



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



**14 & 15 September 2024: 24th Sunday In Ordinary Time  
Social Services Sunday ~ Season of Creation**



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

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



**First Reading:** Isaiah 50:5-9 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I gave my body to those who struck me.*

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.

My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings against me? Then let us go to court together. Who thinks he has a case against me? Let him approach me. The Lord is coming to my help, who dare condemn me?

**Responsorial Psalm:** I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Mark 8:27-35 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*You are the Christ ... the Son of Man was destined to suffer much.*

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

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### INTERCESSIONS

*Dear friends, let us turn to the Lord who hears the prayers of all in need.*

That those who serve the Church as leaders will be faithful and courageous.

That all members of our church community will be true to the Gospel not only through faith, but through good works done to the glory of your name.

That just as Christ welcomed the children, all young people struggling with faith and uncertainty will be blessed with the Lord's favour.

We pray, in this Season of Creation, for the success of the work of ecumenical and interfaith communities to promote global unity and restore Earth as a nurturing home to all its creatures.

We pray for the staff and volunteers of Catholic Social Services who work in so many ways to care for our communities.

We pray for the children who are welcomed into our parish this weekend and will next weekend be initiated into our church at the Sacrament of Baptism; and we pray for our OLN students who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Sunday. That all these children 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 Fr Des Magennis and Luciano Sciuto. And for those we remember at this time, especially: Luigi, Bruno & Pasqualina Martino, Pasquale & Concetta Monteleone, Palma Monardo, Barry Murphy, Anne Atto and Shirley Phelan.

*Loving God, you are just and compassionate to all. Hear the prayers of your followers gathered today, and help us to take up our cross in faith with you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

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**WHICH PRIEST WHERE?** This weekend Fr John will preside at Saturday 5:00pm Mass at OLN and then both Sunday morning Masses at St Therese's so that he can be present at our community information sessions. Fr Tony is away and we welcome Fr Bernie Lane to Saturday 6:00pm Mass at St Therese's and Sunday 10:00am Mass at OLN.



**SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY** Sunday 15 September 2024 marks Social Services Sunday within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we give thanks for the dedicated work of the thousands of staff and volunteers who stand with and serve the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised. We acknowledge with gratitude all of Catholic Social Services Victoria's 40 member organisations, their 7,000+ staff and 15,000+ volunteers and the important work that they do to serve over 300,000 people. At this challenging time of a cost of living and housing affordability crisis, the Gospel message of love, care and welcome is needed more than ever. We can all play a role in building a more just and compassionate society.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION AT OLN** Two Masses for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be held at OLN church this Sunday 15 September at 1:00pm and 3:00pm where Bishop Terry Curtain will confer the Sacrament.

**WELCOME TO SCHOOL FAMILIES AND VISITORS** We welcome visitors and ask that you please be respectful of the solemnity of the Sacrament Masses. Please remain in your seats throughout the service and only take photographs before and after the Mass.

**REQUIESCAT IN PACE FR DES MAGENNIS** The Pontifical Vigil Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Reverend Desmond (Des) Magennis PE will be offered on Sunday 15 September at 6.00pm at St Therese's. Archbishop Peter Comesoli will be the principal celebrant with Bishop Terry Curtain, Fr Greg Trythall, Fr Thinh Nguyen, Fr Michael Kalka, Fr Thang Vu, Fr Max Vodola and Fr John Hannon concelebrating. Requiem Mass will be held the following day on Monday 16 September 2024 at 11.30am at the Holy Name of Mary Parish, Castlemaine where Fr Des was Parish Priest for many years. The Requiem Mass will be livestreamed here: <https://mountalexanderfunerals.com/> for those who would like to (virtually) attend.

**PARISH AMALGAMATION** Community information meetings will be held at both churches this weekend to provide an opportunity for parishioners to raise any questions or concerns about the proposed amalgamation of St Therese's and OLN parishes. Fr John and members of the Parish Leadership Team (PLT) will be at the meetings. At OLN the meeting will be held after the 5:00pm Saturday Mass and at St Therese's it will be after the 10:30am Sunday Mass. Both meetings will be held in our churches. An information sheet is available at church entry doors providing an overview of the amalgamation proposal and is also included in our online bulletin.

**ANOINTING MASS AND MORNING TEA** On Thursday 19 September the 10:00am morning Mass will be a Mass of Anointing followed by morning tea in PACE Function room. We thank our Senior Friendship Group who will host morning tea. All are welcome.

**JOURNEY THROUGH SADNESS MORNING TEA** The Journey Through Sadness group will hold their next morning tea on Wednesday 25 September in PACE at 10:30am. All are most welcome.

**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 AUDIT AND UPDATE OF PARISH RECORDS** This 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. If you are fully compliant you won't have received a letter. We know there will be some instances where our records are not up to date so please reach out to the parish office if you feel you have received communications in error.

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. We will be holding some in-person training sessions soon for those who don't have access to a computer. We are also able to set parishioners up in the office on a spare computer where they can go through the training at their own pace.

**ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST MEET THREE SAFEGUARDING REQUIREMENTS**

- #1 You 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>.
- #2 You must complete the CAM Safeguarding Essentials Training Certification every three years: [Click link here](#)
- #3 You 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.

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR WEEKEND 21 & 22 SEPTEMBER (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
St Therese's 9.00am	Bruce White & Christine Nelson	Marg Tormey & Mick O'Brien
St Therese's 10.30am	Jim Maderazo & Lanelle Eid	Marita Hassed-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/s4m3j310">https://www.yearbprayingwithchildren.org/s4m3j310</a>		

VOLUNTEERING



ESSENDON PARISHES

Meet with Fr John and members of the Parish Leadership Team

# PARISH AMALGAMATION INFORMATION MEETINGS

WEEKEND 14 & 15 SEPTEMBER

Saturday 14 September

6:00pm

Our Lady of the Nativity church

Sunday 15 September

11:30am

St Therese's church

*Everyone is invited to attend the meetings*

For more information about the proposed amalgamation pick up an info sheet from one of our church entry tables or see our online bulletin for the attachment

Heavenly Father, God of power and of love. We pray all the children who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this weekend.

May your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope and love and may they come to know you as the one true God who loves them without limit.

May their hearts welcome you gladly; May their ears hear your voice in the scriptures; May their eyes see you in all things; And may they proclaim your glory as they walk in the ways of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Amen

*Come, Spirit of God*

## Senior Friendship Group Morning Tea

PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS OF OUR PARISHES ARE INVITED TO

**A Mass of Anointing followed by Morning Tea in PACE FUNCTION ROOM at St Therese's**

**Mass at 10:00am Thursday 19 September**

*All welcome*

## 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 Next Week After Mass Sunday 22 September at OLN \$10 per copy

**Adrian Commadeur**



PARISH CALENDAR

Saturday 14 September	Parish Amalgamation Information Session at OLN	6:00pm
Sunday 15 September	CSSV – Social Services Sunday Parish Morning Tea after 9am Mass at St Therese’s Parish Morning Tea after 10:00am Mass at OLN Parish Baptism Welcoming Mass at St Therese’s Parish Amalgamation Information Session at St Therese’s Sacrament of Confirmation at OLN Sacrament of Confirmation at OLN Pontifical Vigil Mass for Fr Des Magennis at St Therese’s	10:30am 11:30am 1:00pm 3:00pm 6:00pm
Monday 16 September	Statue of Our Lady moves to the D’Cruz household	
Wednesday 18 September	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese’s Annex Men’s Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store	9:00am 10:45am
Thursday 19 September	No Gospel Reflections Group Tiny Ts Playgroup in the Annex Anointing Mass at St Therese’s Morning tea in PACE hosted by the SFG Funeral prayers for Luciano Sciuto	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 12:00pm
Friday 20 September	Term 3 ends: Pupil-free day at both schools	
Saturday 21 September	International Day of Peace	
Sunday 22 September	Parish Baptisms at St Therese’s	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	10:30am
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)	9:00am 10:45am
Thursday 3 October	Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room	10:30am
Friday 4 October	St Francis of Assisi Feast Day	
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

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](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.*



# INFORMATION SHEET

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



### ***Executive Summary***

In view of the shortage of priests to service parish communities in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, and elsewhere, the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (CAM) has for some years been moving forward with a program to consolidate parish communities across the Archdiocese. This program is aimed at providing parishes with ongoing access to spiritual support and services by consolidating existing resources and streamlining parish administration activities.

The parishes of Essendon and West Essendon have been working co-operatively as 'Essendon Parishes' with a combined Parish Leadership Team, combined Finance Team, and a single parish office since February 2023, but have been operating administratively and financially as two separate entities.

It is now considered appropriate to move forward together as a single, unified body, while respecting the unique identity and history of each of the two parishes. As one amalgamated parish, we can better plan and deliver the services, and facilities, required by our parish community in the coming years. An amalgamated parish will eliminate inefficiencies which arise in duplicated administration and finance operations and provide access to a broader range of shared services across both church communities.

### ***What will change with amalgamation?***

The process of amalgamation will involve the formal recognition of both parish communities as a single entity for management, administrative and financial purposes. There will be little or no change externally, but it will simplify the process of running the broader parish, which in turn will ensure parishioners have effective access to ongoing administrative and support services.

The parish will be known singularly as 'Essendon Parish', given the shared postcode and the geographical location of each church and primary school, while each church community will continue to retain their individual names.

A simpler level of financial management and reporting will be established, with a single set of Presbytery and Church accounts for the new Essendon 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.

### ***What will stay the same after amalgamation?***

Our Lady of the Nativity and St Therese's will retain their names and continue to serve their local communities.

Mass times will remain the same at the two churches while attendance numbers remain at current levels, and we continue to have access to two priests.

All other services, including weekday Masses, Baptisms, and Sacramental programs will continue as they are now.

Parish groups and activities remain open to all parishioners of Essendon Parish, including the Senior Friendship Group, Men's Coffee Group, Gardening Group, Journey Through Sadness and Gospel Reflections Groups. The St Vincent de Paul Society conferences from Essendon and West Essendon have already amalgamated, and will continue their pastoral visitation and support activities.

Parish boundaries will remain the same for the purposes of enrolments at our parish primary schools.

The Parish Office will remain at 48a Lincoln Road and will continue to be staffed Monday to Friday from 9am until 3pm serving both church communities.

### ***Next steps?***

Canon Law requires consultation with the parishioners of each parish community as part of the amalgamation process. Community meetings will be held at both churches in coming weeks, to provide an opportunity for parishioners to raise any questions or concerns about the proposed amalgamation. Fr John and members of the Parish Leadership Team will be available to provide additional information or answer any questions you may have.

At the conclusion of this process, Fr John will 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.

# 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](http://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.