



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



**21 & 22 September 2024: 25th Sunday In Ordinary Time
Fifth Sunday of the Season of Creation**



**TO HOPE AND ACT
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)



First Reading: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20 A reading from the book of Wisdom

Let us condemn him to a most shameful death.

The godless say to themselves, 'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing. Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what kind of end he himself will have. If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies. Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof. Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.'

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord upholds my life.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of humanity ... All who wish to be first must make themselves the servants of all.

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

INTERCESSIONS

Brothers and sisters, we are to seek the Lord and call while God is still near. In hope and trust we present our needs.
For Pope Francis and the universal Church. May they become a source of life and mercy for all who seek human flourishing and safety.

We pray for peace in the midst of violence and tragedy in this world. May we have the patience to be understanding, the strength to be forgiving and the grace to admit when we are wrong.

In this Season of Creation, we pray for those who are today suffering most from the effects of the changing climate, that the human family may listen attentively to their prophetic word and respond generously to their needs.

For those who have died from Alzheimer's Disease, we pray that they are in the care of your loving arms. For those who are now Alzheimer's Disease patients, we pray for their dignity and comfort. For those who are caregivers, we pray for understanding, compassion and patience.

We pray for Isla, Oliver, Scarlett, Vincenzo and William who are initiated into our church at the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend. That they lead a life of faith and love for all.

We pray for those who are ill, especially: David Ireland, Kath Maslin, James Heath and Frances Ashby.

We pray for those who have died recently especially Maggie Landrigan, Hughie Coghlan and Con Flaim. And for those we remember at this time, especially: Merna Moloney, Mary Liroso, Pamela Penticoss, Margaret Allen, Joan McKay, William Callaghan, Dawn Ward, Pat Torr, Edward Marantelli, Celine Pereira and Kath Kennelly.

God of justice, you are rich in forgiving and loving in all your deeds. Give us the courage of Jesus to be generous in all our ways. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

WHICH PRIEST WHERE? This weekend Fr John will preside at both Saturday 5:00pm Mass at OLN and the 6:00pm Mass at St Therese's as well as both Sunday morning Masses at St Therese's. Fr Trevor Trotter will preside at Sunday 10:00am Mass at OLN. Fr Tony is enjoying a well-earned break for a few weeks and we will welcome him back to Mass on the first weekend in October. Next weekend Fr Bernie Lane will again support Fr John with the Mass schedule yet to be confirmed. We thank the Columban Fathers for their continued support.

REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKER APPEAL NEXT WEEKEND On the World Day of Migrants and Refugees next weekend we will hold our annual appeal in support of our parish Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Group. With your financial support, our parish volunteers (headed by our Sisters of Mercy) assist refugee and asylum seeker families both pastorally and materially throughout the year. Envelopes are available this weekend to be added to the collection next weekend. Thank you for your ongoing support. EFT Donation go to: St Therese's Church, BSB: 083 347, Account number: 67640 1701 using ref RAASG-with your surname. Cheques should be made out to St Therese's Church.

JOURNEY THROUGH SADNESS MORNING TEA The Essendon Parishes Journey Through Sadness group was formed with the aim of supporting parishioners through the different forms of sadness and loss. Our parishes would like to offer some gatherings that could help us open up this subject and perhaps find support in each other. You are welcomed for morning tea in PACE on Wednesday 25 September at 10:30am. Friends are most welcome.

MEN'S GROUP LUNCH The Men's Coffee Group will be hold a luncheon on Wednesday 16 October 12:00pm to 2:00pm at the Lincolnshire Arms Hotel, 1 Keilor Road Essendon. This will replace the normal coffee gathering that day. You don't have to be a regular member of the coffee group, so come along and join us for a meal and a chat, we would love to see you. If you are planning to come, please message Kevin McCartney on 0418 565 225 or email kevin.mccartney@bigpond.com by Wednesday 9 October so we can finalise numbers.

MARY MOTHER BOOK SALES Mary Mother by local author Adrian Commadeur describes the Mother of the Church in human terms. She shares of humanity and so experienced all the joys and sorrows of family life. Copies of Adrian's book will be for sale after 10:00am Mass at OLN this Sunday. Cost is \$10 per copy. The parish office will have copies on sale from Monday. Please bring correct money as the office doesn't keep any cash on the premises.

OFFICE CLOSURE NEXT FRIDAY A reminder that the parish office will be closed on Friday 27 September for the Grand Final public holiday. Next week's bulletin will be published on Thursday 26 September.

PARISH AMALGAMATION FAQ SHEET The Frequently Asked Questions sheet, stemming from the community information sessions and parishioner feedback has been printed and is available at church entries. It is included in the online bulletin.

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.

SAFEGUARDING & VOLUNTEERING

SAFEGUARDING AUDIT AND UPDATE OF PARISH RECORDS Last week the Safeguarding Team sent out over 100 emails and posted 10 letters (where we don't have email addresses) to our volunteers who need to take action to attain Safeguarding compliance. Thank you to the many volunteers who have already been in touch and have responded so quickly. If anyone needs assistance, please contact the parish office; we are very happy to help. See below for details of the in-person training sessions for those who don't have access to a computer.

ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST MEET THREE SAFEGUARDING REQUIREMENTS

- 1** Volunteers must hold a current Working With Children Check and must list each parish where you volunteer. Please add St Therese's or OLN to your WWCC check here: <https://service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children>. Registered teachers are exempt from holding a WWCC but they must supply the parish with their VIT registration number and they must register all the places they volunteer via the Service Victoria website: <https://service.vic.gov.au/services/teachers-notifications>
- 2** Volunteers must complete the CAM Safeguarding Essentials Training Certification every three years: [Click link here](#)
- 3** Volunteers must read and acknowledge The Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct every three years. Access the Code of Conduct through the online [Safeguarding Essentials Training platform](#) This may be done without completing the training.

These three components of Safeguarding are a legal requirement for EVERY volunteer regardless of the area in which you volunteer. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THESE REQUIREMENTS.

IN-PERSON SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS TRAINING There will be two onsite training sessions for Safeguarding Essentials training on Wednesday 2 October in PACE at 11:30am and at 6:00pm. We expect these sessions to run for approximately one hour. If you would like to attend please ring the office to register your interest. We won't run sessions where we have no bookings.

For those who are comfortable using a computer but do not have access to one at home, we are able to set volunteers up in the office on a spare computer where you can go through the training at your own pace.

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR WEEKEND 28 & 29 SEPTEMBER (WEEK 5)

MASS	READERS	EUCCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Paul Whiting	Fred Grima
OLN 10:00am	Coral D'Cruz	Volunteer Please
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

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

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

'God walks with His people'

God not only walks *with* His people, but also *within* them, in the sense that he identifies himself with men and women on their journey through history, particularly with the least, the poor and the marginalised. In this we see an extension of the mystery of the Incarnation.

POPE FRANCIS
110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees



110TH WORLD DAY OF Migrants & Refugees

Celebrate with migrant communities from all over the Archdiocese of Melbourne



SUNDAY

29 September 2024

St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne



2pm Procession and Rosary
in various languages

3pm 'Mass for all Nations'
celebrated by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli and Migrant Chaplains of the Archdiocese

THERE'S A SEAT FOR YOU AT THE TABLE

AT ALPHA, YOU CAN ASK ANYTHING! ALPHA IS A SAFE SPACE WHERE YOU CAN ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE, FAITH AND MEANING.

AND THE GREAT NEWS IS ALPHA RUNS HERE. RIGHT NOW, A SEAT AT THE TABLE HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR YOU ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS COME.

ST THERESE'S PACE FUNCTION ROOM
48A LINCOLN RD, ESSENDON VIC 3040
STARTING TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER AT 07:00 PM

REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL.
TO REGISTER CALL 9401-6330
OR SCAN QR CODE

SCAN ME



God walks with His people



World Day of Migrants and Refugees
29-IX-2024
"God walks with His People"

Refugee & Asylum Seeker Support Group Appeal 28 & 29 September

Donations provide much needed funds to support refugee and asylum seeker families living in our community
Envelopes will be available in churches next week
Please give generously

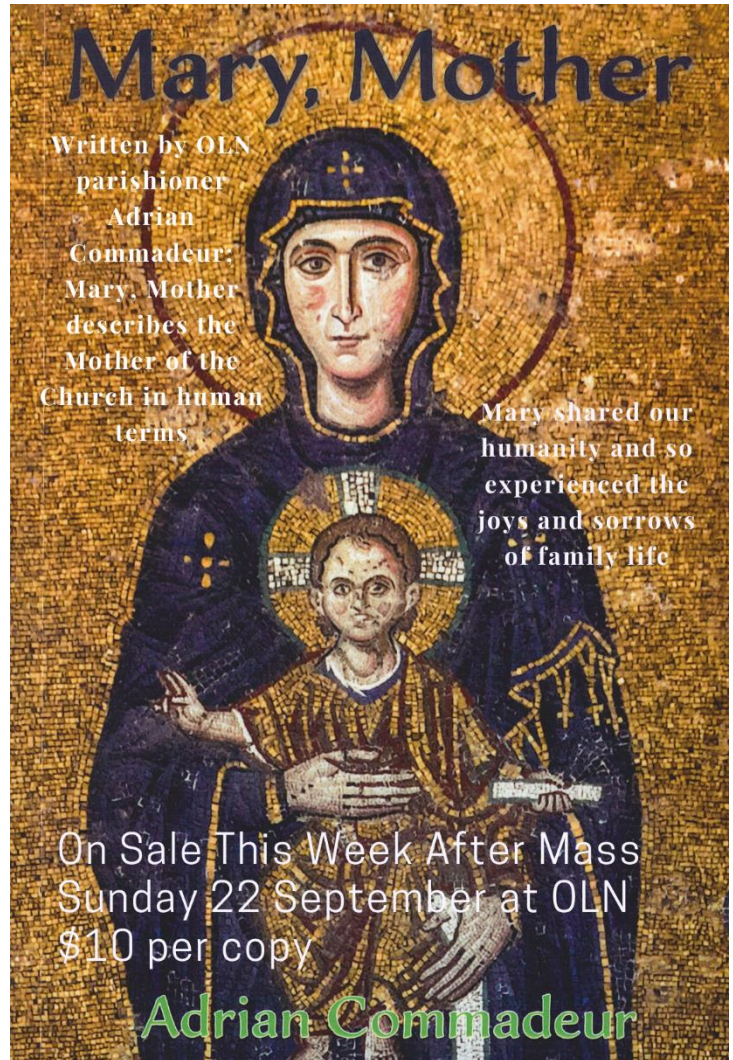
Mary, Mother

Written by OLN parishioner
Adrian Commadeur:
Mary, Mother describes the Mother of the Church in human terms

Mary shared our humanity and so experienced the joys and sorrows of family life

On Sale This Week After Mass
Sunday 22 September at OLN
\$10 per copy

Adrian Commadeur



PARISH CALENDAR

Saturday 21 September	International Day of Peace World Alzheimer's Day	
Sunday 22 September	Trevor Trotter saying Mass at OLN Parish Baptisms at St Therese's	10:00am 12:00pm
Monday 23 September	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Neenan household	
Wednesday 25 September	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Journey Through Sadness Group Morning Tea in PACE	9:00am 10:30am
Thursday 26 September	Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room Funeral Prayers for Eugene 'Hughie' Coghlan at OLN	10:30am 11:00am
Friday 27 September	Friday before Grand Final Public Holiday: Parish office closed	
Weekend 28 & 29 September	Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Group Appeal	
Sunday 29 September	World Day of Refugees and Migrants Men's Choir singing at Mass at St Therese's	10:30am
Tuesday 1 October	St Thérèse of Lisieux Feast Day World Mission Month begins	
Wednesday 2 October	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store (105 Lincoln Rd) Safeguarding Essential training in PACE morning session Safeguarding Essential training in PACE evening session	9:00am 10:45am 11:30am 6:00pm
Thursday 3 October	Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room	10:30am
Friday 4 October	St Francis of Assisi Feast Day Funeral of Con Flaim at St Therese's	10:00am
Saturday 5 October	Fr Trevor Trotter saying Mass at OLN Fr Bernie Lane saying Mass at St Therese's	5:00pm 6:00pm
Sunday 6 October	Fr Tony Feeney saying Mass at OLN Fr Bernie Lane saying both morning Masses at St Therese's	10:00am
Monday 7 October	Term 4 commences Statue of Our Lady moves to the O'Neil household	
Wednesday 9 October	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
Thursday 10 October	World Mental Health Day Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room	9:30am 10:30am
Friday 11 October	Whole school Mass at St Therese's (St Therese of Lisieux)	
Sunday 13 October	Life, Marriage and Family Sunday	
Monday 14 October	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Rodrigues household	
Wednesday 16 October	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Group Lunch at the Linc	9:00am 12:00pm
Thursday 17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty No Gospel Reflections Group Tiny Ts Playgroup in the Annex Spring Racing Morning tea in PACE hosted by the SFG	9:30am 10:30am
Weekend 19 & 20 October	World Mission Sunday Appeal (Catholic Missions)	

PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH PRIEST Fr John Hannon

Office Telephone: 9401 6330 **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.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people and adults.

HOW TO UPDATE YOUR COMPLIANCE STATUS

This information is provided to assist volunteers to ensure continued compliance. This information assumes you have access to internet and are comfortable with computers. If you require assistance, please call our parish staff on 9401 6330, so we can help.

Requirement #1: Working with Children Check

All volunteers over the age of 18 are required to maintain a current Working with Children (WWC) check throughout their involvement with the parish, irrespective of the ministry in which they serve.

A volunteer check is free but only valid for volunteer work. To apply for a WWC check please visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/working-with-children-check>

It is a requirement that volunteers register Essendon or West Essendon parish as an organisation where they engage in volunteering through the [WWCC Service Vic website](#). The Parish will then receive a letter linking their WWC check to the parish and will be informed if the WWC check status changes.

A teacher who holds a current registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) is exempt from the requirement to undertake a WWC check. VIT, however, requires registered teachers to nominate organisations in which they undertake volunteer work. Website: [Service Victoria Teachers Notifications](#)

Requirement #2: Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct

Volunteers are required to read and acknowledge the Code of Conduct every three years. The [Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct](#) is available on the Archdiocese website.

You can sign the Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct through the [online Safeguarding Essentials Training platform](#) (without completing the training). When you log into the online Safeguarding Essentials Training platform, you will see the following statement:

“Our records indicate that you have not acknowledged the Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct Declaration in recent times. Please read the document provided below and acknowledge your agreement by clicking the Accept Button.”

Requirement #3: Safeguarding Essentials Training

Volunteers are required complete the Safeguarding Essentials training module every three years.

Website: [online Safeguarding Essentials training](#)

The Safeguarding Essentials Training takes approximately 45 minutes and you can stop, leave and go back to it if you need to break it up.

Websites:

Working With Children Check: <https://www.vic.gov.au/working-with-children-check>

Code of Conduct: <https://melbournecatholic.org/uploads/documents/Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

Safeguarding Essentials Training: www.safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org

Once you have read and accepted the Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct, and completed the Safeguarding Essentials Training, the online training platform will automatically update the parish administration system (PACEM) held by our Essendon and West Essendon parish.

The parish is happy to assist those who have trouble accessing the online training so please let us know if we can help.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

AMALGAMATION OF OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY, WEST ESSENDON & ST THERESE'S, ESSENDON TO FORM THE PARISH OF ESSENDON



Why amalgamate?

Currently the parish office staff maintain two sets of financial accounts and financial records, as well as two databases for parishioner records, safeguarding records and Sacramental records. This causes inefficiencies in every aspect of the administration of the parish. Amalgamation will remove these inefficiencies and let shared parish resources work in the best interest of a unified parish. Income, assets, and property belonging to St Therese's and Our Lady of the Nativity, will be consolidated, and managed at the single 'Essendon Parish' level.

Will both churches remain open?

Yes, both churches will remain open.

Will the churches keep their names?

Yes, Our Lady of the Nativity church and St Therese's church will retain their names and continue to serve their local communities. The two churches will be located within a single parish named 'Essendon Parish.'

Will there be any changes to Mass times?

Mass times will remain the same at the two churches while attendance numbers remain at current levels. Parishioners still have the choice of either church for the purposes of funerals and weddings. All other services, including weekday Masses, Baptisms, and Sacramental programs will continue to be held at St Therese's as they have been since February 2023.

Will boundaries for school enrolments change?

No, the boundaries remain as they are now for the purposes of school enrolments. Any changes to enrolment criteria at Catholic schools is the responsibility of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) and changes to our parish will not impact school enrolments.

Will there be one parish website?

Yes we plan to create a single parish website.

What will happen to parish assets/properties?

OLN is the owner of three properties which are currently leased: 35 Fawkner St rented to Ave Maria Kindergarten on a new 10-year lease (commencing November 2024), Tennis Courts 1 & 2 are leased to Our Lady of the Nativity Tennis Club and 33 Fawkner St is leased to New Care Services on a 3-year lease.

St Therese's is the owner of three leased properties: 50A Lincoln Rd, residential unit leased to tenants, Tennis Courts 1, 2 & 3 leased to St Therese's Tennis Club and telecommunications tower in St Therese's church leased to Indara.

Arrangements of the various leases will not change under an amalgamated parish as all leases of parish property are undertaken by The Roman Catholic Trusts Corporation (RCTC) for the Diocese of Melbourne on behalf of a parish. The Essendon Parish administration team will continue to oversee all leases as they do now.

Arrangements with either school regarding shared use of some property (for example the Fawkner St carpark and OLN parish hall) will remain as they are now. These arrangements are set out in Right to Use Land and Buildings Agreement (RULBA) which are agreements made between our parishes and MACS.

Is OLN financially viable or will it be a drain on the assets of St Therese's?

Parish Support contributions at OLN are significantly less than at St Therese's however the rental agreements mentioned previously provide both parishes with steady income and mean that neither church will be a financial drain on the other once we are a unified parish entity.

Does the PLT consider needs of the OLN parish to be as important as those of the St Therese's?

The PLT considers each church to be an equal part of the combined parish. There are parishioners from both parishes on the PLT to ensure that both parishes are represented.

Who are the current members of the Parish Leadership Team?

Current PLT members (in alphabetical order by surname) are Michael Balia, Tony Feain, Michael Fitzpatrick, John Hannon, Jacinta Hyland, Margie Kerr, Kevin McCartney, Tatiana Polizzi, Jac Radcliffe, Murray Sykes, Leanne Torr, Paul Whiting and Lynette Xerri. Posters showing the PLT members are on display in our churches and on our website: <https://www.stthereses.org.au/groupsministries/parish-leadership-team/> Parishioners are welcome to approach PLT members when they have concerns or questions.

What will happen when Father John retires in just over 3 years? How can we be sure we won't get a cleric who is not interested in the pastoral aspect and will result in significant drop in Mass attendees?

The appointment of John's successor is made by the Archbishop and is out of the hands of parishioners and Father John.

What are the future plans for the combined Essendon Parish?

Good question! The Parish Leadership Team have received many suggestions and reflections from parishioners since we announced the proposed amalgamation. Once amalgamation is complete the parish can look forward to the future. When the parish begins a process of strategic planning all submissions will be considered.

The process of strategic planning is far more complex and time-consuming than amalgamation. We would expect to begin a strategic planning initiative commence within the next 12 months.

Next steps?

Canon Law requires consultation with the parishioners of each parish community as part of the amalgamation process which occurred at community information sessions. Fr John will soon submit a report to the Council of Priests requesting amalgamation, which will include a summary of feedback from the community meetings. It is expected that the amalgamation process will be finalised by 1 January 2025.

What do you mean by...?

- PLT** Parish Leadership Team: A representative group from OLN and St Therese's which aims for parish-wide representation and an overall parish focus rather than personal views. The group was established to identify opportunities in the parish and set priorities while supporting development of parish rather than 'managing' activities.
- CAM** Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne: Geographically large, our Archdiocese is made up of over 200 parishes in an area as vast as Yarraville to Yea, Geelong to Greensborough, Healesville to Hadfield. The Vicar General of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is Very Rev Anthony Kerin EV JCL. Melbourne has three Auxillary Bishops: Terry Curtain, Martin Ashe and Anthony John Ireland.
- RCTC** The Roman Catholic Trusts Corporation (RCTC) is the legal entity holding all property on behalf of parishes.
- MACS** Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd is responsible for the governance and operation of approximately 300 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The board of MACS was established in 2020 by Archbishop of Melbourne Peter A Comensoli.
- RULBA** Right to Use Land and Buildings Agreement. A formal agreement reached between the parish and school for the exclusive and for the shared use of all parish land and facilities. For example a school would generally have exclusive use of classrooms and the school yard and a parish would have exclusive use of a church and presbytery but they may share use of some facilities like parish halls, tennis courts and carparks. RULBAs include the overall responsibility of coordinating the usage, maintenance and financial responsibility of all shared facilities (including insurances).