



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



28 & 29 September 2024: 26th Sunday In Ordinary Time



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

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



First Reading: Numbers 11:25-29 A reading from the book of Numbers
Are you jealous on my account? Who decrees that all people may prophesy?

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look', he said, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

Responsorial Psalm: The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Your word, O Lord, is truth: make us holy in the truth. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43. 45. 47-48 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off.

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

INTERCESSIONS

Brothers and sisters, with forgiveness in our hearts, let us bring our prayers before God.

We pray as Pope Francis asks us: That the Church may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

We pray that the continuing journey of the faithful together in the Synod be a time of grace. May the Risen Lord's presence be recognised and the many fruits of the Spirit's action be welcomed with joy and hope. Guide us forward in our shared mission.

We pray that we will respect and support all who are raising their voices and taking the needed steps to improve the ability of God's creation to sustain all life.

That our parish community may first consider those who are less fortunate or in need.

We pray for parishioner Ray Whiting who celebrates his 101st birthday this Sunday.

We pray that all Students, Parents and Teachers enjoy the third term break and come back refreshed for the last term of the year.

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

We pray for those who have died recently especially: Maggie Landrigan, Hughie Coghlan, Con Flaim and Edmond Sait; And for those whom we remember at this time, especially: Judy Angus, Anna Natoli, Carmela Grima, Ann Perrett, Edward Gauci, Marg Kovacs, Pasquale Spagnolo, Pasquale Monteleone, Giuseppe Cricri, Filomena Muratore, Mona Walles and Rafaela Renda.

Loving God, hear our prayers and help us to do your will as we live each day in praise of your name.

WHICH PRIEST WHERE? Fr John will be busy this weekend; on Saturday he will say 5:00pm Mass at OLN and then 6:00pm Mass at St Therese's. On Sunday Fr John will preside at 9:00am Mass at St Therese's followed by 10:00am Mass at OLN while Fr Bernie Lane will preside at 10:30am Mass at St Therese's. Next weekend Fr John will be celebrating a wedding in Sydney, and we thank Fr Bernie for stepping in to say all Masses at St Therese's while at OLN Fr Trevor Trotter will preside at Saturday 5:00pm Mass and Fr Tony Feeney will preside at 10:00am Sunday Mass.



REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKER APPEAL THIS WEEKEND On the World Day of Migrants and Refugees this weekend we are holding 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 any collection. 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.

HOW TO DONATE There are appeal envelopes available at both churches which can be dropped in the collection plates or handed in to the parish office. For those who'd like to make a cash donation we will ask our collectors to stand at the doors for a 'leaving collection' after all Masses this weekend. Please note that donations to this appeal are not tax deductible.

MEN'S CHOIR We welcome the Men's Choir who will sing at 10:30am Mass this Sunday at St Therese's.

MEN'S GROUP LUNCH The Men's Coffee Group will be hold a lunch on Wednesday 16 October from 12:00pm until 2:00pm at the Lincolnshire Arms Hotel, 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.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE FOR NOVEMBER MASSES Anyone wishing to add NEW names to the books can use the online forms (one for each parish) located on the St Therese's website here: <https://www.stthereses.org.au/november-2024-remembrance-month/> making sure to use the link for the appropriate parish. The online form will be active until 3:00pm on Friday 25 October. We will have paper and pen submission sheets in our churches from next weekend.

ENVELOPES FOR PARISH SUPPORT PROGRAMMES OLN Parish Support envelopes will be available for collection from OLN church foyer as of next weekend 5 & 6 October. Thanks for your continued support!

MARY MOTHER BOOK FOR SALE Mary Mother by local author Adrian Commadeur describes the Mother of the Church in human terms. Cost is \$10 per copy. The parish office has copies on sale during our office hours.

PARISH AMALGAMATION FAQ SHEET The Frequently Asked Questions sheet, stemming from the community information sessions and parishioner feedback is available in our churches. It is also included in the online bulletin.

UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURES The parish office is closed this Friday 27 September for the Grand Final public holiday. The office will also be closed on Friday 4 October and Wednesday 9 October due to staff leave.

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 REQUIREMENTS DEADLINE Firstly a **HUGE THANKS** to all volunteers who have completed Safeguarding training and updated your Working with Children Check. When we sent out emails and letters mid-September, we set a compliance deadline of 30 days but due to unexpected staff leave we will extend that deadline to the end of October. On the 1st of November if you haven't completed the Safeguarding requirements, you will no longer be permitted to volunteer at St Therese's or Our Lady of the Nativity. No one wants to have that conversation, so please get going on registering and/or WWCC and/or training!

SAFEGUARDING

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. These sessions will be run by Safeguarding/PLT team members Margie Kerr and Jac Radcliffe. We expect these sessions to run for approximately one hour. If you would like to attend please use the QR code → or ring the office to book in. The morning session will go ahead with people already booked in but if we don't get any bookings for the evening session we will cancel.



BOOK COMPUTER TIME AT THE PARISH OFFICE If you are comfortable using a computer but do not have access to one at home, we are able to set volunteers up in the parish office on a spare computer where you can go through the training at your own pace.

PLEASE NOTE All volunteers (no matter if you do or do not have contact with children while volunteering) are required to fulfill all the Safeguarding requirements. Check our ad on the next page!

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR WEEKEND 5 & 6 OCTOBER (WEEK 1)		
MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Jon Fleming	Tatiana Polizzi
OLN 10:00am	Paula O'Byrne	Andrew Scaramozzino
St Therese's 6.00pm	Eve Korytkowski	Gina Bell & Maggie Catterall
St Therese's 9.00am	Mary Dowling & Margaret Kerr	Carmen Merrigan & Rosina Tempini
St Therese's 10.30am	Silvia Campo & George Jungwirt	Miriam Gandolfo
Adults: https://sundayreadingsathomeyearb.weebly.com/th4g0h3lw.html Children: https://www.yearbprayingwithchildren.org/s4m3j310		

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*

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

SCAN ME



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



ESSENDON PARISHES

SAFEGUARDING

Volunteers must:

- Hold a current Working With Children Check and must list the parish as a place you volunteer
- Complete the CAM Safeguarding Essentials Training Certification every three years
- Acknowledge The Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct every three years

DOES THIS APPLY TO YOU?

YES

YES

DO THE SAFEGUARDING REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO YOU?

NO MATTER HOW YOU VOLUNTEER IN THE PARISH
THE ANSWER IS

YES

Altar Server Coordinator
AWE (Awareness with Education) Member
Church Cleaning ~ Collector ~ Counter
Data Projector Operator
Eucharistic Minister
Finance Committee ~ Gardening
Kids at Mass Team
Lector ~ Liturgy Team
Maintenance ~ Men's Choir ~ Music Ministry
Parish Leadership Team ~ Pastoral Visitation
Play Group Leader (Tiny T's)
Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Group
Sacristan ~ Senior Friendship Group
Special Projects ~ Wedding Helper

To maintain accurate records ALL volunteers must be registered
If you are a volunteer but not a registered parishioner please contact the parish office ASAP

PARISH CALENDAR

Friday 27 September	Friday before Grand Final Public Holiday: Parish office closed	
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 Alpha Session 1 in PACE	7:00pm
Wednesday 2 October	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store (105 Lincoln Rd) Parish Leadership Team Meeting in PACE	9:00am 10:45am 7:30pm
Thursday 3 October	Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room Funeral prayers for Edmond (Eddie) Sait at St Therese's	10:30am 11:30am
Friday 4 October	St Francis of Assisi Feast Day Parish office closed Requiem Mass for Con Flaim at Mass 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 Mass at St Therese's	10:00am 9:00am & 10:30am
Monday 7 October	Term 4 commences Statue of Our Lady moves to the O'Neil household	
Tuesday 8 October	Alpha Session 2 in PACE	7:00pm
Wednesday 9 October	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Parish office closed	9:00am
Thursday 10 October	World Mental Health Day Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Mass at Arcadia Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room	9:30am 11:00am 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	
Tuesday 15 October	Alpha Session 3 in PACE	7:00pm
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
19 & 20 October	World Mission Sunday Appeal (Catholic Missions)	
Sunday 20 October	World Mission Sunday Parish Morning Tea after morning Masses at St Therese's Parish Morning Tea after 10:00am Mass at OLN Parish Baptism Welcoming Mass at St Therese's	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 **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. Our Archbishop is Peter Comensoli, our Vicar General is Anthony Kerin. 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).