



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



**9 & 10 March 2024: Fourth Sunday of Lent**



**First Reading:** 2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23 A reading from the second book of Chronicles

*The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

**Responsorial Psalm:** Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

**Gospel Acclamation:** Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel:** John 3:14-21 A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

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## INTERCESSIONS

*Brothers and sisters, through Christ our Redeemer we make our prayers before God.*

That the Church will be challenged and strengthened by the prophetic voices that call from within.

That peoples who have been exiled from their homeland will be able to return in safety and peace.

That those experiencing depression and sadness will find hope and healing in the light of Christ.

We pray for all people who make things. We thank God for their skill. May our support of Project Compassion help people around the world find the opportunity to use their talents to support their families and communities.

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

We pray for those who have died recently especially: William Dolan, Marty Fitzsimmons, Louis Fauvrelle, Charlie De Fazio, Tim Foley, Aaron Nable. And for those whom we remember at this time, especially: John Synan, Toni Fitzgerald, Thomas Kennelly and Joe D'Cruz.

*Loving God hear our prayers and deepen our faith in your Son, the light of all the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

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**WHICH PRIEST WHERE?** This 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. Next weekend Fr John will say all Masses at St Therese's while Fr Tony says all Masses at OLN.



**PROJECT COMPASSION** Memory is 26 years old and lives in rural Malawi. As the eldest child in a low-income farming family, Memory had to take on many household chores and farming activities to support her parents. They struggled to pay for Memory's school fees and school supplies, and Memory often had to walk to school barefooted.

With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Memory was able to enrol at a technical college where she learnt technical skills in carpentry. She undertook a three-year carpentry course, with CADECOM supporting part of her tuition and boarding fees.

Memory became the first female carpenter from her village. Today, she works as a carpenter at one of Malawi's largest hydroelectric power stations. With the income from her job, she can provide financial support to her family and inspire other young women in her community so that they may have the opportunity to succeed in a male-dominated industry.

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.

**MORNING MASSES NEXT WEEK** Please note that a Liturgy of the Word with Communion service will replace our usual morning Masses on both Tuesday and Wednesday next week, the 12th and 13th March at 10:00am as Fr John is travelling to Sydney for a funeral. Mass will be held on Thursday and Friday morning as usual.

**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 next 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.' Any interested parishioners are invited to attend and should purchase a copy of the program directly from Garratt Publishing as all copies purchased by the Parish have all sold out.

**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.

**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.

**VOLUNTEERS**

**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 16 & 17 MARCH (WEEK 3)**

| MASS                 | READERS                           | EUCHARIST                      |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| OLN 5:00pm           | Michael Portelli & Robyn Grima    | Fred Grima                     |
| OLN 10:00am          | Mark Donahoo                      | 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 |

Adults: <https://sundayreadingsathomeyearb.weebly.com/th4g0h3lw.html>

Children: <https://www.yearbprayingwithchildren.org/s4m3j310>



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

## 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*

Thursday mornings in Lent  
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

## PARISH GARDENING GROUP WORKING BEE

Saturday 16 March

9:00am

St Therese's



Join the gardening group  
at St Therese's for a  
morning of weeding and  
tidying up of the gardens  
BYO gardening tools  
All welcome, especially  
green thumbs!  
Morning tea provided



PARISH CALENDAR

|                       |  |  |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Monday 11 March       | Labour Day Public Holiday: parish office closed<br>Statue of Our Lady moves to the Xerri family  |  |
| Tuesday 12 March      | Liturgy of the Word replaces morning Mass at St Therese's  | 10:00am  |
| Wednesday 13 March    | Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex<br>Liturgy of the Word replaces morning Mass at St Therese's   | 9:00am<br>10:00am                              |
| Thursday 14 March     | Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room<br>Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room<br>Mass at Arcadia  | 9:30am<br>10:30am<br>11:00am                   |
| Friday 15 March       | Requiem Mass for Tim Foley at St Therese's<br>Stations of the Cross at St Therese's<br>Stations of the Cross at OLN  | 11:00am<br>3:00pm<br>6:00pm                    |
| Saturday 16 March     | Gardening Working Bee at St Therese's  | 9:00am   |
| Sunday 17 March       | Parish Morning Tea after 9:00am and 10:30am Mass at St Therese's in the Annex<br>First Reconciliation RE Programme session 2 in PACE<br>Parish Baptism Welcoming Mass at St Therese's                      | 9:30am<br>10:30am                              |
| Monday 18 March       | Statue of Our Lady moves to the Moreno family  |  |
| Tuesday 19 March      | Mass at Trevi Court<br>Rosary & Requiem Mass for Charlie De Fazio at St Therese's  | 11:00am<br>11:00am                             |
| Wednesday 20 March    | Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex<br>Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store (105 Lincoln Rd)<br>Faith Night for First Reconciliation at St Therese's                                       | 9:00am<br>10:45am<br>6:45pm                    |
| Thursday 21 March     | No Tiny Ts Playgroup & No Gospel Reflections Group<br>Anointing Mass at St Therese's<br>St Patrick's Morning tea in PACE hosted by the SFG   | 10:00am<br>10:30am (after Mass)                |
| Friday 22 March       | Stations of the Cross at St Therese's<br>Stations of the Cross at OLN  | 3:00pm<br>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     | Working Bees at both parishes to prepare for Easter  | 9:30am   |
| Sunday 24 March       | Palm Sunday<br>First Reconciliation Programme session 3 in PACE<br>Parish Baptisms at St Therese's   | 9:30am<br>12:00pm                              |
| Monday 25 March       | Statue of Our Lady moves to the Vanlangenberg family   |  |
| Wednesday 27 March    | Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex<br>Sacrament of First Reconciliation Service at St Therese's   | 9:00am<br>7:00pm                               |
| Thursday 28 March     | Holy Thursday<br>Final Day of Term 1<br>Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room<br>Mass of the Lord's Supper at OLN<br>Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Therese's<br>Altar of Repose at St Therese's church | 9:30am<br>5:00pm<br>7:00pm<br>8:00pm – 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](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.*