

St Therese's Parish Essendon



Dear friends/parishioners.

We are living through extraordinary times.

In all our years, we have never experienced the suspension of public masses or parish gatherings.

We know for so many of the parish this is a cause for great sorrow, particularly as we approach the great feasts of Easter.

However, we do need to steel ourselves for the Coronavirus crisis to last for months – and for its impact to touch every household.

Despite these challenges, we cannot lose heart. The work of the Church will continue.

The work of our parishes will and must go on, even if in different forms.

Already, right across the Archdiocese new ways of praying and worshipping are being developed. At St Therese's we are uploading Masses to our website. [They may be watched here](#). Mass is also [streamed live from St Patrick's Cathedral seven days a week](#).

But to continue to operate, our parishes require funding.

The Archdiocese is helping where it can. It has worked with the Catholic Development Fund to provide loan relief for the next six months. Archbishop Peter has also waived our quarterly contribution to support the works of the Archdiocese.

While such measures help to limit our outgoings, raising revenue is in our own hands.

This is a difficult issue to raise given that we are entering uncertain economic times, the financial effects of which are already evident. I appreciate whatever our parishioners can provide and understand that those in difficulty may need to review their level of support.

Our principal source of funding comes from our planned giving contributors. Many of you already contribute to sacrificial giving via direct debit. Not only is this a wonderful gift, it is a gift we can rely and plan around.

With no public masses, there are no collections.

This is creating a significant shortfall in our revenue and reducing our ability to meet our financial commitments.

If you could contribute to the annual parish Easter offerings for the support of active and retired priests of the Archdiocese, that would be appreciated, yet understanding the pressures under which we find ourselves at present.

There is a simple solution - direct debit.

Could I encourage everyone to use our parish's direct debit facility to ensure that your planned giving contribution is maintained through these testing times. If you could consider contributing in this way, the details are"

Church account

Name: St Therese's Church

BSB: 083 347

Account number: 67640 1701

If you wish to make contributions towards supporting the clergy the details are slightly different:

Account Name: St Therese's Church

BSB: 083 347

A/C number: 67616 4988

Any deposit should be referenced with your **FIRST INITIAL** and **SURNAME** so that we know that the money is a PSP payment attributed to you.

For those already using direct debit for your parish contributions, I am deeply grateful. It means the work of the parish can continue in these difficult days.

Thank you for your commitment to the parish. It is deeply appreciated, as we all continue to pray for our families, ourselves and all in our wide and wonderful world, in these uncertain times.

Once again, wishing you a happy, healthy and Easter, safe at home.



John Hannon
Parish Priest

St Therese's Essendon
48A Lincoln Road Essendon 3040
☎ (03) 9401 6330
After Hours 0490 956 610
✉ jbhannon@netspace.net.au
www.stthereses.org.au