDON. On Good Friday morning, Fr Colin McLean's vision of dramatized, modernized version of the "Way of the Cross" will come to fruition. The live-action Way of the Cross will start at 10:00am in front of St Therese's church. For those who wish to pray the Stations of the Cross inside the church, the usual Good Friday Stations of the Cross will be held simultaneously following the Pilate outside scene at 10:00am. Stations will also be held at OLN at 10:00am on Good Friday.

VALE SEAMUS DEVLIN St Therese's mourns the loss of one of the pillars of our parish life, Seamus Devlin who passed away peacefully at home on 16 March aged 97. Seamus, a well-known, much-loved and admired parishioner at St Therese's was famously a member of the 'Dad's Army' group of senior parishioners who repainted St Therese's church in 2006 (when Seamus was 79 years young) and renovated the church pews in 2009. He was still busy volunteering at the church until very recent years. A Requiem Mass for Seamus will be held at St Therese's church on Monday 25 March at 11:00am and will be followed with refreshments in PACE. For those unable to attend, Seamus' funeral will be live streamed on Lonergan and Raven Funeral Directors website here: <https://www.funeral.info/n/wmh9fa>

DIAMOND JUBILEE Congratulations to parishioner and Mercy Sister Julie O'Brien, who celebrated her 60th anniversary of entering the Order this week. We wish her many more years of health and happiness, thanking her for her faithful service in many dimensions over the last 60 years.

MND PETITION Parishioner Clare Ross's son-in-law Warren Acott, who has been diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease, has completed a road trip from Victoria to Canberra to raise funds for MND research and to highlight the need for it to be on the national list of notifiable diseases, to improve possibilities for research of this debilitating disease. There is a petition at the church entrances of you wish to sign. (Not for fundraising) Read about Warren's trip to Canberra here: <https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/8564261/wozza-drives-crusade-to-canberra-for-mnd-on-a-lawnmower/>

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. If you would like to help host a morning tea, please contact the parish office.

GIVING TO VINNIES The financial demands on our Vinnies Conference continue to grow so this is a reminder that parishioners can support our SVDP Conference (now combined for both parishes) all year by putting any loose change into the 'Poor Boxes' at either of our churches. At OLN there is a stand alone box in the narthex/foyer and at St Therese's there are black 'Poor Boxes' built into the walls of all foyers and at the back of the church. The standalone boxes at St Therese's are a little unstable so we are working on making them safe for use. Thanks for your continued support.

ALPHA COMING TO ESSENDON PARISHES Starting Tuesday 16 April 2024 at 7:00 Pm (For Eleven Weeks) More info to come in next week's bulletin!

NEW LIFE IN GOD'S SPIRIT Presented by St Monica's Prayer Group, is your opportunity to deepen your Baptismal Graces and increase the Gifts of The Holy Spirit conferred on you at your Confirmation. This eight week seminar begins Thursday 4 April 7:00pm until 9:00pm. Symons Centre, Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds. For more information contact Gerald on 0415 275 446, Frank on 0415 144 916 or Adrian on 0403 512 936.

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>

VOLUNTEERS

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR WEEKEND 30 & 31 MARCH (WEEK 5)

MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Paul Whiting	Fred Grima
OLN 10:00am	Coral D'Cruz	VACANT
St Therese's 6.00pm	Anne Lechte & Eve Korytkowski	Teresa Pong
St Therese's 9.00am	Margaret Kerr	Marg Tormey & Tony Belcastro
St Therese's 10.30am	Rosa Pierorazio	Marita Hassed-Dunne & Kate Cooper

There will be a more comprehensive roster put together for Holy Week and Easter. If you are able to help out, please add your name to the sign up sheets located on church entrance tables. Thank you

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

PARISH CALENDAR

Weekend 23 & 24 March	Students present at Mass as candidates for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation at both churches	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 Requiem Mass for Seamus Devlin	11:00am
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 Stations of the Cross (both churches) Veneration of the Cross (both churches)	9:30am 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
Monday 1 April	Easter Monday – Public Holiday Parish office closed Statue of Our Lady moves to the Carroll family	
Tuesday 2 April	Parish office open	
Wednesday 3 April	Parish office open Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store (105 Lincoln Rd)	9:00am 10:45am
Thursday 4 April	Parish office closed Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room	10:30am
Friday 5 April	Parish office closed	
Sunday 7 April	End of Daylight Saving Time (clocks go back one hour)	2:00am
Monday 8 April	Parish office reopens for usual hours The Annunciation of the Lord Statue of Our Lady moves to the LaTerra family	

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

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.